



## Welcome!

### Welcome to BT Music and Performing Arts!

Numerous scientific studies have shown that children who experience music and performing arts are more successful both in school and in society. This is the unchanging mission of our school since it was founded in 1997; to ensure that music and performing arts become a permanent part in the lives of students, and compliment their lives with critical and creative thinking, communication and expression skills. In our world today, these are essential elements that support personal, emotional and social development are of utmost importance. Academic achievement alone is not sufficient to become a successful and happy individual, possessing leadership skills.

Our students, young and adult enjoy, understand and feel our unique and innovative methods of education, which are in accordance with our mission. We believe, contrary to customary approaches, that anyone without a special talent can play an instrument, and can acquire the necessary skills to express themselves through music, theater and dance. We have designed the BT Education Program and BT Educational Publications to support academic success, multiple intelligence and learning.

As a musician, teaching artist working with children for over 30 years, one of my primary responsibilities is intensive, continuous teacher training. Our teaching staff are trained in our teaching methodologies and are expert coaches in guiding our students in the learning process and have pedagogic formation.

Education is a collaboration process that takes place between student-teacher-parent. The strong communication between all parties involved, carry great importance and value in the success of our students. The improvement evaluation is reported to the parent on a weekly basis and a detailed report is submitted development at the end of each semester, as well 2 end of term reports to highlight the progress.

We invite you and to join us and experience our programs, available for every age and level.

Hope to see you and your family, in the magical and life changing world of music, theater and dance.

Benal Tanrisever Simsek Ph.D Founder

## Mission and Goals

Our mission is to achieve an education program based on learning instead of memorization and teaching. Our goals in education is:

- To focus on learning instead of teaching
- To ensure the active participation of our students in the education process in order to help them take on responsibility
- To help our students develop their questioning and analyzing skills
- To support their skills to explore, understand, internalize and interpret with imagination
- To give them the learning skills that will support multiple intelligence
- To shape the education program with learning models that suit our students
- To make sure they pay equal importance to analytical thinking and emotional skills
- To teach the students to express themselves and learn to connect with people through music, theater and dance
- To help develop synchronization and coordination between the brain and the body
- To raise students who are successful on international platforms
- To help them develop social responsibility skills on their way to becoming an artist

### Our students gain:

- Success in their personal, social and academic life
  - Creative and analytical thinking ability
  - Analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating skills
  - Communication skills
  - Intensive listening skills and increased concentration
  - To over-come hardship and develop self-confidence
  - Motivation based on success
  - Patience and discipline
  - Enhanced math and foreign language learning
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## About our Founder, Benal Tarrisever Simsek Ph.D

A soloist who played at concerts worldwide, has also touched the lives of children through conducting workshops, doing educational television series and working in community out-reach programs. Following the 19 years she spent in New York, Berlin and Copenhagen, she returned to Turkey and shared her experiences with students at Bilkent University. She came to realize that in order to create a lasting impact in music education, it was a necessity to start working with children from a very early stage. Upon receiving her pedagogical training at Juilliard, one of the most respected schools in the field, she founded BT Music in 1997. Our education program aims at creating a lifelong friendship by making sure that music and theater become a lasting asset in the lives of children. Our education philosophy is that every child can play a musical instrument and can express himself or herself on stage. The most important feature of our education program is to have a curriculum that not only develops the students music and performing skills, but also helps them in their personal, social and academic lives. BT Music was initially founded to give education on musical instruments, throughout the years we have expanded by adding activities, courses and programs such as; First Step to Music, First Step to Piano, Rock-Pop Orchestra, Rhythm-Perussion Group, Guitar Orchestra, Musical Theater, Dance, Programs for Adults, Teacher Training Program, Music Counseling, Summer Camp, International Educational Excursions, International Projects and Social Responsibility, today we operate under the name of BT Music and Performing Arts. During our 17 years, we have followed with unfaltering resolve our goal to help each child to enjoy the opportunity to passionately embrace music, theater and dance education and to turn these gains into a life style. About our Founder Music education and academic achievements Dr. Benal Tarrisever Simsek began her musical education with Prof. Ferdi Statzer at the Istanbul Conservatory. She received a scholarship to continue her work at The Juilliard School of Music, under the supervision of Joseph Raieff, a student of Sergei Rachmaninov. She became the first student to complete her undergraduate and graduate studies during the same year. Following her outstanding achievement, she was accepted to the Professional Studies Program. She was nominated by the school to play at concerts in various cities in the U.S.A. She was awarded another outstanding achievement scholarship which took her to the Hochschule der Kunste in Berlin, where she worked with Prof. Georg Sava and earned the title "Piano virtuoso". She attended the Ph.D program at the Graphic Design Department of Bilkent University, earning her doctorate degree. Her doctoral dissertation The Narrative Power of Music in Films was used as reference material in many scientific researches. Concerts and recitals in prominent halls around the world She performed in recitals and played as soloist with orchestras in numerous halls around the world, including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, Berlin Philharmonic, Stuttgart Lieder Halle, Beethoven Haus in Bonn. She performed as soloist with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, New York Symphony Orchestra, Sibelius Symphony Orchestra, the Presidential Symphony Orchestra, Istanbul, Izmir, Cukurova State Symphony Orchestras, Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, Eskisehir Symphony Orchestra and Akbank Chamber Orchestra. She worked with esteemed conductors such as Gurer Aykal, Cem Mansur, Naci Ozguc, Urs Schneider and Gustav Neimann. She joined the Presidential Symphony Orchestra and their conductor Gurer Aykal for a concert tour in the U.S.A. International and national awards, important performances and firsts She received the Women of Outstanding Achievement Award in the U.S. A. In a concert that was broadcasted live by 130 radio stations in the U.S.A., she also included works by Turkish composers in her repertoire. The German Rias television did a documentary on her music and personal life and she was also included in the German Encyclopedia of Music. Her concert at the Nordic House in the Faroe Islands was broadcasted live on Nordic Television. Under the auspices of the President, and the support of the Ministry of Culture, she was the first artist to take concert out of the halls and became a pioneer in organizing open-air classical music concerts in the quarries of Ankara. These concerts were a first, where a diverse audience came together by classical music. In line with the concept of different concerts, she performed with the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra on the pier of the Rahmi Koç Museum, in a benefit event for children with cancer, organized by the Theodora Foundation. Becoming a music instructor and children oriented work She worked with Louise Behrend and Sheila Keats, founders of the New York School for Strings for many years, focusing on pedagogical music training and education methods. She got her training on pre-instrument education in New York from Robert Abramson, and was lucky to become one of the last students of this world renowned figure in early music education. Founding BT Music, and spreading the love for music Dr. Benal Tarrisever Simsek returned to Turkey in 1997 with a mission to share her experiences in music with children, and founded BT Music. She created an education program not only based on talent but which would support the personal, social, musical and academic lives of children. In order to unite schools with music, she initiated the Cooperation in Music program. She brought together ENKA, Hisar Egitim, SEV and TED schools in Istanbul and she formed an orchestra with children from these participating schools. To draw the interest of large crowds, especially of children, to classical music, she created educational programs called Jovial Sundays together with ENKA Cultural and Arts department, explaining classical music to families in the form of Family Theaters. The first concert of the series, where she performed the Piano Concerto by Mozart, at the same time explaining the piece, was a great success. Classical Music Stories, the children's book series on the lives of famous composers, became best-sellers in the category of children's books in Turkey. The books were also performed live, within the concept of Family Theater. She started conducting international summer camps both at the Juilliard School and in China collaborating with another Chinese Education Institute, The DreamBox. As a firm believer of performance skills which help learn to cope with stress and raise self-esteem, she has been collaborating and preparing students to participate in International Music and Vocal Competitions. She founded the first ever music digital music competition in Turkey embracing both professional and nonprofessional music students nationally and internationally to participate and support a sense of community.

