



GANKC

[your album here]

Make music.

Write and record an album in 10 weeks.



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At [your album here], young musicians find their voices and start making original music with direction from industry pros who believe the world's very best music has yet to be written.



- Gakko—meaning “school” in Japanese—was founded as an innovative, inclusive, international summer camp in 2011 by entrepreneur Kenta Koga (Yale '14). Gakko started in Japan, but now operates camps and afterschool programs around the world in addition to a suite of digital learning tools in several languages.

Gakko NYC is a space for tomorrow's coders and musicians. The programs offered at Gakko NYC give high schoolers the opportunity to study technology or music with industry-experts committed to creating personalized learning experiences. Every student leaves the program with a completed, portfolio-worthy app or an album.

Our Values

- We want to move:
 - From resume building to portfolio building
 - From certificates to competence
 - From predictability to creativity
 - From curriculum based to project-based learning
 - From one voice to many voices
 - From competition to collaboration

Gakko NYC is unique in its approach to teaching and learning. We foster a community of creators and self-learners who are looking for more from their education.

While most learning environments are led by teachers that are either industry practitioners or trained educators, Gakko NYC educators are both accomplished leaders in their field and experienced teachers who hold a deep commitment to their students and the craft of teaching.

At Gakko NYC, learning is continuously redefined by the experiences and work of our students. Our students gain demonstrable mastery, a meaningful body of work, passion for their field of study, and a thirst to learn more.

Key Details

- **Grades 9–12**
243 Canal Street
Program Tuition: \$1,980
50 Class Hours

Winter, Spring, & Fall Afterschool Programs:
10 weeks / 5 hours per week

Summer Day-Camps:
2 weeks / 25 hours per week

Visit us online for the most up-to-date program schedules: www.gakkoproject.com/afterschool



Program Manifesto

- All humans are musical;
our vision is global and receptive to musics of all traditions.
We value creativity, innovation, openness, inclusivity, and discipline. We are committed to engaging with our culture(s) through our music. We are fortunate to be making music today; we are optimistic for the future of music.

Curriculum

At Gakko Music, we work side by side with our students to develop projects that are unique to each student, that are challenging, and that help students mature and grow as musicians. Our students are musicians and our duty to our musicians is to help them develop a voice that is personal, critical, and poised to effect positive change in our community. Our musicians are extremely competent and serve as ambassadors for music's most noble qualities: the ability to touch people deeply and serve as a vehicle for the ineffable.

Musicians at Gakko NYC make music—over the course of 10 weeks, each student will be tasked with creating a 10-track album, the culmination of which will include student-designed album art and pressing into the student's choice of formats (CD and vinyl, sure, but there is room to get creative, too). Each track will represent the learning from week's worth of coursework; every week will require the student to make some sort of recording.

Learning Outcomes

Competence in a range of hardware and software music technologies:

- + Ableton Live, MAX/MSP, Pure Data, Audacity.
- + DAW's, digital instruments, plugins/VST, Wave Editors, engraving.
- + MIDI protocol and controllers; Hardware synthesisers.
- + Mixers, microphones, monitors and mastering hardware.

Sound, music and culture studies:

- + Exploration of the physics of sound and sound phenomena.
- + Introduction to community & history of creative music & musicians. + Introduction to ethnomusicology and its methods.
- + Overview of significant perspectives in music philosophy.
- + Rigorous examination and celebration of today's musics.

Instrumental technique and design:

- + Understanding how instruments work (acoustic, electric, digital).
- + Instrumental coaching.

Practice: Music production projects developed & shared by students:

- + Comfortability in both live and recorded sound environments.
- + Arrangement, production, composition, performance, sound design.
- + Ideation/Conceiving, Planning/Executing, Documenting/Sharing.
- + Lived experience and exploration of music's depths: from the emotive and expressive to the political and empathic.



Topics Covered

→ **Signal**

Participants will explore signal path as the backbone of all sound generation. They will learn how to optimize and troubleshoot signal path to make the most out of any musical environment.

