String Crossings Camp FAQ

We are happy to help with any questions or concerns about String Crossings camp. Please email stringcrossings@belmont.edu if you have any questions. Below is a variety of questions we often receive.

1. Travel/Schedule

1.1 When should my flight arrive or leave Nashville?
   Due to housing and staff availability, please arrive no earlier than 12:00pm on the Sunday that camp begins. Due to the camp concert on Friday evening, please do not schedule returning flights until the Saturday after camp. Dorm rooms are available for an extra $50 on Friday night as needed.

1.2 Does camp provide an airport shuttle?
   String Crossings Camp does not provide airport shuttles. Campers/parents are responsible for arranging transportation to-and-from the airport and Belmont, if needed.

1.3 What time should we arrive on Sunday?
   Check-in will be from 1:30pm to 3:30pm on Sunday. Email us at stringcrossings@belmont.edu if travel restricts you from making the check-in time. Families are welcome to drop off their students earlier if necessary, but students will be unsupervised before 1:30pm. An informational meeting will be held at 4:00pm, where we will discuss camp rules, camp schedule, introduce faculty, and answer any questions. Families are encouraged to attend this meeting, but attendance is not required. We understand that many families may have far to travel home!

1.4 My student will be a commuter camper. What does that schedule look like?
   For security and liability purposes, we have a strict sign-in and sign-out process for those not staying in dorms. During the week, plan on dropping your student off between 8:00am and 8:15am, and picking up your student between 8:45 and 9:00pm. All meals are provided for “commuter campers.” All events are required. Please plan on attending the 4:00 information meeting on Sunday to learn more about this process.

1.5 When are students done on Friday?
   Our final concert for the week starts at 6:30pm Friday evening and will end around 8:00 pm. Following the concert, students are dismissed. Students will have free time in the afternoon to pack up their luggage and clean their dorm rooms; however, parents are not allowed in the dorms until after the concert. Students with a Saturday flight can remain in the dorm for an additional $50 fee. If this situation applies to you please email us at stringcrossings@belmont.edu
2. Camp Life

2.1 Can friends and family members visit?
Evening camp faculty concerts are open to the public and begin each night at 8:00pm in Harton Hall. Our camp concert is on Friday night at 6:30pm in McAfee Concert Hall. Due to security and liability reasons, family members and friends are not allowed to visit any classes or rehearsals during the day.

2.2 Can my student borrow a bass/cello?
Belmont has a limited number of school owned instruments that we can provide (free of charge) to bassists and cellists. These are student level instruments. Please email stringcrossings@belmont.edu if you are in need of an instrument while at camp.

If you would like an instrument of higher quality, consider renting an instrument from one of our local luthiers (see alphabetical order below).

Nashville Violins
5109 Georgia Ave
Nashville, TN 37209
615-292-5196

The Violin Shop
2504 Franklin Pike
Nashville, TN 37204
615-662-1570

Williams Fine Violins
204 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
615-429-2927

2.3 Can my student practice in the dorms?
Practice rooms are available in the mornings and evenings in MPAC (Massey Performing Arts Center). Practicing in the dorms is allowed in the evening until 9:30pm unless otherwise communicated.

2.4 Does my student need any spending money?
All meals and snacks are provided for students. Your student does not need any spending money unless they plan to purchase their own snacks or visit the Belmont Bookstore (on campus). Bongo Java is a coffee shop and Circle K/Exxon is a convenient store, both which are adjacent to campus. Students are not allowed to visit unless supervised by camp staff. We take one optional trip to these businesses each night as an opportunity for students to purchase snacks for the next day.
2.5 How are meals served and what choices will my student have?

Your students will not go hungry during the week of camp! We offer various snacks and bottled water every morning and afternoon. All meals (except one pizza party) are eaten in the Harrington Place Dining Hall in the Johnson Center on Belmont's campus. In addition to the main entrees, pizza, a grill, and sandwiches, the dining center offers several vegetarian and vegan options. Please see https://belmont.sodexomyway.com/dining-near-me for more information. If your student has any further dietary concerns, please let our camp staff know and we will accommodate to the best of our ability.

2.6 How does your camp handle food allergies and sensitivities like peanut and tree nuts?

Please email us at stringcrossings@belmont.edu with your concerns and be sure to list these allergies on the medical form during registration. We cannot assist with or prevent issues if we do not know about your student's allergies.

If we have a student with such allergies, we remove those foods from our provided snacks, inform those who need to know about such allergies (roommates, suitmates, counselors, faculty/staff), and if need be, ask that no students purchase, eat, or distribute certain foods. The cafeteria is well equipped to deal with such allergies by displaying ingredients and providing various options.

2.7 How are the students supervised?

All camp staff and faculty have received background checks and minor training prior to employment. Camp staff and faculty are supervising students throughout the day in classes, rehearsals, and meals. Camp counselors stay in the dorms overnight to perform room checks, enforce lights out, and be available for emergency situations.