Dr. Benal Tarrisever Simsek continues her mission is to help spread the understanding and the joy of music and performing arts across the world. To understand and be tolerant to others, you first need to understand and communicate who you are. That is the ultimate power and magic of the arts.





## Getting Started

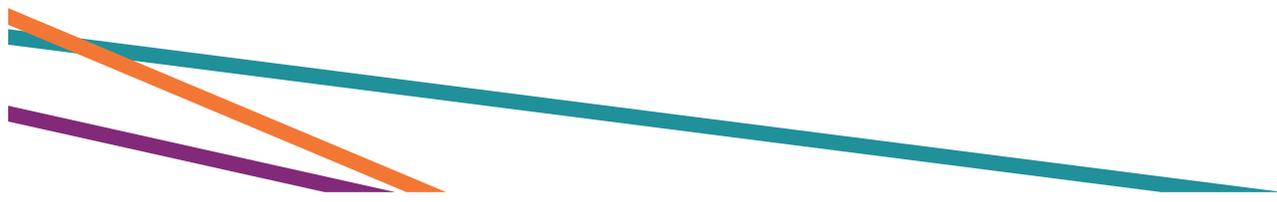
### What are the qualities that differentiate our school?

BT Music and Performing Arts does not, contrary to traditional applications, focus on talent in education. We believe that with the right educational approach and teaching techniques, everybody can improve themselves in music, theater and dance gaining skills they can use in their everyday life. Our unique and innovative education model is the core of the joint philosophy that links all the different disciplines. As educators, our duty is to decode the necessary information and skills and point out the easiest way of implementing them. Our students are actively involved in the learning process. We encourage students to participate, be responsible, question and contribute in the learning process. We know that an education system, depending solely on the teacher will not motivate the student and empower them. We believe that any reluctance towards learning stems from the incompetence of the institution or the teachers. Our priority is to maintain a healthy education approach, by eliminating this possibility. We are proud to say that by providing a dynamic, interactive and enjoyable learning environment for our students, training our teachers and using the pedagogical music methodology books that we have created, we have reached our goal. Music education is like learning a native language. To be able to play an instrument is the ability of using a new skill. The learning process develops, just like in language learning, through repetition. Small bits of information successively add up to form a whole. The music piece cannot be memorized without teaching how to read the notes; and notes cannot be learned by restricting them to finger numbers. The importance lies not only in acquiring the skill to play one piece, but to be able to apply this information and skill for playing new pieces as well. That is why we divide the information into small steps, and explain them to the students in a way that they can understand. During the lesson, our teachers guide the students to internalize the information. We activate our students to take responsibility and implement the information. This is how the student, having acquired the necessary skills, is now ready to take ownership of the piece and is ready to play the new pieces with pride. BT Education Method Books are designed to support the development of small motor skills and musicality. We have come to realize that the widely used traditional books on instrument education are not sufficient to serve the diverse needs of each age group. Therefore, we have created, after many years of observation, our education books that support the appropriate level for each age group, and enable faster learning. Our method books on piano, guitar, electric guitar and drums are used in our school as well as in many other institutions. Our teachers create the learning experience. We are well aware of the responsibilities of the role of a teacher, mentor. We are firm believers that all our teaching staff from different disciplines should be researchers in their own field and participate in education seminars; be able to form a bond with the student and parent; be experts in pedagogical approaches; love and respect children and their own occupation and be open to personal development. We also make sure that all our teaching staff are taking an active part and have the skill sets that comply with the education and learning approach and goals of BT Music and Performing Arts. A teacher lacking the necessary skills will inevitably create problems in the learning process life of a student. Music and performing arts education is a master-apprentice relationship format. We are responsible for not only teaching our students how to play an instrument, but also for the life long relation they will form with their area of interest. Our teaching staff continue to participate in our ongoing training program during the academic year.