→ **Gear**

Making music doesn't require gear, but gear sure makes it fun. Participants will become gear experts before they make expensive investments.

→ **Sound Recording / Design / Reinforcement**

Participants will gain valuable experience working with amplified and recorded music in a variety of situations from live sound to computer-based composition.

→ **Synthesis**

Participants will explore the basics of the most commonly-used synthesis techniques, including additive, subtractive, granular, and spectral synthesis on digital and analog platforms.

→ **Arrangement & Composition**

Gakko Music is all about the music of today (and tomorrow). Participants will learn the craft and tools of composing, improvising, writing down, and arranging their own music.

→ **Coding for Musicians**

MAX/MSP and Pure Data are powerful and approachable coding languages designed for musicians. Participants will be introduced to the basics of making and controlling sound with code.



Graham Banfield
*Lead Teacher /
Program Director*

- Musician, educator, and researcher Graham Banfield explores how music serves as a portal to the human experience. His core teaching philosophy centers on helping his students develop projects and goals that best reflect the musical life that they want to lead, helping them foster an inspiring, challenging, and fulfilling lifelong engagement with music.

Graham holds degrees in performance and research from Cornish College of the Arts, Yale University, Il Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana, and is a doctoral candidate at the University of Toronto. His studies were funded by the Kreieshelheimer, Irving S. Gilmore, and Arthur Plettner scholarships. Graham's research has been featured at the International Guitar Research Centre (UK) and developed into curriculum at the University of California, Irvine. Graham has taught at Cornish College of the Arts, Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School, Rosewood Guitar Studios, the University of Toronto, and at Yale University.

As a performer, Graham has played in Carnegie Hall as well as venues from Honolulu to Oslo and has spoken about music on NPR, at international music conferences, universities, and at dozens of middle and high schools. Graham has worked with EMMY, GRAMMY, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composers, including David Lang, Philippe Leroux, Salvatore Sciarrino, and Garth Neustadter.

Graham first joined the Gakko community in 2013. He fell immediately smitten with the intimate and profound learning environments that characterize Gakko and has participated ever since as a sempai, collaborator, mentor, and music coach before coming aboard as Director of Music.



Facilities

- Our facilities include a house PA system, recording facilities, several digital audio workstations, an ever growing collection of synthesizers, amplifiers, midi controllers, and other instruments, all housed in a beautiful space designed for performance.

Requirements

- - Grades 9-12.
 - Prerequisite knowledge and skills:
 - + Music is a cornerstone of your life.
 - + You see yourself (or your future self) as a composer-performer.
 - Equipment needed:
 - + None, but students are encouraged to bring their own instruments/gear.
 - Time commitment:
 - + 5 hours per week in class
 - + 5 hours per week of practice outside of class

Admissions

- We encourage anybody interested in becoming a student at Gakko NYC to apply. Gakko is firmly committed to providing education that is accessible and inclusive and we absolutely do not and will never discriminate on the grounds of race, creed, ability, gender, sexual orientation, or any other facet of your identity.

Tuition and Fees

- *Program Tuition*
Program tuition is \$1,980 and includes access to all Gakko NYC events that take place during the quarter in which tuition has been paid.

Need-based Tuition Assistance

Gakko NYC is firmly committed to financial accessibility. A limited amount of need-based tuition assistance is available for every class.

For application and tuition details, visit us online at:
www.gakkoproject.com/afterschool

Or contact us at:
newyork@gakkoproject.com

The image features the word "GAKKO" in a stylized font against a solid coral background. The letter "G" is solid black, while "A", "K", "K", and "O" are white outlines. The letter "X" is a white outline with a black diagonal cross through it. The letter "M" is a white outline with a black diagonal cross through it. The letter "A" is a white outline. The letter "O" is a white outline. The text is centered horizontally. There are several thin, curved lines in light blue and yellow-green that sweep across the background, adding a dynamic feel to the design.

GAKKO