

GRAHAM ACADEMY 2026-27



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Welcome to the Graham Academy Family!

We are thrilled to welcome you to our program for the upcoming season! If you are looking for excellence in performing arts education rooted in community, warmth, and artistic growth, you have come to the right place.

Through Graham Academy, your child will build the confidence that comes from pushing boundaries, form lifelong friendships through ensemble collaboration, and experience the pure thrill of sharing their craft with an audience. These are the core virtues we are honored to share with every young artist who walks through our doors.

Our Roots & Story

Graham Academy was established in September 2016 by Camber Arts in collaboration with Dr. Gary Graham to support and perpetuate Corner Brook's rich legacy of musical excellence.

Gary Graham was a legendary performer, music educator, Order of Newfoundland and Labrador recipient, and longtime Chair of Camber Arts (then GMSM). Over a more than forty-year career, Gary gave the gift of music to thousands of youth and adults. Today, the Academy's management is entrusted by the Camber Arts Board to the Academy Director and Graham Academy Committee, ensuring every program reflects Gary's passion for fostering talent, community responsibility, and dedication to performance.

The Story Behind Our Logo

If you took lessons or sang in a choir with Gary, you likely remember his distinct handwriting on the chalkboard or the notes at the end of a lesson. When designing our logo, our former chair Andrea Barrett snuck into a piano lesson and asked Gary to write out the words *"GRAHAM ACADEMY"* alongside dozens of letter *"G"*s. Graphic designer Jeremy Osmond converted Gary's actual handwriting into the official graphic mark we wear today. Every time you see our logo, you are seeing a piece of Gary's penmanship, education, and enduring inspiration!

Our Mission & Vision

- **Mission Statement:** To offer youth in Newfoundland and Labrador accessible, high-quality performing and digital arts training and performance opportunities in a nurturing, community-minded environment.

- **Vision Statement:** To build a stronger community by providing inspiring artistic development for youth through accessible artistic opportunities.

Guiding Values

- **Community & Ensemble Collaboration:** Exposure to the arts profoundly affects child development. Ensemble performance teaches vital life skills: responsibility, teamwork, mutual respect, and cooperative social skills needed to collaborate on and off stage.
- **Inclusion & Belonging:** Graham Academy celebrates diversity of expression, identity, and background. We are dedicated to supporting youth in being their best, authentic selves in a safe, welcoming space.
- **Excellence & Professional Mentorship:** We maintain a professional atmosphere where artistic excellence and proper performance etiquette are valued. We actively bridge aspiring young artists with leading local and visiting professional artists.

Program Offerings

Musical Theatre Program

Starlights - Moonbeams - Showstoppers - Junior Ensemble - Senior Company

Our flagship youth program ignites imagination while teaching acting, singing, and dancing. Weekly multi-disciplinary classes prepare students for several annual showcases, including in-class demonstrations, community musicals, festivals, and major spring productions.

Choral Program

Carrying forward Corner Brook's storied choral tradition, thanks to the support of a generous benefactor we are able to offer our choral programs free of charge. Programs include our youth choir (*Silvern Voices*) and our adult community choir (*The Chorale*).

Choreography

An exploration of all the styles of dance found on Broadway over the years. We expand creative movement, technique, and physical storytelling across two age groups, featured heavily in both our community and Spring productions.

Digital Arts

Focuses on creative media production, and broadcasting in partnership with local community media channels. This will expand this year to include digital art making and technical theatre production sessions.

Studio Program & Expectations

Our Studio Program offers one-on-one instruction in voice, piano, guitar, theory, strings, woodwinds, percussion, musical theatre, and more.

- **What to Bring:** A notebook/binder, pencil, assigned music, and your instrument (where applicable).
- **Studio Expectations:** Students are expected to arrive with a positive, ready-to-learn attitude. Lessons are tailored to individual skill-building in a focused, non-disruptive environment. Students should ensure time is taken between studio sessions to rehearse and prepare

Our Studio Faculty (Jennifer Billard, Nick Hamlyn, Keith Harding, Amelia Hironaka, Ian Locke, Deah-Lee Robertson, Whitney Rowe) may each have their own expectations in addition to the general policies.