### Why is Music Education Important?

#### Music is a window into higher brain function Dr. GORDON SHAW

Research indicates that listening to and learning music increases math and language skills in children, and helps develop creative, analytical thinking and nurtures social skills. Exposure to even a limited number of music lessons helps increase the connection between the neurons. Music not only helps people to better understand form, structure, pattern and time symbols, but also makes them better listeners. The music learning process engages not only the right or left hemisphere but the whole brain. It teaches coordination, enhances memory and concentration, and also teaches discipline and patience towards study. What are the contributions of music education to academic life? In New York it has been determined that a syllabus supported by music and art education (LEAP) has helped increase the school grades of not only successful students, but of students from every level. Music also enhances the learning of math and foreign languages. The teacher, while teaching counting and the basics of math, uses rhythm. In teaching a foreign language, songs are used to help the language to become a part of the memory. Research shows that among high school students, those who take interest in music have higher grade averages compared to students who are not interested in music. According to Mary Jane Collett, Director of New York State Schools Education and Professional Development Department, Arts and Cultural Education Administration, a well taught sequential music syllabus not only teaches music; it also helps to acquire listening, responding, seeing, touching and moving skills. Students, through these concrete, kinetic and cognitive experiences, learn how to process and transfer knowledge. Music is also a very valuable tool in reaching out to unsuccessful students. Connecticut State Education counsellor Scott Schuler in describing students displaying failure points that they lack self-confidence and self-respect; have difficulty in communicating their thoughts and feelings to others; do not have the skills to overcome problems; are bored of the traditional education system; the learning methods do not conform with traditional methods, and that these students prefer to express themselves through art in their own subjects of interest. It is known that music education is one of the best methods to motivate these students and in helping to win them back.





***Music can change the world because it can change people. BONO***

## **Music Programs**

### **INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS**

Piano  
Violin  
Cello  
Classical guitar  
Electric guitar  
Bass guitar  
Drums  
Flute  
Clarinet  
Pop vocal  
Singing

What do Individual Instrument lessons include?

Integration meetings with parents, where the goal and improvement of student are discussed  
In accordance with the set goals, preparing original education programs and syllabus for student  
Using BT Education Method Books, and achievement certificate  
40 or 55 minutes long one-on-one private lessons  
Group ear-training, theory and history of music lesson  
User account for parent and student on web site  
Communicating to parent the program sequence  
Communicating to parent weekly lesson commentaries and evaluations  
Term improvement report  
Student recitals  
Performance opportunities  
Limitless participation in periodical workshops  
Free participation in educational and concert panels organized by the institution  
Education counseling to students who wish to study music and performance arts abroad  
Letter of recommendation for admission to universities abroad

#### **Individual Lesson: Beginner Level**

This lesson comprises 40 minutes individual instrument, 45 minutes group ear-training and history of music lessons. We recommend this lesson for students who are just getting to know their instrument; who are too young for our intense music program; or for those who only want to experience the pleasure of playing an instrument without having to go through tests and evaluations.

#### **Individual Lesson: Advanced level**

This lesson comprises 55 minutes instrument, 45 minutes group solfege, theory and history of music lessons, and preparation for exams. We recommend the intense music program to our students who wish to participate in the West London University, London College of Music Certificate Program, in order to gain internationally accredited evaluation for their development. Students who are pursuing scholarships can use these certificates and diplomas as reference in applying to British, Canadian and American universities. Participating in the London College of Music certificate and diploma program can only be possible after at least one year of study at BT Music and Performing Arts with the recommendation of the school principal.





## GROUP MUSIC LESSONS

Group Violin Suzuki Method (Ages 7-10)  
Group Vocal (Ages 7-9)  
Pop Orchestra (Ages 10+)  
Rock Orchestra (Ages 10-13 and 14-18)  
Chamber Orchestra (Ages 9-12 and 13-16)  
Classical Guitar Orchestra (Ages 7-10)

**Suzuki Violin (Ages 7-10)** This group lesson is for our students who wish to play or enjoy the experience of playing the violin. Suzuki method is widely used in the world in early violin education, and shares the similar educational goals that we pursue in our other instrument programs. It is a fact that learning to play an instrument is a new skill, and with the correct approach everyone can acquire this skill. One does not have to be talented to experience the pleasure of playing an instrument. Learning to play, just as in learning a language, occurs through repetition.

