



**Firehouse Guitars & Music of Decatur Presents:**

## **The Academy of Music Performance (AMP)**

### **Frequently asked questions about the AMP program**

#### **1. I am just a beginner. Am I qualified for the program?**

Yes. For the purposes of our program we define beginner as 6 months - 1 year of lessons or experience on an instrument, advanced beginner as 1-3 years and “advanced” as 3 years plus. We take students at all three of these levels.

For absolute beginners (i.e. never picked up the instrument before) we recommend that you take at least a few months of individual instruction in your chosen instrument before joining the AMP program. Ask us for more information and we can get you paired with a teacher that best suits your needs.

#### **2. The program is described as “all ages” – what is the youngest age you take?**

So far the youngest AMP student we have had was 10 years old, but we will take younger students if they are interested. For parents the main thing is to gauge your child’s confidence level (e.g. will they get stage fright?) and ability to work well and cooperate with others. We want all of our students to succeed in the program and prefer that for our younger students we have some experience with them in individual lessons before accepting them into the AMP program. However, if your child has music education from somewhere other than Firehouse we are happy to do an assessment with them to determine if they are ready, and can work with them in individual lessons first if needed.

#### **3. How will the bands get put together?**

This depends. Students often join the program as individuals but we do get some pairs and small groups that want to join together. Often bands end up being a mix of all of these. Once we get all the applications in we group students based on age, skill level and musical interest. However we do think that some mixing (e.g. more advanced students with beginners, lovers of bluegrass with indie rock fans, etc.) can bring a richer experience to the program and try to not have hard and fast rules when grouping students.

#### **4. Will we play covers or originals?**

The AMP program is unique in that it encourages original songwriting. However we do include some covers because we believe there are different skill sets that are learned when covering a song versus writing your own, and that there is also something to be learned in putting your own unique spin on existing songs. So at the end of the program your set will likely be a mix of covers and originals.

#### **5. Where and when do we rehearse?**

Rehearsals take place at our Decatur store, generally on weekday evenings or Saturdays. Your exact day and time will be determined when you are grouped with the other students and we can match based on availability.



**6. I used to play an instrument in middle school/high school/college but haven't played in many years. Am I qualified to join?**

Yes, in fact you are probably a perfect candidate! We have many students who haven't touched an instrument in years and the AMP program can be the perfect motivation to start playing again. We believe that playing with others can often be more satisfying than playing alone and this program gives those folks who haven't played in a while the perfect outlet to take it up again!

**7. What is the final performance like?**

The final performance is held at Decatur's famous Eddie's Attic in downtown Decatur. Eddie's Attic has been the launching pad for many Atlanta area artists including the Indigo Girls, John Mayer and Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles. The room seats about 150 people making it large enough to accommodate a good crowd but still maintain an intimate atmosphere.

A professional soundman will be present for the performance ensuring that you sound as polished as possible. Each AMP performer gets 1 complimentary ticket or discounted table to share with friends and family.

**8. How often is the program offered, and how do I sign up?**

The program is offered twice a year – in the spring and fall. Our lessons page at [guitarsatlanta.com/lessons](http://guitarsatlanta.com/lessons) is the best place to see if we are accepting sign ups and when the next semester begins.

**9. Will the program be offered at your Conyers location?**

Yes, we hope so! We are currently working on the logistics to bring the program to Conyers someday soon.

**10. What if I have a question not answered in this FAQ?**

For any additional questions send a note to [marketing@guitarsatlanta.com](mailto:marketing@guitarsatlanta.com) and we will help you out! Or please always feel free to call the Decatur store at 404-929-0012.