

# Be Natural Music Santa Cruz - Real Rock Band Program Policy (RRB)

## Class Information

Each class is a weekly, 1-hour class (year –round). Students enrolled in the Be Natural Music’s Real Rock Band program will learn the following:

- how to play cover tunes in a band setting (Students are encouraged to compose music with their band)
- how to communicate and perform on stage with their bandmates
- song arrangement, improvisation & being creative
- learning self-confidence and dealing with nervousness

## Instruments for class can include, but are not limited to:

- Vocals (and back-up Vocals)
- Guitar (Electric & Acoustic)
- Keyboard
- Electric Bass
- Drums (Trap Set & Percussion)
- Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Flute, Violin, etc. are welcome as well!

## Student Requirements

In order for weekly classes to be efficient and beneficial for everyone, the following is required from each student:

- Every musician must be able to play their instrument in time and in tune.
- Students must practice and must be able to learn their parts on their own. (Private lessons are encouraged!)
- All musicians must own their own instruments and bring them to practice along with their amps, cables, picks, tuners, etc. (Drummers must own a drum kit; however, a kit will be available for use in class)
- Students will perform in live concerts, recordings and on other media throughout the year.
- Students must read and sign the pages (below) titled “Code of Conduct for the Real Rock Band Program.”

## Class Fees

- Registration Fee for new students: **\$25.00**
- The monthly fee for each Real Rock Band is **\$135.00**, due on the 25th of each month - in advance.
- Payments can be made online through your invoice, by check or through paypal at: [payments@benaturalmusic.live](mailto:payments@benaturalmusic.live)
- **A \$25 fee will be applied for all payments received 10 days after the due date, or for returned checks.**
- The monthly fee covers an average of 4 classes per month. We will skip classes on major holidays and break weeks. There may also be times when class is canceled due to unforeseen matters.
- Summer Policy: Our classes are year-round; however, we recognize that some students will leave for summer vacations. To hold your space in the band during your absence (anytime of the year), we require a 50% payment *per each month you are absent*. This holds your space in the band, so if we bring in any substitutes to fill in on your behalf, they will only remain temporary.
- If a student chooses to discontinue their enrollment in Be Natural Music’s Real Rock Band, you must notify us **30 days** prior to quitting. Email us at: [info@benaturalmusic.live](mailto:info@benaturalmusic.live) or call 831-515-8369
- There are no refunds given for missed classes.

**We understand and agree to the above terms and conditions.**

Parent’s initials:  Student’s initials:  Date

## **Concert Information and Performance Fees**

There are two concert seasons per year (Spring & Fall) and there will be around 3 - 5 concerts per season. Your child may perform in 2 – 4 of these concerts per season. A performance fee of **\$185** dollars is due *per* performing student, per band and *per* concert season. You will be billed twice a year for these fees.

Most concerts will be free to enter, but some will have an entry fee of \$3 - \$10 per person (excluding students). Entry fees are required by some venues and we do our best to limit this. Concerts may be streamable when necessary

These performance fees & entry fees cover:

- Live sound engineers
- Track recording & post mixing (audio available for download)
- Video operatives and post video editing (Videos available on Youtube)
- Photography (Professional concert photos will be made available)
- Lighting technician & lighting equipment rentals (only available at some venues)
- Venue rentals
- Equipment rentals
- Advertising costs
- Concert setup & Staff
- Band page (Each band gets their own band page through our website)

## **THESE PERFORMANCE FEES ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REAL ROCK BAND PROGRAM**

I have read and understand the terms and conditions stated above for the Be Natural Music - Real Rock Band Program Policies. By signing below, I agree to these terms and conditions.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(if student is a minor)

Parent/Guardian (Print your name) \_\_\_\_\_

**PROGRAM: BE NATURAL MUSIC / REAL ROCK BAND - MEDIA RELEASE FORM**

In consideration of the opportunity to participate in events related to the above-identified program produced by Be Natural Music, I agree that the event(s) may be broadcast and distributed without limitation through any means and I shall not receive any compensation for my participation.

I hereby agree and grant permission to Be Natural Music, to use, adapt, modify, reproduce, distribute, publicly perform and display through any means the use of my name, likeness, portrait or pictures, voice and biographical material about me for educational, program or series publicity and organizational promotional purposes.

I further agree that my participation in the program confers upon me no ownership or copyright and hereby grant and convey to Be Natural Music, all right, title and interest in any and all photographic images, video, and/or audio recordings of me made during my participation in the program, including, but not limited to, any royalties, proceeds, or other benefits derived from such photographs, recordings or any promotional activities. I also agree and recognize that the entity of the band, including the band name that I am enrolled in, is the property of the school. I have the right to use, for my promotional purposes, those scenes in which I appear. I release Be Natural Music, it's employees, agents, and assigns from all liability which may arise from any and/or all claims by me or any third party in connection with my participation in the program or program related events(s).

It is understood that Be Natural Music, Inc. is under no obligation to use or broadcast the above-identified program(s) or program related events.

Agreed to and signed this [redacted] day of [redacted], [redacted] (year) by:

PARTICIPANT'S NAME: (please print) [redacted]

[redacted]

Participant's Signature / Street Address / City, State, Zip

I [redacted], am the parent or legal guardian of the above-named minor and I have the legal right to consent to, and do consent to and endorse the above statement in his/her behalf on this [redacted] day of [redacted], [redacted] (year)

[redacted]

Parent or Guardian Signature/Street Address / City, State, Zip

**PRINT STUDENT'S NAME HOW YOU WANT IT REPRESENTED THROUGH MEDIA:**

[redacted]

# ***CODE OF CONDUCT for the Real Rock Band Program (RRB)***

## **The Importance of Home Practice:**

Practicing your music is essential to the band sounding its best! If you need help, or have questions about the songs you are doing, please let your teacher know. If time permits, your teacher will take a moment with you during class, but it's also a good idea to have private music lessons (or a spot lesson) with a music teacher. If you are looking for a music teacher, Be Natural Music has a list of awesome music teachers to choose from but we also like working with other music teachers outside our school.

