

POSITION OF FULL-TIME MUSIC INSTRUCTOR with a focus on Elementary Education

About Stillwater Music

Stillwater Music is Durango's premier music education hub offering unique, high-quality ensemble and band opportunities, private music lessons, in-school music classes, and inclusive music/dance classes. Stillwater Music is a nonprofit organization that serves over 700 students of all ages annually helping them develop their individual musical abilities for lifelong personal and community benefits.

At Stillwater, we use two very different yet complementary tracks for music instruction: (1) traditional private lessons on almost any musical instrument as well as voice lessons, and (2) the less traditional but very fun "play in a real band" approach to learning music. We also host classes of elementary and middle school children from area schools in our facility every week and serve as the only music instruction program for those schools.

Stillwater Music has grown exponentially in the past few years. We've expanded from a staff of two providing music instruction in a converted car wash, to a booming organization with 6 staff members and 30 contractors providing quality music education in our 6,500+ square foot facility in downtown Durango. Our staff consists of an Executive Director, a Program Director, two full time Music Instructors, a Registrar & Event Coordinator, and a Private Lesson Coordinator. This position will be our 7th staff member. Our private lessons and bands are taught by professional, real world working musicians with years of experience teaching music, directing bands, coaching, recording, performing, arranging and writing music. The work environment is casual, collegial, and relaxed with extremely generous vacation days and time off.

Our goal is to share the joy of playing music by developing in Stillwater students the skills, confidence, and ability to play music. We feel strongly that keeping kids engaged in music helps to build character, teamwork and self confidence. The repertoire for most of our bands is focused on popular music from the 50's through today--rock, funk, pop, jazz, hip hop, R&B, blues, soul, bluegrass, folk...it's what's on your playlist. Stillwater bands can be found performing in various venues around southwestern Colorado from upscale fundraising events, to outdoor festivals and community events, to restaurants or the quaint patio of a coffee shop, to private house parties.

About this Position

We are seeking a full-time music instructor who will focus on teaching our school groups (elementary and middle school children), as well as our beginning band ensembles. We are looking for someone

who is excited about the growth opportunities in our organization, who is a well-rounded multi-instrumentalist and is passionate about working with kids.

Our school programs vary. Some utilize a more traditional music instructional approach, including teaching singing, ukulele, Orff and/or percussion/drumming classes. With others, we primarily utilize our band model.

Stillwater's unique band program gives students an experience where they are a part of a performing band: therefore our instructors must provide excellent instruction with the end product in mind. Our community has the expectation for only the highest quality performances from Stillwater groups. Stillwater instructors need to be able to arrange and/or compose fun, challenging tunes that specifically target the varying needs of the students in their classes. These arrangements demand a high level of creativity from the instructor and an intuitive understanding of students' strengths and needs.

In our beginning ensembles, kids learn instrumental technique on guitar, drum kit, hand percussion, vibraphone, marimba, keyboard, ukulele, steel pan, and electric bass and other instruments, as well as singing. Stillwater band classes are conducted in teaching studios that are fully equipped with drum sets, percussion, guitars, electric basses, mallet instruments, electronic keyboards, instrument amps and PA systems.

Instructors are expected to teach "just enough, just in time" applied music theory, ear training, music literacy, soloing, comping, harmonizing, arranging and the basics of musical professionalism in the context of preparing tunes for performance.

As a Stillwater instructor, you must be a self-starter who independently solves problems, takes on tasks and uses discretion. We are looking for someone to step in and lead band classes that are ongoing, but we are also open to this individual bringing new offerings to our program in their own areas of expertise.

Responsibilities:

- Teach music classes using various instrumentation, such as ukulele, Orff instruments, and/or percussion, as well as singing
- Teach band classes using the Stillwater "be in a band" model to teaching music
- Plan lessons that are engaging and develop musicianship in students
- Arrange/choose repertoire that is appropriate for the age and ability level of students
- Utilize a variety of musical genres to teach music concepts
- Provide individual and small group instruction in order to meet the needs of each student
- Arrange repertoire to fit the needs, interests and abilities of each group
- Prepare students for performances
- Participate in staff meetings and be a visionary for growth of the Stillwater Music programs

Skills and Desired Characteristics:

- Candidate has played music professionally and preferably has been a bandleader (please include your professional gigging musician experience on your resume)
- Proficiency on multiple instruments
- Musical literacy using standard music notation
- Experience arranging for bands
- Strong classroom management skills for young children
- Ability to adapt musical material to a wide range of musical abilities
- Working knowledge of music notation software such as Finale
- Knowledge of sound equipment
- Candidate holds a degree in Music Education, Music Performance or General Music although substantial experience and other training will be considered in lieu of a formal music degree

About Durango, Colorado

Durango is a small town in the southwest corner of Colorado near the New Mexico border. Although a small town, Durango is a popular vacation destination surrounded by mountains and boasting ample outdoor activities in all seasons. Durango is home to thousands of public hiking and biking trails weaving through the breathtaking San Juan Mountains of Colorado, as well as the very popular Purgatory Ski Resort with 10 lifts taking you to 85 groomed trails spanning in excess of 40 miles. Nearby, outside of picturesque Pagosa Springs, is Wolf Creek Ski Resort which boasts the most snow totals in Colorado each year.

Because of the large number of vacationers at any given time, Durango is equipped to handle a much larger population than our official town population and therefore feels like a much larger town. This means we have an endless array of great restaurants, breweries and a thriving live music scene in cool venues like rooftop decks, outdoor patios and old converted warehouses. Durango also has a plethora of art galleries and quaint downtown shopping with hundreds of unique boutiques, speciality shops, art markets, photography establishments, outdoor emporiums, groceries and organic markets. Further, if you have a coffee habit, you've come to the right place. It would take you weeks to visit Durango's endless array of adorable coffee shops and coffee roasters. Suffice it to say that if you are a creative-type, you will love Durango! Something about the vibe here attracts a multitude of artists and musicians. Think of Durango as a mini-Austin but with the added benefit of a gorgeous mountain setting.

How to Apply

Email your cover letter, resume and samples of your work in audio or video format to info@stillwatermusic.org. Compensation and hours are negotiable.

Stillwater Music admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, and ability to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the organization.