**Pop Vocal (Ages 7-9)** Pop Vocal lessons are for students who like to sing but are too young for individual vocal classes. The main objective of this lesson is to give basic voice training in order to prevent the vocal cords from suffering any damage. The voice and breathing exercises are followed by songs in English, Italian and French, together with diction education.

**Pop Orchestra (Ages 10-13 and 14-18)** This group involves a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 people playing together the piano, electric guitar, bass guitar, acoustic/classical guitar, drums, keyboard, percussion, violin, cello and flute. They play local and international music in Folk, Latin, Pop genres. The repertoire is shaped along the choices of the students, under the guidance of the teacher. Their work ends with a stage performance at the end of the school year.

**Rock Orchestra (Ages 10-13 and 14-18)** This orchestra brings together piano, electric guitar, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, drums, keyboard and percussion. During the group lessons, our students experiment and play all sub-genres of rock music. Following the year-end stage performance, they enter the studio to record a CD.

**Chamber Orchestra (Ages 9-12 and 13-16)** The chamber orchestra consisting of piano, violin, cello, guitar and vocal students meets twice a month to practice. Their work is finalized with a stage performance at the end of the school year.

**Classical Guitar Orchestra (Ages 7-10)** The Classical Guitar Orchestra made up of early age guitar students is a group study that takes place every Saturday during the academic year. The lessons end with the year-end stage performance.

## Certificate Programs

Our school, as of January 2006, is the representative, training and exam center of the **London College of Music, under University of west London**. LCM is an internationally accredited certificate, assessment and evaluation system, and compared to other exam systems, it is the only one that is under the umbrella of a university. The British Ministry of Education (DFEE) exams, for all levels and diploma levels, are accredited worldwide. LCM aims at creating international goals for students in their preferred field of education, and to be a differentiating factor in their applications to universities abroad. London College of Music examinations feature 8 levels and are designed to be completed by the end of high school. They also offer opportunities to obtain a university level (Associate-Graduate-Post Graduate) diploma. The teacher and management decide on the exam level the students should take. A student who completes the 8th level is accepted as a graduate of a music high school worldwide. Instrument exams take place in the following categories:

Piano  
Singing  
Classical guitar, electric guitar  
All string instruments  
Woodwind instruments  
Brass instruments  
Drums  
Duets, ensembles  
Musical theater  
Rock group  
Pre-instrument early age music education

LCM exams exist for groups as well: Rock group, choir and duet.

LCM exams have programs to evaluate pre-school children starting at age 3.

LCM exams also encompass students who take part in theater and musicals. LCM advanced level exams:

ALCM – Associate  
LLCM - Licentiate  
Fellowship

BT Music and Performing Arts is the representative, training and exam center of London College of Music. Our school is equipped with tools to provide relevant teacher training, introduction of the program and any regarding information.





## Guidelines for Parents

Make sure your expectations from your child are age-appropriate.

Be patient when expecting results

The teacher should always be the figure of authority both in class and at home. As a parent, you should be the one who listens, encourages, helps if necessary and gives support.

Encourage your child to practice, without pressuring.

Make sure that your child practices at the same time every day (like taking antibiotics) and that it becomes a happy habit. You will see that once the skills are acquired by repetition, motivation will follow.

Empathize with your child if he has difficulty in learning something new and assure him that hard work can help overcome any hardship.

Allow your child to make a mistake while playing and give him the chance to correct it, and encourage him that it is alright to make mistakes when learning.

In order for your child not to forget the old pieces, it is highly recommended to go back and play them frequently. The ease and improvement while playing these pieces will help develop further self-confidence and take his playing to a higher level.

Allow your child to express himself through his instrument, to invent games, stories with his pieces and even write lyrics to them. Support his creativity by taking part in this process.

Never be pessimistic and always keep your morale high. Do not forget that the sacrifice and music discipline you display together will add much value to his future life and open many avenues to success.

## Where words fail, music speaks HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

### Musical Theater Program

The program is conducted in English and is designed for students of ages 7-9 and 10-13, with sufficient background in English, who like to sing, dance and act, and in a performance oriented class. The contents of this class in English include drama plays that develop creativity and imagination, improvisation, movement, vocal and acting training and a musical performance at the end of the school year. Students work on renowned or original musicals, performing on a professional stage at the end of the academic year. The priority of these performances are to incorporate the self-confidence for stage experience and to create an enjoyable environment for the students. Within this frame, the class becomes a pleasurable activity which also helps the students to improve themselves. Among the productions that we have performed are; Peter Pan, Wizard of Oz, Wicked, Annie, Sound of Music, Camp Create, A Midsummer Nights Dream, Grease, Alice in Wonderland, Chicago and Cinderella. The musical theater in English also gives a chance to participate in the London College of Music Certificate program. Participation depends on the evaluations of the course teacher and the school principal.

*If you can speak, you can also sing. If you can walk, you can also dance. Zimbabwe Proverb*

### Dance Program

#### Street Dance

This is a high energy dance class where you can learn the dance moves of the music of stage artists whose live shows and video performances you admire. During the course of this class, you will discover the moves of contemporary stars like Shakira, Lady Gaga, Madonna, PSY as well as exploring the masters of dance of the past, such as Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley. Madonna in Vogue has taught us how to strike a pose, Lady Gaga has demonstrated that in Trash Jazz everything rules, Elvis has shown us how to shake our hips. Now it's your turn... This class is ideal for those who are full of adrenalin and a fire for dance. This short term program ends with a studio dance performance and certificate ceremony.