Students who don't practice will not be allowed to continue in the RRB program. This is for committed musicians only.

## **The Importance of Good Behavior:**

The primary reason we are musicians is because we enjoy music; however, it also takes a lot of work. So please enjoy yourself while giving your teacher your full attention during class. You are also required to show respect for each other in and out of band class. Your teacher cares deeply about your success in music, so let's work together and create great music together!

## **The Importance of Commitment:**

It takes time and practice to become proficient playing in a band. The more commitment and devotion you give to the band, the more rewarding your experience will be. Remember, BNM is writing letters to a lot of celebrity Rock Stars to come to our shows. You never know who may be in the audience. Give it your all. You will not regret it! :)

## **Song Selections:**

When choosing songs for your band, your teacher has to pay attention to a lot of variables, like: appropriateness of the lyrics, the complexity of the music, vocal range, etc. Keep this in mind when requesting songs for your band. Please be aware that we can't always do every song due to the variables stated above. ALSO, we may do a lot of improvising during class – meaning we may try to put new songs together on the fly without informing everyone first.

## **Communication:**

Email is the primary way of communicating with the band and the teacher. This is how your teacher shares new songs, song lists and other important notes with the band class. Please make sure that your teacher has your up-to-date contact information. You can also call your teacher @ 831-515-8369

## **Teacher's Role:**

Your band teacher is a well-rounded musician but because this is a band class, they aren't teaching you your parts, so be prepared and practiced before class. That's why we recommend having a private music teacher outside of class. The band teacher's job is to teach you how to play together, in time and in key. They will also get you ready for live and studio performance, help you arrange music, go over performance etiquette and deal with nervousness. Your teacher will always do their best to encourage and mentor you into becoming a Rock Star!

## **Highs & Lows:**

Sometimes bands don't have good rehearsals or performances and being professional musicians ourselves, we know that this can cause doubt and disappointment for all musicians (and parents). Don't fret! ;) All musicians experience ups and downs - Just take a deep breath and keep working on your musicianship; you'll get there!

## **\*Extra rehearsals on YOUR OWN:**

It may sound scary, but rehearsing on your own with the band without your teacher will help you create both confidence and better chops. This should take place in the weeks leading up to a concert, or anytime during the year. Again, each musician will have to gain confidence and trust in order to become efficient in a rocking band.

**\*Rehearsing outside the school is encouraged; however, the entity of the band, including the band name that you're enrolled in, is the property of the school.** Parent's initials:  Student's initials:

## **Being a Professional Performer:**

You will be in many performances throughout the year. It is very important to conduct yourself professionally while performing but make sure you keep your professional demeanor the whole time on stage; this includes between songs. Remember: the audience is still watching you while you're on stage. Have a good time & enjoy yourself, but also conduct yourself in a presentable manner.

## **Helpful Suggestions for Singers:**

You should practice singing your songs to the original track (if it's in the same key and arranged the same). This is very helpful - Karaoke machines / youtube karaoke is also great if you are practicing by yourself. Memorizing your song lyrics is also very important. It's always a good idea to do singing exercises before class and performances. If you are in need of a singing coach, please let us know and we'll get you one.

## **Helpful Suggestions for Guitarists & Bassists:**

You should own a tuner and know how to tune your instrument. A "Snark" Tuner or a "pedal tuner" that is connected between the instrument and the amp would be best. That way you can tune on stage during a performance quietly and quickly. Also, have extra picks with you in case you drop a pick during a song. Lastly, all guitarists should change their strings BEFORE a performance. You never know when you'll break a string! (Having a backup guitar is always useful too)

## **Helpful Suggestions for Keyboardists:**

You should find a good piano sound on your keyboard along with synthesized sounds to play with. A standard organ sound and distorted guitar sound can work well, but please take time to explore your keyboard functions. There are a lot of cool synthesized sounds that could work for different songs. Lastly, playing 5th chords (without the 3rd) on songs that don't have a keyboard part is great for playing along with most song.

## **Helpful Suggestions for Drummers:**

Make sure your drum teacher has your list of songs so they can help you play the right drumbeat. If a song is too complicated, it's okay to simplify it. If you are in need of a drum teacher, let us know and we'll get you one. **For concerts, you may be required to bring your own drum kit to be used for the whole show.** Make sure the drum heads are tuned and everything is working properly. The Music Director may contact you about this.

## **Helpful Suggestions for Horn Players:**

Having a teacher and being efficient on your instrument is important. We have a professional saxophone teacher on hand to help you with any issues that may come up.

## **Helpful Suggestions for ALL musicians:**

Practicing with a metronome is always a GREAT idea. A metronome is a great way to keep you playing in time, and helps you measure your skill level. Also playing along with the songs you are practicing will greatly help you (if the recording is in the correct key).

## **Protecting your Ears:**

ALL musicians ***must*** carry ear protection to class *and* any time they play or listen to loud music. BNM supplies basic foam earplugs for your protection, but there is much better protection out there. **Protecting your hearing is very important.**

### ***A few words about band dynamics...***

Being in a band can be challenging in regards to not only the music, but also the emotions that can happen during class, rehearsals and performance. Sometimes we can take criticism. Sometimes we can't. Due to the emotions that can occur during classes, please feel free to talk to the Music Director about ANYTHING! Regardless how big or small it might be, Matt is easy to talk too and he likes to catch things before they build. Constructive criticism is greatly appreciated! Student, by signing below, you are saying that you are committed to your band:

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_