



Dear 2026 Arrowbear Jazz Campers:

Hi everyone! Camp is coming up soon, and we're looking forward to seeing you all and getting to work on some jazz improvisation. It's going to be a fun week, filled with lots of tune-learning, chord work, line playing, solo singing, etc etc. Not to mention the beautiful mountain vistas, hanging with friends, and snacks of all sorts. We're going to study the greatest jazz artists that ever played the music and come away from the session with a new understanding of improvising and a list of things to practice over the course of the year.

Materials needed for the session:

1) A book of blank music manuscript paper, pencils, and erasers.

2) The "Real Easy Book" Volume 2: Tunes for Intermediate Improvisors. Be sure to order the correct book for your instrument.

Purchasable here: <https://www.shermusic.com/new/1883217164.shtml>

(Click on the appropriate blue link on the right side of the page to purchase)

Getting ready for camp:

1) Most importantly, we encourage you to spend time listening to the music! Some great records to check out listed by instrument:

Trumpet & Drums - Clifford Brown & Max Roach, by Clifford Brown and Max Roach

Tenor & Alto sax - Cannonball & Coltrane, By Cannonball Adderley and John Coltrane

Bari Sax - 10 to 4 at the 5 Spot, by Pepper Adams

Trombone - The Eminent Jay Jay Johnson vols. 1 & 2, by J.J. Johnson

Guitar - Boss Guitar, by Wes Montgomery

Piano & Bass - We Three, by Roy Haynes, Phineas Newborn, and Paul Chambers

Vocals - Sarah Vaughan in Hi-Fi, by Sarah Vaughan

Listen to the whole album multiple times. Sing everything you hear that you like. Pick out ideas on your instrument.

2) If it's been a while since you've played your major scales, brush up on them before coming up to camp. Ideally, you'll want to know all 12 keys. Spend some time practicing the ones you don't know as well if they need that extra attention. If you're struggling with any of them, ask your school band director or private teacher for practicing advice!

If you have any questions, feel free to email Doug (one of the conductors). His email is dougc85@gmail.com.

Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Doug Carter,
Pat Sheng

Arrowbear Music Camp

Jazz Improv Session!

June 21-27, 2026



Pre Camp Checklist



- Order "Real Easy Book" Volume 2 in your instrument's key
- Balance and Health Form finalized by June 7th
- Online medication list up to date by June 7th
- Medications properly labeled and ready to turn in
- Packing list double checked
- Pack instrument- drum sets, keyboards, and amps, too!
- Get ready to have an amazing session!!!

Packet Contents:

Arrival & Departure Information

Address & Driving Directions

Tuition Balance

Medical Form & Medications

General Camp Information-

- Mail
- Email
- Cell phones
- Online camp photo album
- Camp group photo and roster
- Housing
- Laundry
- Visitors
- Camp store

Packing List

Information at a glance:

- Camp office phone: 909-867-2782
- Larke's cell phone: 562-225-7766 (ok to text)
- June 7th: session balance and health form must be finalized
- June 21st: arrival day check in 2:30-3:45pm.
- June 27th: Pick up day- 5pm concert
- Camp's physical address 33500 Music Camp Rd., Arrowbear lk, CA 92382
- Camp's mailing address: PO Box 180, Running Springs, CA 92382

Arrival and Departure Information

First Day of Camp June 21st

Check-in will take place between 2:30 PM and 3:45 PM.

When you arrive, head to the camp porch check-in station.

Here's what to expect:

Sign In:

- Make a name tag, turn in snack bar cash (if any), and pay any remaining balance.

Medical Check-In:

- Screening, temp check, and medication drop-off with the Health Supervisor.

Last Day of Camp- June 27th

Our closing concert will be held on campus at 5:00 PM.

Guests are welcome to arrive anytime after 3:30 PM to visit with campers and load luggage.

Please do not arrive earlier, as camp programming will still be in session.

We'll have outdoor bench seating available for the concert. You're also welcome to bring a picnic and folding chairs for a more comfortable setup.

Parking is limited. On concert day, we use all available areas, including stacking cars. Staff will be on hand to help direct traffic.

Thank you for your patience with our parking lot. We truly appreciate it!

Carpool

If you are interested in carpooling, please let us know and we will email your name, contact info, and location to everyone on our Jazz Improv Session roster.



Address and Driving Directions to Camp

Physical address: 33500 Music Camp Rd, Arrowbear Lk, CA 92382

First Time Visiting?

If you haven't been to camp before, please bring a copy or screenshot of the directions—we recommend not relying solely on GPS, as the directions can be inaccurate the last ½ mile

Driving Directions

- From **I-210 in Highland**, take **Highway 330** toward Big Bear
- Drive up the mountain and continue through **Running Springs** and **Arrowbear**
- Turn **right at the second Arrowbear Drive** (look for Victoria's Family Restaurant on the corner).
If you see signs for Green Valley Lake or Snow Valley Ski Resort, you've gone too far
- Stay **to the left of the small pond** (may be dry in summer)
- Continue up **Music Camp Road** (or alternatively, right at Sierra View, left at Cedar Drive, sharp right at Music Camp Road)
Careful to avoid a wrong turn on Tank Road- it is very narrow and steep
- You will know you have made it when you reach the large **green and brown "Arrowbear Music Camp" sign**. 😊
- Follow signs to the **check-in station** upon arrival.



Tuition Balance

Payment due in full by June 7th.

Medical Form & Medications

Please make sure your online medical form is completed and up to date by June 7th.

You can access the form directly from your parent login:

[Medical Form Link](#)

Find it anytime in the Document Center after logging in to the Parent Portal.