#### Dance Theater

This course aims at expressing yourself through dance, in a non-verbal state. Gestures and miming are the language to express emotions. Through this course, we give the opportunity to our students to explore concepts such as; "getting to know their own body", "communicating emotions and ideas through their body", "to effectively use their body language". Learning how to effectively use body language reinforces self-confidence in class and daily life. Students who love theater and dance can experience both in the same class. This short term program ends with a studio performance and certificate ceremony.





## Early Years Education

### Music and Movement, Ages 2.5-3.5

First step into music is a pedagogical education program incorporating music and movement, which is preferred and implemented by leading music schools in the world, including the Juilliard in New York. The program aims to incorporate the love for music at an early age, and to help young candidates understand and enjoy music in a motivating environment. The curriculum develops skills such as listening carefully, focusing, receiving instructions; the students also learn how to use their imagination. We teach the basic musical concepts; rhythm, tone, melody, note values and musical nuances not theoretically but with movements and games. Movement and music are blended, creating a whole. In our lessons, we also cover the lives and music of famous composers. We observe the musical aptitude of students and make suggestions for the future. We communicate the weekly lesson evaluations to our parents. At the end of the term, we make a presentation for the parents and hand out certificates. Of the students who complete the program, those who are thought to be ready, can continue on to early years group piano. This short term program ends with a presentation for the parents and certificate ceremony

### Early Years Group Piano, Ages 3.5-4.5

We recommend this pedagogical beginning piano class to students who are not ready for individual instrument lessons and who feel more comfortable in a group in their first step to music. The young musician candidates who first encountered music in the FSM class, start playing their first pieces with the help of Little Fingers piano education book of the BT Education books series. The lesson content includes ear training, ear-training, rhythm training, singing and beginner pieces. Students in this age group learn to play their pieces by reading and understanding the notes. They get acquainted with treble clef and bass clef, and in the first lesson start to play right hand and left hand pieces. The student also learns while listening to other students play, waits for his turn, learns to respect his group mates. They observe the rules of playing and listening to music. Young students in their group training program make an easier transition to individual instrumental learning. The musical aptitudes of students are observed during the lessons and suggestions are made regarding future instruments. Weekly lesson evaluations are communicated to the parent. This short term program ends with a small group performance and certificate ceremony.

### Drums and Percussion, Ages 6-9

We have created this rhythm and percussion group for students who are too young for individual lessons or those who would rather first get acquainted with an instrument in a group environment. The program aims to support the personal and social development of students with group studies, and to improve their understanding of rhythm while enjoying the experience of making music together. Our students play different percussion instruments and early age size drum sets, getting the opportunity to learn and experience different rhythm instruments. Along with musical skills, concentration enhancing exercises, listening carefully, adaptation, support and respect within the group are the social skills that they also learn. The weekly lesson evaluations are communicated to the parent. This short term program ends with a small group performance and certificate ceremony.





## Programs for Adults

***Music activates both the right and left hemispheres, and to our brain it is like eating chocolate.***  
***Dr. Gene Cohen, George Washington University.***

### Vocal or Instrumental Lessons

If you want to take a break from your intense work pace, return to music lessons that you abandoned at childhood, take a step towards a new adventure or give yourself a present. You can start to learn music. Piano, flute, classical guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, drums and vocal lessons with BT advanced beginner methods give you the opportunity of fast learning and playing. We schedule the individual classes according to the intense pace of the adults. We also offer short-term or lesson based instrument lessons. You do not need to have a special skill or musical ear to begin the program. Lessons are by appointment and start at noon during week days. In case of absence, the lesson has to be cancelled 24 hours in advance.

### Club Dance

Why should children always have fun? We have created short-term dance classes for our adult parents who love dancing and high adrenalin; you can learn the moves of stars such as Shakira, Lady Gaga and Madonna, and discover how to express yourself through body language. Learning coordination, synchronizing with music and choreography will make you feel like one of those stars on stage. We are not looking for previous dance experience to participate in the program. Lessons are in the evening during week days. We suggest comfortable attire for this lesson.

Extracurricular Activities

### Workshops

During the semester break the usual schedule of individual and group lessons change. Our students gain different experiences by participating in workshops. During the holiday we offer the opportunity to participate in individual and group lessons that cover many different themes. Our students try playing different instruments, listen to conferences on the history and types of music, and participate in intensive studies on theory and comparative workshops. Parents are also welcome to join our semester workshops, free of charge.

### Performances

Our music students bring to an end their year long studies with a concert and real stage experience. These concerts help them gain life experiences such as self-confidence and the ability to express themselves in front of crowds. It is of utmost importance to us that this experience is positive and motivating for our students. Our very young and new comers perform twice a year to increase performing experience, while our older student body performs at the end of academic year.

Musical Theatre department stages the musicals they have been working on during the year, at the year-end performance which takes place in June. It is not easy for any one to sing, act and dance on stage, in front of a crowd. Our students overcome this with their strong presence on stage and transfer this experience to their daily and academic lives, gaining an important achievement in personal improvement.

### Performing Arts Education Summer Camp, Ages 7-12

The intensive work during the academic year comes to an end at the end of June at a week-long summer camp where music and water sports blend together. We take music education out of classroom format on to a vacation setting. Our goal is to create a community of young talents, the experience of bonding through shared interests away from home in a beautiful seaside setting. The camp ends with a performance staged by our students to all the clients of the hotel, on a professional stage.

