

# Bornoff Approach **CERTIFICATION**

Efficient, Dynamic and Inclusive Pedagogy

**2024 Program Outline**





# Bornoff Approach Certification Program Outline

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## Purpose

The Bornoff Approach Certification Program aims to support teachers interested in a more efficient, dynamic, and inclusive approach to string teaching. Participants will develop a detailed understanding of the Bornoff Approach—including its philosophy, materials, systems, and processes—so they can be used to enhance teaching and learning. The course provides a framework for professional growth in pedagogical knowledge and methodology, curriculum planning, inclusive teaching practices, and personal performance skills on primary and/or secondary instruments. Candidates earn certification by passing performance, teaching, and reflection tasks for each level consecutively. Certification represents an endorsement of the candidate's performance and teaching quality, as well as its alignment with Bornoff and FASE's vision for improved student outcomes and greater equity, agency, and creativity in strings.

*Watch teachers discuss their experience with Bornoff:*

[Bornoff Approach Mini-Documentary](#)

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## Formats

Certification will be offered in two tracks:

1. **CLASSROOM:** requires study and performance on one high (violin or viola) and one low (cello or bass) instrument. Knowledge of all fingering and bowing nuances for each instrument, as well as a deeper understanding of cross-instrument scaffolding, will be required. This format is ideal for classroom string teachers working with mixed instrumentation.
  2. **STUDIO:** requires study and performance on one primary instrument (violin/viola, cello, or bass). Ideal for private studio teachers or single-instrument group classes.
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## Eligibility

The program is open to teachers working in classroom or studio settings, community music programs, and/or higher education institutions provided they meet the following criteria:

- minimum age of 18 years old
- will be actively teaching two or more students throughout Fall 2024 semester

Two years of teaching experience and previous experience with Bornoff workshops/sessions are recommended, but not required. Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate competency on at least one string instrument (see Application Requirements below). They will also demonstrate a long-term commitment to string teaching, with an awareness of and attention to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

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## Bornoff Approach Level 1

Level 1 is the foundational level of certification and covers the Bornoff Approach teaching processes for Primer and Primer Plus materials and concepts, including:

- Introductory Courses: (1) Overview of the Bornoff Approach; (2) The Science and Psychology of Bornoff; and (3) DEI Foundations and Liberatory Pedagogy
- Bornoff Approach Primer: Open String Cycles, Bowing Techniques (Détaché, Spiccato, Staccato, Combo Bows, Double Stops, and Level 1 Harmonics), Finger Patterns 1-3 (incl. preparatory sequences), Unison Repertoire in Major/Minor Keys, Improvisation
- Finger Patterns Book: Five-Note Finger Patterns 1-5 (Section 2), Rhythmic and Slurred Bowing Variations (Sections 3-11, plus spiccato and portato variations), Finger Patterns to Scales, Shifting Exercises
- Primer Plus and Patterns Plus: Additional Repertoire, Media and Digital Tools
- Music Literacy Sequences and Strategies

Level 1 Teacher Certification is required to continue onto Level 2 and Level 3 courses. Each level is awarded based on participation in required events, completion of all assignments, and passing of performance and teaching assessments.

Teacher Certification *does not* endorse individuals to present at conferences or train others, nor does it grant permission to create, publish, or distribute any material based on the Bornoff Approach or FASE resources.

Anyone who has completed a Teacher Certification level will be able to pursue additional Presenter and Trainer Certifications and become part of the FASE Teacher Trainers Network. Teacher trainers will receive access to additional FASE materials so that they can facilitate presentations, regional workshops, and school professional development. Teacher trainers will be listed and promoted via FASE's website, social networks, and professional contacts. Additional terms and conditions will apply.

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### Certification Timeline & Commitments

<b>April 30</b>	Applications Due	<b>Sep.-Dec.</b>	Teaching Modules
<b>May 15</b>	Admission Results	<b>January</b>	Final Submissions
<b>June 4</b>	Virtual Orientation (7:00p EST) Begin Introductory Coursework Online	<b>February</b>	Certification Results & Next Steps
<b>July 1</b>	Introductory Coursework Due		
<b>July 13-20</b>	National Bornoff Workshop		
<b>August</b>	Implementation Prep		

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## Program Costs

To start, we are offering the certification program to teachers who are able to attend the 2024 National Bornoff Workshop in New Orleans and meet the eligibility requirements above. Online certification opportunities will be available in 2025.

Certification fees for 2024 include:

### Course Fees

National Bornoff Workshop Tuition – varies, see [www.fase.org](http://www.fase.org) for details

NBW Certification Add-on Fee – \$40

### Required Materials

- Bornoff Certification Materials Package – \$160  
*Includes full sets of Primer Score and Student Books, Finger Patterns Score and Student Books, Primer Plus and Patterns Plus Digital Resources, Course Handbook*
- Primary string instrument
- Consistent access to a secondary string instrument (Classroom Track)
- Ability/equipment to participate in zoom sessions and to record teaching

The Bornoff Certification fee includes access to an online learning platform, access to virtual workshops in June and August (optional but recommended for coursework preparation and review), supplemental materials, individual coaching sessions, and other support as needed.

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## Application Requirements

The Certification Program Application will ask for the following items:

1. Basic personal information
2. Teaching history and goals
3. Professional development experience
4. Video recorded audition materials on your primary instrument:
  - a. Bornoff Finger Patterns 1-5
  - b. Prepared Solo: March from Elgar Six Easy Pieces
  - c. Improv Sample: Brother John is Blue
  - d. Classroom Track Only: Bornoff Finger Patterns 1 and 2 on secondary instrument
  - e. Optional (Both Tracks): Additional performance or creative sample

There is no fee to apply! Spaces will be limited to ensure appropriate attention and support for each certification candidate. [Click here to view audition materials and apply!](#)

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## Questions?

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