Student & Family Guidelines

Facility Etiquette & Attire

- **Nut-Free & Scent-Free Space:** Our facility at 110 Humber Road is strictly nut-free and scent-free.
- **Arrival & Footwear:** Students should enter through the designated student entrance and remove outdoor footwear immediately into the boot trays. **Please arrive no more than 10 minutes before class. As we are in a shared space we ask those arriving (especially for group classes) to be mindful of their volume in the hallway.** Prompt pickup is required as faculty transition between classes. Our parking lot is busy in transition times between classes, the IHMS parking lot is available.
- **Regular Class Attire:** Students should wear flexible "work-out" clothing (stretch pants, t-shirts) allowing full movement. Jeans, hanging jewelry, and overly baggy clothes are not permitted for safety reasons. Hair must be tied back off the face.
- **Footwear Requirements:** Indoor shoes are required. **Jazz shoes are mandatory for Showstoppers, Junior Ensemble, Senior Company, and**

Choreography classes. *(Note: Gently-used shoe swaps are often hosted in the fall).*

- **Performance Attire:** Base layers (stage blacks, bike shorts, white button-ups, etc.) are supplied from home as specified prior to production runs.

Cell Phone & Personal Belongings

- **Cell Phone Policy:** Cell phones are strictly prohibited in active teaching and rehearsal spaces to minimize distraction. While phone use is permitted during breaks, we encourage students to minimize screen time to build social connections with peers. If a parent needs to reach a student urgently during class, contact administrative staff directly. The office phone is monitored Monday to Friday 10-4, outside these times please contact Ian Locke directly at (709)640-5896
- **Personal Belongings:** Please label all footwear, bags, and water bottles clearly. Unclaimed items in the Lost & Found will be donated at the end of each term. Graham Academy is not responsible for lost items.

Attendance & Absence Policy

The performing arts are a team effort. Whether rehearsing choral harmonies, blocking a scene, or learning choreography, every student is an essential piece of the ensemble. Consistency builds trust, ensemble, and personal confidence.

Key Expectations

1. **Regular Attendance:** Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all weekly classes, assigned rehearsals, and production calls.
2. **Punctuality:** Students should be in the studio, prepped, and ready to begin at the scheduled start time. Late arrivals exceeding 15 minutes may be asked to observe class rather than actively participate.
3. **Contagious Illness:** If a student is sick and contagious, **please stay home and rest.** Absences due to illness are expected and appreciated to protect the health of our community.

How to Communicate an Absence

Please notify us as early as possible so faculty can adjust lesson plans accordingly:

- **Group Programs:** Email grahamacademy@camberarts.ca prior to class time.
- **Private Studio Lessons:** Email studio@camberarts.ca **before 12:00 PM** on the day of the lesson. *(Note: Notice provided after 12:00 PM or missed lessons*

without notice reserve the right to be charged in full, as faculty time cannot be repurposed on short notice).

Attendance & Performance Eligibility

- **Catching Up:** Students are responsible for reviewing missed material or choreography prior to the next session.
- **Showcase Eligibility:** Due to complex staging and group choreography, frequent unexcused absenteeism may result in a student being re-staged or removed from specific performance numbers or entire show runs.
- **Auditioned Ensembles:** Annual audition evaluations for Showstoppers, Junior Ensemble, and Senior Company weigh student communication, attendance consistency, effort, and ensemble collaboration alongside technical skill and the audition material itself.

Culture of Care & Anti-Bullying Policy

Graham Academy is dedicated to providing an emotionally, socially, and physically safe environment where every young artist can take creative risks without fear of judgment, harassment, or exclusion.

Zero Tolerance for Bullying & Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, harassment, or intentional exclusion, whether physical, verbal, social, or digital, will **not be tolerated** within our facility, at performance venues, or in affiliated digital spaces (including group chats and social media).

Bullying behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Targeted name-calling, derogatory remarks, or harmful teasing.
- Deliberate social exclusion, spreading rumors, or creating cliques that isolate peers.
- Cyberbullying via online platforms or messaging groups involving Academy students.
- Any unwanted physical contact or physical intimidation.

Restorative Resolution Process

We use positive reinforcement and restorative discussions to help students resolve conflicts, understand impact, and guide behavior toward constructive solutions. However, when behavior compromises the well-being or safety of others, the following steps apply:

1. **In-Studio Redirection:** The instructor will address disruptive or hurtful behavior privately with the student, providing clear guidance on expected behavioral changes.
2. **Parent Consultation:** If harmful behavior persists or involves explicit bullying/harassment, the Academy Director will contact parents/guardians to discuss the issue and establish a formal support plan.
3. **Suspension or Removal:** Severe incidents or unresolved chronic bullying may result in temporary suspension or permanent removal from Graham Academy programs without tuition refund.

Operations & Administration

Location & Accessibility

- **Home Venue:** 110 Humber Road, Corner Brook, NL.
- **Layout:** Administrative offices are located on the third floor, studios are located on the first and third floors, group classes are located on the second and first floors.
- **Accessibility:** An elevator is available for students and visitors requiring mobility assistance. Please contact staff in advance if you require assistance during your visit.