### Lunch Break Concerts

Seminars Concerts and seminars we organize for the parents bring a different meaning to lunch-breaks. We meet with the parents who need a breath of fresh air from work, at the concert hall of our school in Levent, between 13.10-13.40. The schedules and details pertaining to these activities are announced at the beginning of the semester. Workshops Our school organizes seminars on music and subjects regarding self-improvement. We invite local and foreign guests. While subjects are more adult-oriented, we also hold seminars that can be attended as a family. Classical Music Tales, Family Theater The Classical Music Tales book series created in collaboration with our institution have been transferred to stage with the cooperation of ENKA Culture and Arts Foundation, each season we perform for our students the life and music of one composer on stage. Vivaldi - 4 Seasons and Johann Strauss – Invitation to the Dance are among our live music performances. These classical music tales, a series for the whole family, are both entertaining and educative, and make you daydream and ponder at the same time. International Music Excursions Our excursions are aimed at giving our students the chance to watch performing arts at leading centers in the world and to integrate this experience with their studies. Parents also join us on these tours. Our 3-day international excursions take place during the spring break of schools. The main idea behind these tours is to take education out of the classroom and turn it into a life long experience that will always be remembered. Students who participate in these excursions also perform at the famous concert halls of the country that they are visiting. What could be more magical than to give a recital in Prague, in the hall where Mozart wrote his music? To listen to Beethovens 9th Symphony performed by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Simon Rattle, to create the sculptures of Giocometti at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen, to watch a ballet by Maurice Bejart in Vienna, to spend the night at the girls boarding school in Venice, where Vivaldi composed the 4 Seasons, to watch Bolshoi in Moscow, to participate in a unique custom designed workshop from the Scottish National Orchestra; to join teachers of the school for gifted musicians in a workshop; these are all lasting memories that will become more valuable in time. These music tours take place with the participation of parents.





## Project Partners

University of West London, London College of Music  
Ohio Kent State University  
The Flying Gorillas, UK  
The European Union  
UNDP, United Nations  
DreamBox, China  
Theodora Foundation  
Save the Children  
TOCEV for Autism  
IZEV for Autism  
CYDD for education  
TOCEV for education  
+65 Foundation for the Elderly  
Social Services Child Protection Agency

University of West London, London College of Music After signing an agreement in 2006 with the London College of Music, which is under the umbrella of a university, our institution has become the representative, education and exam center. Ohio Kent State University We have signed a MOU-Memorandum of Understanding with Ohio Kent State University in 2005. Within the context of this academic protocol, our students who meet the basic criteria of the university have priority of acceptance to the music faculty. Flying Gorillas Since 2011 we have been cooperating with Flying Gorillas, a British origin theater-education group, in teacher and student training programs. We continue our projects with this non-verbal dance theater group that uses only body language to communicate. European Union In 2011, we trained 200 teachers and 150 students with a E.U. program called Baby Lion. We also took part in social responsibility projects of the Governor of Diyarbakir, Istanbul Child Protection Agency and the United Nations. Social Partners In our efforts to create awareness on social responsibility issues, we have joined forces with our teachers, students and their parents. We visit the music departments of state schools in Istanbul and Southeastern Turkey to make suggestions, and if requested, give training within our field of expertise. We work in Istanbul and in the Southeastern region with underprivileged, mentally and physically handicapped children and adolescents. Campaigns and activities we have taken part in

Donating the funds from BT education books to the Foundation of the Mentally Handicapped-IZEV in Istanbul,  
Giving financial support for building an elevator at the Sariyer rehabilitation branch of IZEV, by organizing a campaign I Am Just Different,  
Sending books, clothes and toys to the regions in need,  
Collecting the necessary gear for the campaign You Can Help One Child Ski, to help underprivileged children in Sarikamis, Bitlis and Erzurum, in order for them to become successful athletes in the future,  
A benefit concert organized by the Theodora Foundation, with Bilkent Symphony Orchestra and soloist Benal Tanrisever, for cancer patient children,  
Theater workshops for the teachers and students at the Diyarbakir Social Services and Child Protection Agency  
Theater workshop at the Bahcelievler Social Services and Child Protection Agency,  
Center for the Mentally Disabled,  
Benefit campaign for the Sisli branch of the Association for the Support of Contemporary Living (ÇYDD),  
Save the Children International Aid Foundation benefit concert for the children effected by the tsunami in Japan  
Benefit concert organized through the Van National Education Directorate, for the Erciyes earthquake,  
Campaign to purchase an electric wheel chair for a paraplegic child,  
Support to the Tuvana Foundation for Children Who Want to Go to School (TOÇEV) campaign "Make a Difference."  
Grant scholarships to TOHUM Otizm Foundation students for individual music lessons.





