

SUMMER BASSOON EXTRAVAGANZA FAQs

Our goal is to foster excellence and to make SBE a positive learning experience relevant to the players' abilities. SBE strives to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning with a faculty/student ratio that facilitates learning in a personal, meaningful and enduring manner.

Who attends? Summer Bassoon Extravaganza serves aspiring bassoonists. Most campers will be rising 8th-graders through freshmen in college. Although exceptions are made for younger campers who are show real interest in bassoon. Each season, SBE also has a handful of bassoon aficionados, who make SBE a part of their summer activities. Typically SBE draws campers from more than 15 states.

What about the programming? How are the days filled? SBE begins on Sunday afternoon with an opportunity for participants to meet one another. We go to dinner as a group, and afterwards, introduce faculty and counselors and have a bit of fun with ice-breaker games. The regular "schedule" begins Monday morning with auditions for chamber ensembles. Audition music, a lyric and a technical excerpt for the various levels, is mailed with the camp packets. Students choose which of these they will play. Days are filled with chamber music, bassoon choir, reed-making, master classes and special focus sessions. Faculty gives a recital during the week. Camp concludes with a concert that features the small ensembles and bassoon choir. Campers are expected to attend all sessions unless ill.

SBE is making some programming changes to better accommodate the differing levels of players. Campers will have enhanced opportunities for private lessons. They will also have more opportunities to play solos or orchestral excerpts in master classes and be coached by one or more of the faculty. Several campers will be selected to practice and play their solo with accompaniment in a master class. There will be special sessions for those who wish to concentrate on improving their overall technique. (FYI, bassoon basics can be fun.)

What about the faculty?

The SBE faculty consists of some of the finest bassoon pedagogues from across the country. SBE also brings in members of the Atlanta Symphony to lead master classes. Brief bios are included in the registration/flyer.

What about the accommodations, meals and security?

Campers and faculty stay in a state-of-the-art dormitory. Food services at Emory are quite good. In addition to faculty and camp counselors keeping a "watchful eye" the university has campus security staff and policies in place.

What are the anticipated outcomes?

SBE promotes musical excellence that is an outgrowth of a first-rate learning experience. One of many extended benefits is the camaraderie that develops and extends far beyond the camp week. Bassoonists are so used to being few in number that they are thrilled to know other bassoonists.

While the price is all inclusive, participants may want incidental money for soft drinks, candy, and pizza. These seem to go hand in hand with recreational time.

This year, SBE is offering two special incentives. If you and another bassoonist in your area name each other on the registration form, each will receive a discounted price of \$625. Also, we are offering interest free payments . The cost of camp needs to be paid in full by August 15, 2009.