Tuition, Invoicing & Withdrawal Policies

- **Group Tuition:** Fees are set for the full academic year and billed on a monthly basis via Activity Messenger.
- **3-Week Group Withdrawal Window:** If you find a program is not the right fit within the first 3 weeks of the term, you may withdraw in writing for a full refund (less the \$50 non-refundable deposit).
- **General Group Withdrawal:** Withdrawals after the initial 3-week period require **14 days written notice** to grahamacademy@camberarts.ca. Final invoices will be calculated based on time enrolled. No refunds are issued after May 1.
- **Studio Lesson Invoicing:** Billed monthly via QuickBooks. Payments are due within 30 days. Accounts reaching 60 days past due will result in studio lessons being paused until settled. Studio withdrawals require 14 days written notice students will be billed for two weeks following their withdrawal decision.

Bursary Program

The Graham Academy Young Artist Bursary Program provides financial tuition assistance to ensure cost is not a barrier for young artists. Eligibility criteria and

confidential application forms are available online at www.grahamacademy.ca/bursary-apply.

Cancellations & Inclement Weather

- **Weather Closures:** Class cancellations due to weather or power outages will be communicated by **12:00 PM** on class days via email and social media.
- **Make-Up Classes:** Group make-up sessions may be scheduled if more than two classes are canceled per term (or more than one for Senior Company). Private studio make-ups may be provided if canceled by the instructor, but not for student-initiated cancellations.

Safety, Health & Photo Releases

- **First Aid & Health Info:** Certified staff administer basic first aid and complete incident reports when necessary.
- **Updating Information:** Health information was gathered at the time of registration however if any of this information changes through the year please contact us so we can assist in updating your students file.
- **Learning Accommodations:** If there is any additional information we should know to best support your student please let us know.
- **Faculty Code of Safety:** Faculty members do not meet one-on-one with youth behind closed doors without clear visibility, ensuring safe physical and social environments at all times.
- **Photo/Video Release:** Media taken during rehearsals and shows are used for marketing, web, and promotional archiving. Photo releases are completed upon registration.

Feedback & Complaint Resolution

We welcome ongoing feedback to help us grow and improve our programs.

- **General Feedback:** Informal email communications are encouraged and welcomed throughout the season.
- **Student Progress Inquiries:** Families wishing to discuss student progress may request a faculty meeting via grahamacademy@camberarts.ca.
- **Formal Complaint Process:** Concerns should be submitted in writing to grahamacademy@camberarts.ca. If an issue remains unresolved after consulting with the Academy Director and Faculty, it may be escalated in writing to the Camber Arts Board of Directors. All formal written concerns will receive a formal written response.

Communications Directory & Schedules

Contacts

- **General Inquiries:** grahamacademy@camberarts.ca (*Monitored daily by administrative staff*)
- **Studio Lessons & Scheduling:** studio@camberarts.ca
- **Academy Director (Ian Locke):** ianlocke@camberarts.ca
- **Company Manager (Meaghan Collins):** mcollins@camberarts.ca
- **Bursary Applications:** bursary@camberarts.ca
- **Office Phone & Office Hours:** (709) 638-1956 | Monday–Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- **Private Facebook Group:** [Graham Academy Closed Member Group](#)

Program Schedule & Important Dates

For the live, up-to-date weekly class schedule and calendar of production deadlines, please visit [the Graham Academy Family Resources Page](#) on our website.

Important Program Dates

We try to maintain as accurate a schedule as possible. Changes may still occur and will be communicated as soon as they are confirmed.

Fall Term:

September 14: Term Begins

September 30: No Regular Class (International Day of Truth & Reconciliation)

October 12: No Regular Class (Thanksgiving)

November 11: No Regular Class (Remembrance Day)

December 4: Winter Choral Concert

December 13: Christmas Studio Recital

December 18: Term Concludes

Winter Term:

January 4: Term Begin

February 6 - 13: Community Musical

March 6 - 12: Rotary Music Festival (No Regular Classes)

March 16 - April 2: Easter Break (Rehearsals As Needed - Senior)

April 2 - 3: Senior Company Sleepover Intensive Rehearsal

Spring Term:

April 4: Term Begins

April 16-17: Junior Ensemble Sleepover Intensive Rehearsal

April 23 - 24: Showstoppers Sleepover Intensive Rehearsal

May 7 / 14: Spring Choral Concert

May 23 - 29: Production Week: A Year With Frog & Toad / Seussical

May 30 - June 5: Production Week: Senior Company

June 6 - 12: Programming Concludes

Summer Term:

July 2 - 7: HarbourVoices

July 12 - 23: Broadway Bound Camp

July 19 - 23: Broadway Bound Junior Camp

July 26 - August 6: Broadway Bootcamp

August 11: Music Alone Shall Live: A Sing-Along Celebration of Dr. Gary Graham