## BT Educational Publications

Our Education Book Series Our age appropriate method books of contemporary music education meet the needs of children, and provide the basis of individual instrument education. Our music department has published 11 education books. All our education books are designed by observing the age and development of students, and contain technical, theoretical and musical tools to ensure their fast development. Our education books also include CDs. Our students receive their achievement certificate following a final exam consisting of 4 instrumental pieces. BT Education Books

Series Piano Education Book I  
Piano Education Book II  
Piano Education Book III  
Piano Education Book IV  
Advanced Beginner Piano Education Book  
World Classics Piano I  
World Classics Piano II  
Classical Guitar Education Book I  
Classical Guitar Education Book II  
Electric Guitar Education Book  
Drums Education Book  
Song Book I  
Song Book II Classical Music Tales with Mr. Major

## Classical Music Tales

The much acclaimed, best selling children's books, won " the Most Creative Book of the Year Award" have reached out to over 1 million readers. The books introduce children to the most important composers of classical music, Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Chopin and Johann Strauss as well as ballets like Swan Lake, Don Quixote, Sleeping Beauty and Nut Cracker . The Classical Music Tales is a joint project of our founder and International Egmont Publications. These are books to be enjoyed by the whole family, learning the lives and works of classical music geniuses in fun and intriguing story lines. Customized for the 5-12 years, the books are pedagogically designed to capture the interest of the target group. The audio CD makes the book available to be utilized in a car ride or as night time story listening or for those curious young minds who cannot read but can learn by listening. Following the musical journey that you will embark under the guidance of the main character, Mr. Music the questions at the end of each book helps to reinforce the information.

The books are popular and widely used in music lessons at K-12 schools, accompanied with their power point and worksheet to make them attractive for students and teachers alike.

## Teacher Training Academy

Determining the expectations, goals and strategy  
Applied illustration of learning models versus teaching models  
How to approach students who learn through analytical, visual or kinesthetic learning systems  
Importance of differential music education and implementation techniques  
Implementing assessment and evaluation criteria  
Making sure program is student oriented, stimulating student attention  
Developing and managing lesson programs  
Creating and managing music groups  
Scheduling musical activities such as concerts and performances, creating content  
Introduction of the international exam system, training pertaining to content  
Syllabus work of certificate program  
Theoretical, technical and implementation work of the certificate program  
Using and implementing BT Educational Publications  
Certificate Achievement





## Consulting, Developing and Implementing for K-12 Schools

### What is the objective of the program?

The objective of this program is; to offer our guidance to help advance music lessons in schools to the highest education standards, and in accordance with the schools education philosophy, to create a more interactive music program that will be the spirit of school life. The main topics covered by the program are: to improve music lessons within the scope of the curriculum, to make sure musical activities and student participation are increased, and teacher training. A successful music program enriches the education, increases creative thinking, helps students become successful individuals in society. The music groups increase the solidarity between students and nurture the sense of belonging to the school. Students who feel this way become more active during the education process, their self-confidence is boosted, thus they channel their education experience towards a positive direction which makes them successful. Structuring steps of the music program:

Meeting with school administration: First and foremost we meet with the school administration to determine, in line with the goals and principles of the school, what their expectations would be regarding the program. Evaluating the existing program, brainstorm on the goals they wish to achieve. Meeting the head of the music department and the teachers We meet the head of the music department and the teachers, and gather information on their vocational assets. We discuss the ongoing curriculum, the goals, content and implementing methods, learn the teachers expectations of the music program and try to understand the difficulties they experience in class. Evaluation and implementation planning with school administration We report all the gathered data to the administration and evaluate it, list what needs to be done, make suggestions regarding the existing or potential music groups in school. We determine a schedule within the context of this new structuring.

### “Classical Music Tales” Family Theater

This is a fun, interactive educational children’s theater, for ages 5-12 to be shared and enjoyed with family members.

### Why children’s theater?

A person’s relation with music and theatre is shaped at childhood. Live music and theatre, offers an enjoyable and attractive environment incorporating children in the learning of the music and performing arts. This opportunity also provides the parents to see and believe in the importance of this education. With this goal in mind, collaborating with the ENKA Cultural Foundation, we created a project where young children can come with their families and enjoy in a relaxed atmosphere, where they can have a good time and LEARN! The “Happy Sunday” concert and theatre series became a big success for families looking to spend quality time with their children.

The first of the series was realized with the Symphony Orchestra, and as soloist, pianist Benal Tanrisever. Mozart Piano Concerto No.20 was performed first in parts, conveying the ideas of Mozart and how that particular passage in music makes us feel. Children were encouraged to use their imagination and emotional expression. In the following years, Four Seasons by Vivaldi and Invitation to Dance by Johann Strauss, books in the Classical Music Tales series, were performed on stage for children. The series are continuing with a different production each year, since 2011.

### All the worlds a stage, and all the men and women merely players, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

### What are the academic objectives of music theater?

To introduce children to classical music through a play, and open different paths in their development.  
To help them learn the stories that lie behind works of great composers and music.  
To help them to get to know the instruments in an orchestra, the use of sound and the world of opera.  
Introducing composers to children as well as introducing their works and the instruments to children through live music.  
By explaining how the imagination of the composer has reflected on his work, to create a lasting memory for children and to support their fantasies.  
To take the Classical Music Tales children have read in class or at home out of the book and link them to real life, by performing them live on stage.  
To give students a chance to closely observe talented artists and musicians and help them understand that these talents are obtained through hard work.





## School Regulations

**Trial lesson:** All students who wish to start playing an instrument can make an appointment with our office for a free trial lesson. These individual trial lessons are like an example lesson. During this process we evaluate whether the student is ready to start playing an instrument, as well as their aptitude for music and their instrument of choice, and their concentration and perception skills. We share our education philosophy, expectations, goals, our program flow and our fees. If the candidate is not ready for instrument education, we end our first meeting, agreeing to get together again in 3 months for a reevaluation.

