

Mission and Vision Statement for Halcyon Arts

April 26 & June 7, 2021

Mission

Halcyon Arts brings the world of music and spirituality to New England by presenting programs that enrich and transform.

Purposes

- a) Bringing talented musicians, other artists, teachers, and spiritual leaders from around the world to New England, in person and digitally, to share their work and programs with the public.
- b) Maintaining a series of public events such as concerts, classes, workshops and retreats each year.
- c) Offering music lessons, spiritual direction, and related services, to individuals.

Definitions

World Music: Roots magazine describes “world music” as “local music from out there”. “Out there” may mean, for example, New England traditional music as well as local music traditions from around the globe. We also include quasi-traditional music, intermingled traditions, and world fusion.

Examples include the various forms of non-European classical music (e.g. Chinese guzheng, Indian raga, Tibetan and Mongolian chant), Eastern European folk (e.g. Balkan and Bulgarian), Nordic and Celtic folk, Latin, Indonesian, and the many forms of folk and tribal music of the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Oceania, Central and South America. Traditions have their indigenous roots as well as modern crossover and fusion expressions.

Spirituality: The word has come to have such a broad meaning that it is one of the vaguest in the English language, but herein lies its usefulness. Traditionally, it is a process of re-formation of the human self into the original self, named variously in a wide variety of traditions: the image of God, Buddha Nature, The Ground of the Soul, Atman, etc. This transformation is exemplified by the founders and expressed in the sacred texts of the world’s religions. In early Christianity, it referred to a life oriented toward the Holy Spirit. It broadened in the Middle Ages to include intellectual development. Since that time, the term has broadened further to include a wider range of experience, particularly those of non-Christian religions and esoteric traditions. Today, we think of spirituality as an experience of a sacred dimension and the “deepest values and meanings by which people live” (Philip Sheldrake). A person’s spirituality may have little or no reference or affiliation to organized religious institutions, but generally shares:

- i. belief in a dimension beyond or within the known and observable,
- ii. practices that aim at personal growth and transformation,
- iii. a quest for sacred meaning and purpose, and
- iv. an experience or encounter with the transcendent, inter-fused, or interior dimension.

Program Formats

- a) Public concerts, lectures, and other events such as dance or literary performances and interfaith dialogue/encounters.
- b) Day-long workshops.
- c) Ongoing groups and classes.
- d) Residential workshops and retreats.
- e) One to one music lessons, spiritual direction, and spiritual coaching/companionship.

Vision Statement

To establish and operate institutes in world music and spiritual studies.

1. Halcyon World Music Institute

Mission statement

Our mission is to provide an intimate space, via concerts and workshops, in which students and lovers of music can connect directly with master musicians and skilled practitioners from the world's great musical traditions and burgeoning cross-cultural forms.

Potential Offerings

- Retreat workshops (4 days long; 2 or more per year)
- Masterclasses (3+/- hours long; as scheduled per interest and availability)
- Concerts (12 per year, including concerts from workshop instructors)
- Halcyon House Ensemble (1 concert/retreat per year)
- Halcyon World Music Festival (1 per year)

Workshop/Masterclass values statement

Musical transmission happens beyond books, theory and academic observation. We at Halcyon believe in sitting with the master and in traditional teaching methods that emphasize the orality of deep musical learning. This style of musical training asks more of the student than mere specialization and integrates into its subject matter other disciplines and human experience as a whole.

Halcyon aims to provide an environment in which students can sit at the feet of masters of the great traditions and learn from them on their own terms. We expect our students to respect the traditions, but not to treat them as fixed exotic forms. We recognize that these traditions are contemporary living entities and we aim to cultivate an environment of discipline, play, experiment, and full-bodied engagement.

Workshop

- Thursday through Sunday program at Hallelujah Farm
- Taught by a visiting artist or ensemble
- Public concert to be given on Saturday night by the artist and accompanying musicians of their choosing

Workshop layout

- Thursday
 - 4-6PM arrival/check-in
 - 6-7PM dinner
 - 7:30-10PM introductions, first session
- Friday
 - 8-9 Breakfast
 - 9:30AM-12:30PM Session
 - 1-2 Lunch
 - 4-7PM Session
 - 7-8PM dinner
 - 8PM+ social activities and playing
- Saturday
 - 8-9 Breakfast
 - 9:30AM-12:30PM Session
 - 1-2 Lunch
 - 4-6PM Session
 - 6-7PM dinner
 - 8PM public concert by instructor at Hallelujah or nearby venue
- Sunday
 - 8-9 Breakfast
 - 9:30AM-12:30PM Session
 - 1-2PM Lunch and closing remarks
 - 2PM+ departure

Masterclasses

- Located at Halcyon affiliated venues in Western, MA, Hallelujah Farm, or online via Zoom.
- 3 hour +/- sessions designed by the visiting artist
- Masterclasses may be paired with an evening concert as part of the concert series