Walking around campus we use the "buddy system" where any student walking anywhere must be accompanied by at least one other student. (i.e. walking to and from meals, to and from the dorms, to and from classes).

2.8 Is my student allowed to leave campus?

Students are not allowed off campus unless supervised by a counselor or staff member.

2.9 What if my student becomes ill?

If your student becomes ill, we allow them to rest in the dormitories as needed. It is important for your student to inform a counselor or staff member if they are not feeling well. The camp director will call the emergency contact numbers listed in the registration forms to inform and consult on further action (medicine, doctor visit, etc). If there is a severe emergency, 911 will be called first, and emergency numbers immediately after.
2.10 What are the dorms like?
Students are not required to stay in dorms. Belmont provides suite style dorms for all summer camps that are only minutes away from the School of Music classrooms. Students need to provide their own twin bedding or a sleeping bag, a pillow, towels, and all toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, hand soap, etc). Rooms do not contain a refrigerator. Each student will have one roommate and share one adjoining bathroom with two suitemates. If your student would like to request a specific roommate, please make sure that your preference is listed on the final registration. Otherwise, roommates will be randomly assigned according to gender and grade.

2.11 What is a masterclass?
At camp we have a classical masterclass setting where a student will perform a piece of solo repertoire accompanied by piano in front of the class (15 to 25 students). After the performance, the faculty member will work with the student while the class observes. This is a great performance opportunity and faculty will frequently address subjects, techniques, or performance concepts that we can all learn from.

2.12 What is the first day of camp like?
We have an afternoon check in time from 1:30 to 3:30pm. During this time, students will meet their roommates and potential suitemates. Everyone is welcome to browse Belmont’s beautiful campus! An informational meeting will be held at 4:00pm, where we will discuss camp rules, camp schedule, introduce faculty, and answer any questions. Families are encouraged to attend this meeting, but parental attendance is not required. At this time parents will be dismissed and students will head to dinner. We have a handful of “ice breaker” events planned so your student can meet several students and be familiar with the campus before classes start on Monday.

2.13 What kind of atmosphere does camp have?
String Crossings has a fun, relaxed, and exciting atmosphere. Our faculty realizes that your students come from various performance backgrounds and are learning new techniques (improvising, chopping, fiddling, jazz) or working on new challenging music at camp. Fellow students recognize this as well. Our faculty and staff promote collaboration and caring for each other versus being cut-throat and competitive.

2.14 What should my student wear during camp?
Camp is a casual environment with lots of walking throughout the week. Please pack appropriate clothing similar to public high school dress codes and wear comfortable shoes. Nashville weather can vary in the summers. It tends to be hot and muggy but can get mildly cool in the evenings. We occasionally have severe thunderstorms or rain during the week. Don’t forget to pack a raincoat or umbrella!
2.15 What should my student wear for the Friday night concert?
   Gentleman - khakis or slacks, a button up dress shirt, and dress shoes (no tennis shoes). Ties are optional.
   Ladies - skirts or dresses (past the knee) or dress pants; blouses or shirts (no sleeveless or short sleeve); dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip flops).

2.16 Who are the camp counselors?
   Camp counselors are current juniors, seniors, or recently-graduated Belmont students. Counselors receive a background check and minor training prior to employment.

2.17 Will my student fit in? My student doesn’t improvise.
   String Crossings Camp typically has around 50 students in attendance ranging from incoming freshman to graduating seniors. Our students are from all over the nation including states like California, Texas, and Florida, and regions like the Midwest, the Northeast, the Southeast, and the DC area. Some students attend having only played classical music in an orchestra, while others only can only play fiddle tunes by ear. We strive to provide a well-rounded experience throughout the week where each student is challenged but not overwhelmed.

2.18 Will my student have to move his/her bass around campus?
   Your student will have to move his/her bass from class to class throughout the day. However, since orchestra is across campus, we try to have enough basses in the orchestra room and transport the rest of what we need across campus via car.

2.19 Will there be other kids who are new to camp?
   Yes! Almost 40% to 50% of our students are new every year. The rest have attended before, can’t wait to come back, and catch up with their friends from previous years!

3. Financial

3.1 Are there any discounts or scholarships?
   The early bird discount will be given to any returning student and students who submit their entire application by the early bird deadline listed on the camp website. The student will receive a $150 credit towards tuition.
   The buddy discount will be given to two students who list each other as buddies on their applications. Each student will receive a $100 credit towards tuition. Only one of the buddies can be a returning camper.

3.2 Do you give refunds? What if I cancel?
   The $100 deposit is non-refundable. Refunds cannot occur once camp has begun. Other refunds due to cancellation, medical issues, or unforeseen circumstances will be discussed as they arise.
3.3 How can I pay for camp? Can I pay online? Can I make multiple payments?

The initial camp deposit is paid online with a major credit card. The remaining payment can be by check or online with a credit card. All final payments are due 7 days before camp begins. We are happy to accept multiple payments by check as long as the total amount is paid 7 days before camp. (Online payments must be made in full.)