Students who wish to begin their piano education need to buy a 5 octave keyboard for their home studies. Once our mutual expectations are met, the student has to buy a piano after 1 year. At this stage we provide the necessary guidance. For all instruments other than piano, the students have to buy their own instrument at the beginning of their education.

Candidates for musical theater can make an appointment for a trial lesson at the beginning of the school year. Registration

The academic education calendar is determined by the Ministry of National Education. It starts on the first week of September, and continues through till the 3rd week of June. During the semester break, we go beyond the scope of our regular lessons, giving our students the chance to try different instruments and lesson choices, so they can acquire different experiences and skills. These lessons during the semester break require pre-reservation.

Registration takes place following the meeting with the student and parent, and our evaluation. We suggest the appropriate teacher and lesson time according to the student's level and needs. The lesson days and hours set at the beginning of the school year will be effective throughout the year. Weekly scheduling on a lesson basis is only valid for adults, within limited timeframes. Under special conditions and depending on the schedule, we try to help out with requests to change lesson hours. Such requests must be handed in writing by the parent. We offer 2 makeups per year for non-attendance. Our students work with a different teacher each year, according to their level and needs. This change is determined by the general meeting at the end of the school year. New students, after their needs are determined, join the group ear-training lessons. The teacher informs the parent in the weekly lesson commentaries, at which level the student should participate the ear-training classes.

**Payment policy:** You can make your payments via bank wire, mail order, credit card or cash. You are responsible for your payments the day you begin the classes. Our accounting department will give you the total amount of payment and installment options received from the simulator, prior to registration. You have an option of payment up to 10 installments, the last one being in May. For payments made in full at the beginning of the school year we offer a 5% discount. Termination of Registration Requests about withdrawing from individual or group lessons should be handed to the registrar in writing. Verbal information given to the teacher does not make this request official. In the case of termination within 4 weeks into the program, the fee paid at registration is refunded in full. If the registration is terminated at a later time during the year, the fee is refunded prorated.

**Absence Policy:** How can I report a student absence? Regarding an absence, you can call 212-270 83 14 and inform the program manager or send an e-mail to [btmuzikevi@btmuzikevi.com](mailto:btmuzikevi@btmuzikevi.com). We offer 2 makeup lessons per year for non-attendance. If a student has fallen behind in classes due to too much absence, we call them in for extra lessons.

**When do makeup lessons take place?**

Makeup lessons are scheduled and announced by our school. Makeup lessons given on Sundays are included in the academic calendar.

**Can I cancel my makeup lesson?**

If you cancel your makeup lesson, you lose your right for one. School closures Lessons are cancelled if schools are closed by the Ministry of Education due to extraordinary weather conditions. In such a case, the necessary information is given to you by our registration office and is announced on our web site. There are no makeups for lessons cancelled by official bodies.

**Financial Aid** Financial aid to students is provided according to the financial situation of the family and the school budget. Old or new students in individual lessons, group lessons or orchestra can apply for financial aid. Application forms should be submitted to school management no later than August.

Our teaching staff, heads of departments, education director and school principal closely follow the improvements of students. There is an ongoing communication between the student, parent and teacher, including weekly reports and term reports. Parents of students who are part of our education program meet with the education coordinator during the first semester, after registration is completed. During this meeting, the contents, goals, methodology and implementation of the education process is explained to the parent. The parent partially experiences the process of instrument learning. The education coordinator, in accordance with the home studies, revises the curriculum flow and needs of the student.





### Scope of the individual instrument lessons:

- Orientation meetings held with parent, to discuss goals and development of student
- To present to student the appropriate unique education program and curriculum, in accordance with these goals
- 40 or 55-minute individual lessons
- Group ear-training lessons
- User account on web site for parent and student
- Communication about the program
- Communicating to the parents evaluation and student improvement
- Parent briefing meetings after student begins lessons
- Term improvement report
- Student recitals
- Performance opportunities
- Workshop and limitless participation in semester courses
- Free participation in education and concert panels organized by institution
- Education counseling for students who wish to study performance arts abroad
- Letters of reference for university applications abroad

Counseling Every student can consult the department manager, music director and school principal regarding their lessons, improvement, and even their university and career plans. The numerous individual lessons within the context of the curriculum give the opportunity to all authorities to closely get to know the students, and to give them guidance.

Publishing of photographs Unless any written request has been submitted at registration, the parents of the students registered at this school have given consent to the following: the photographing and filming of lessons, classes and other activities, and publishing these images without further consent. BT Music and Performing Arts, own all copyright and promotional material.

Performances concerts, theater and dance performances during the year help students to develop their goal setting and stage skills. We suggest that students take advantage of these opportunities. Student concerts and workshops are noted on the academic calender and can be found under the announcements tab of our website.

*How can I participate in a concert?* The teacher informs the parent when the student is ready to go on stage. These concerts are not only about how successfully a student plays his own instrument; the students also get the opportunity to patiently watch the performances of others, and to hear different repertoires and instruments. Except for special circumstances, a student who has performed cannot leave the concert before his own group is done.

*When do I have to be there?* Students have to be at the concert hall at the latest 30 minutes before the starting hour of the concert. How should I get dressed? Students should pay special attention to what they wear. Formal attire or a suit is not mandatory, but students are not allowed to wear jeans, t-shirts, shorts, mini skirts and sneakers.