Our Camp Health Supervisor will review the form with you during check-in.

All medications, including over-the-counter items, must be turned in at check-in. This is required by law and is essential for camper safety.

- Medications **must be in their original, labeled containers.**
- If using a daily pill organizer, you **must also bring the original prescription bottle for reference.**
- Unlabeled or loose medications will not be accepted or administered.

General Camp Information:

Communication with campers-

Old fashioned snail mail

Campers love receiving mail during their time at camp!

You can send letters to:

Camper's Name

c/o Arrowbear Music Camp

P.O. Box 180

Running Springs, CA 92382

Note: Any mail that arrives after the session ends will be forwarded to the camper's home address.

Want to plan ahead?

Family and friends are also welcome to drop off letters or small packages at the camp office to be delivered on a specific day. You will see a drop off "Camper Mail" box sitting near the check in table. Please label mail clearly with the camper's name and preferred delivery date.



Emailing your camper

You can send one-way emails to your camper through your online account.

Here's how:

- Log in to the [Parent Portal](#)
- From the left-hand menu, select "Message Center"
- Click "Email a Camper"

Emails are printed and delivered to camper mailboxes along with the daily mail.

Note: Campers do not have access to respond to emails while at camp.

Cell Phones

Campers are welcome to bring a cell phone to camp if need. We ask that usage for calls, texts, etc. is kept discrete. Alternatively, campers may keep their phone locked in the camp office for use at any time.

Daily Camp Photos:

We'll be posting daily photos to your online account starting Monday evening.

New photos will go up each day around 5:30 PM.

To view them:

1. Log in to the [Parent Portal](#)
2. Select "Photo Gallery" from the left-hand menu

You can also follow along with camp life on social media:

[instagram.com/arrowbearmusiccamp](https://www.instagram.com/arrowbearmusiccamp)

[facebook.com/ArrowbearMusicCamp](https://www.facebook.com/ArrowbearMusicCamp)

(Links are also available on our website)

Commemorative Photo and Camp Roster (the 'note'):

At the end of the session, each camper will receive a group photo and a roster with contact information for fellow campers and staff. A great way to stay in touch after camp!

Campers can choose what information they'd like to include. The roster typically includes:

- Instrument
- City
- Phone number
- Social media handle(s)

If you'd prefer that any of your camper's information not be shared, please let us know during check-in or anytime during the 1st 2 days of camp.

Housing

Housing at camp is barrack-style. Most campers live out of their suitcase or backpack during their stay. However, we do provide footlocker trunks and a limited number of cubbies throughout the dorm for additional storage.

Laundry

We have one cold-water washing machine available for camper use, along with unscented laundry pods and a clothesline for drying.

This setup is intended for occasional or emergency use during the session.

Visitors

For the safety and privacy of all campers, please contact the camp office in advance if you plan to visit during the session.

Arrowbear Store

During free time, campers can visit our camp store, which offers a small selection of snacks and Arrowbear gear.

How It Works:

Campers use a store debit account—no cash is kept on hand. Any unused funds will be returned in cash on the last day of camp.

To add funds:

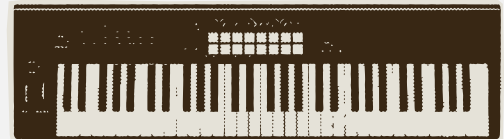
- Log into the [Parent Portal](#)
- From the left-hand menu select “Camp Store” → “Store Deposits”
- We also accept cash, check, money order (made out to Arrowbear Music Camp), or credit card online

During the session, your camper’s account will be updated daily with a current total.

Suggested amount for a 1 week session: \$20-\$100

Sample Prices:

- Snacks/Soda: \$1-\$5
- T-shirts: \$20
- Sweatshirts: \$30-\$40
- Other Camp Gear: \$3-\$35



Concert Day:

The camp store will also be open before and after the final concert. Credit cards and Venmo will be accepted at this time.

Jazz Session Packing List

Clothing

- Enough comfortable outdoor clothing for 7 days. Example:
- Jeans/ long pants
- Shorts/skirts
- T-shirts/ tank tops
- Sweat shirt/ sweater
- Pajamas
- Socks
- Underwear
- Closed-toe shoes (hiking boots/ tennis shoes)
- Bag or collapsible hamper to hold dirty clothing
- Concert clothes: slacks, khakis or skirts; blouse, polo, or other collared shirt

Bedding

- Warm Sleeping Bag- temps may drop below the 40's- please pack accordingly
- Pillow
- Fitted sheet (to cover vinyl mattress 72"x30")

Toiletries

- Towel and washcloth for shower
- Shower sandals (flip flops)
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss
- Shampoo/conditioner and soap
- Sunscreen and chapstick
- Bug repellent
- Any other personal items you may need

Music related

- Instrument (keyboard & drums, too)
- Pencils
- Eraser
- Blank book of manuscript paper
- Jazz Book-See 1st page conductor letter
- If you plan on performing in our Musicale (recital) or Coconut Bear (talent show) bring any music you may need, including accompaniment
- Any instruments you play that you may like to use for free time or optional performance time

Misc.

- Reusable water Bottle- or purchase one in our camp shop with our logo
- Flashlight or headlamp (with redlight for use on night hikes)

Optional items

- Blankets
- Swimsuit
- Pool towel
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Hiking boots/ hiking gear
- Sandals
- Snack food in a labeled sealed plastic container
- Stamps and envelopes
- White clothing for tie-dying
- Black clothing for bleach dying
- Camera
- Books/ magazines
- Drawing supplies
- Headphone/music player