Concert Series

- Located at Halcyon affiliated venues in Western, MA

Halcyon House Ensemble

- A collective ensemble of regional musicians who each bring an original composition or repertoire piece
- Musicians will arrive on Friday evening, rehearse Saturday and Sunday morning and give a public matinee concert on Sunday
- Ensemble will be provided with meals and lodging Friday through Sunday and will be paid an honorarium (or a proper professional rate if possible)
- Ensemble will begin by invite only; as it becomes established we will open it to applications

Halcyon World Music Festival

- An annual music festival lasting a weekend

2. Halcyon Institute for Spiritual Studies

The Institute offers a two-year immersion program in spiritual studies. Participants will:

- Study living streams of spirituality from around the globe with an open heart and mind.
- Explore varieties and dimensions of mystical experience.
- Clarify their understanding of the perennial wisdom at the heart of the world's religions.
- Ignite their spiritual goals, values, and callings.

Program Components:

- A core curriculum designed to be completed in two years (see modules and reflections below).
- Two exploratory groups on spiritual topics.
- Two in-person spiritual retreats.
- Extracurricular guest presentations.

The Four Modules of the Core Curriculum

Modules are not sequential and can be done in any order.

- The Two Streams of Western Spirituality
- Wellsprings of the East
- Mystics, Mystical Theologies, Perennial Wisdom
- Spiritual Practices and Mystical Experiences

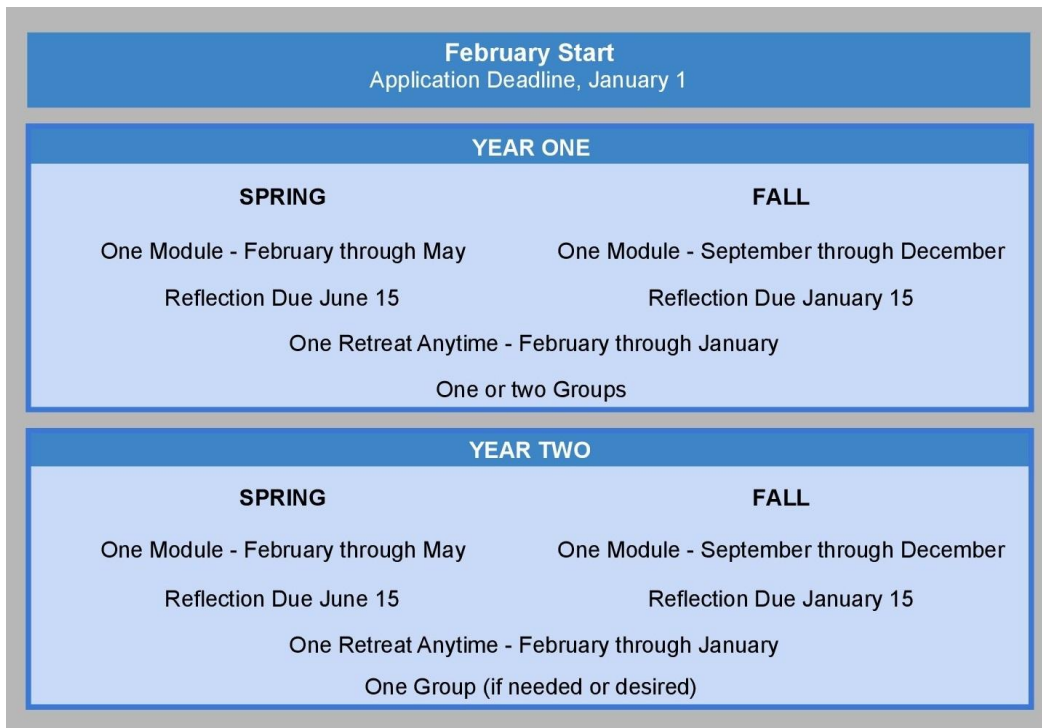
Meetings: We meet on Zoom or in-person at least monthly.

Ongoing Support/Participation: A Facebook Group for each module topic with resources and discussions.

The Reflection: Each module is completed when a Reflection, in a medium of the participant's choice, is submitted, evaluated, and accepted by faculty. This Reflection may be written (narrative or essay), drawn or painted, recorded in video or audio, or some other product or project that reflects how the participant has grappled with each module's subject matter. Reflections are graded as pass or fail.

The Institute awards a Certificate in Spiritual Studies when a participant meets all requirements. This typically takes two years.

Program Flow: Participants may begin the program in either September or February.



Applications are available on the website. Deadlines are August 1 (for September start) and January 1 (for February start).

Costs: Tuition cost per semester is \$605 and includes one module, monthly spiritual direction sessions, and any guest presentations. Groups and retreats are in addition and paid for separately. Total annual cost is about \$1,755.