

# Instructor Position Announcement

The Garth Newel Music Center announces an opening beginning September 2024 for: Lead Instructor of the Highland County String Studio.

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## Summary Information:

**Studio Location:** Highland Center; 61 Highland Center Drive, Monterey, VA 24465

**Schedule:** Part-time to start, flexible schedule with the potential for growth to full-time depending on recruitment, vision, and teacher availability. Weekday afternoons/evenings (Monday-Friday). Occasional weekends as needed for student recitals, recruitment and community events.

**Compensation:** \$40/ teaching hour to start

**Summary:** The Lead Instructor is responsible for instruction and basic management of the Highland County String Studio, a satellite location of the Allegheny Mountain String Project, located in the Highland Center in Monterey, VA. This position consists of teaching one-on-one lessons for string instruments; coordinating with the Highland Center regarding studio space as needed, programming and coordinating Highland County performances (minimum one per year), recruiting, and teaching small group classes as necessary. This role requires a comprehensive understanding of music education principles across violin, viola and cello (possibly bass); good planning and communication skills, ability to work independently, and a creative approach to teaching in a rural community. The successful candidate will demonstrate high potential for recruitment and building an outstanding program.

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## Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree or higher in a Music field preferred; teaching experience and certifications considered. Preference given to music education and with concentration in cello or viola.
  2. Experience: must demonstrate proficiency in applied and group instruction in violin, viola, and cello. Preference given to experience in string ensemble education.
  3. Demonstrate an understanding of diverse teaching methodologies, responsive to individual needs for students with different learning styles.
  4. Ability to Work at a high level of independence.
  5. Exhibit a positive and flexibility attitude to work in a rural environment- often working with less than ideal conditions; creativity and interest to work with what is at hand to create an entity greater than the sum of its parts.
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To Apply: Application Process will close on May 1, 2024

Send Resume and Bio along with cover letter explaining why this position appeals to you as well as a personal statement of teaching philosophy to Jaime McArdle, AMSP Program Director at: [jaime@GarthNewel.org](mailto:jaime@GarthNewel.org)

*For question about the application process contact Jaime McArdle or call Garth Newel Music Center at 540-839-5018.*

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## Specific Responsibilities:

1. Reports to Program Director (PD) of the Allegheny Mountain String Project.
2. Maintain the Physical Space Highland County String Studio Space in the Highland Center and coordinate its use. Work with the PD to form a long term sustainable plan for the teaching space in Highland County.
3. Recruit and maintain a studio teaching load in Highland County of a minimum of eight (8) students offering lessons on at least two days per week.
4. This position may include opportunities to teach in specialized area of expertise in other AMSP locations including Garth Newel Music Center and Clifton Forge School of the Arts depending on demand for instruction.
5. Teach 30 lessons per student throughout the school year excluding school holidays and weather cancellation days. Maintain a stable lesson schedule through the year.
6. Program and coordinate, in partnership with PD and the Highland Center, the Spring Solo Recital for the Highland County String Studio.
7. Oversee proper storage, maintenance and inventory of musical instruments, equipment, and materials needed for instruction.
8. Determine and execute an appropriate performance and event schedule in conjunction with Highland County and local regional events.
9. Coordinate, oversee, and attend, student performances, recruitment opportunities and other related AMSP program events.
10. Required to engage with students in Highland County Community events and work to keep AMSP visible in the county.
11. In conjunction with PD, seek and secure grant and private funding opportunities within the Highland County region.

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## About Garth Newel Music Center & Allegheny Mountain String Project

The Allegheny Mountain String Project (AMSP) is an educational program of the Garth Newel Music Center (GNMC). Renowned for its stunning scenery, world-class performances, exceptional educational programs, and warm, inviting accommodations, GNMC has been operating since 1973. Nestled in the heart of Virginia's Allegheny Mountains, it hosts over 50 concerts annually, featuring performances by the resident piano quartet and esteemed guest musicians. Weekend concerts are complemented by gourmet meals crafted by our resident with lodging options available in the Historic Manor House on the picturesque 114-acre estate.

Established in 2010, the Allegheny Mountain String Project is the first program of its kind in the Alleghany Highlands. While its primary location is at the Garth Newel Music Center in Bath County, VA, it extends to teaching venues in Highland and Alleghany Counties. This private educational initiative is available to all school-age students in the rural three-county area it serves, and offers a comprehensive curriculum, including private lessons, group classes, and ensembles of varying sizes. AMSP has roots in the American style of string playing, integrating folk and fiddle tunes into early instruction while emphasizing improvisation and harmony comprehension from the outset. As students progress in technical proficiency, the curriculum evolves from American folk and fiddle-based group classes to more structured classical ensembles, culminating in chamber music for the most advanced. A fundamental value of AMSP is to ensure access to string instruction regardless of economic background, with scholarships available through local and national grants and private donations.

The Highland County String Studio is as a satellite teaching center for AMSP located in the Highland Center in Monterey, VA. It is a dedicated room for music instruction that is conveniently located with easy access to the outside and ample storage. Rent for the studio space is subsidized by grant funding and covered by the Garth Newel Music Center for the Allegheny Mountain String Project. Recruitment is currently done at the local public school in the spring. There is often a summer string camp and the Highland String students often perform at some of the community events in Highland County. There has been a benefit for the Highland County strings instructor to have a local presence which has kept the program visible and recruitment strong in recent years.