SUMMER CATALOG

Since 1924

piano, voice, cello, marimba, flute, guitar, clarinet, fiddle, saxophone, viola, drumset, trumpet, mandolin, composition, ukulele, banjo, tuba, recorder, trombone, piccolo, drums, violin, french horn, electric guitar, upright bass, euphonium, theory, chorus, music therapy, glee club
Welcome! And thank you for considering Community Music School (CMS) for music instruction for you or your child. This catalog contains important information about the School. Please call us at 884.4887 or email us at info@cms-buffalo.org with any questions you may have.

This year CMS is celebrating its 95th birthday! Founded in 1924 as First Settlement Music School by members of Chromatic Club, the School has a permanent charter from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York and is a member agency of both the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County and the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts.

CMS is dedicated to providing the highest quality music instruction to people of all ages, with financial assistance available to those who qualify.

The School serves over 500 students each year in its main location at 415 Elmwood Avenue, branches in Clarence Center, the Larkin District, Lockport, Snyder, Tonawanda and West Seneca, and extension programs in day care centers, schools, neighborhood centers, senior homes and other agencies. Thousands more are reached annually through our community outreach performances and ‘Instrument Petting Zoos.’

We are looking forward to your becoming part of the CMS family!

Sincerely,

The CMS Staff, Faculty & Board

Our Mission: CMS is committed to providing musical public service programs to Western New York and quality music instruction for individuals of all ages and levels of ability regardless of age, aspirations or financial resources. The professional faculty and administrative staff, together with the volunteers, believe that anyone who has genuine interest in music can benefit from study and deserves the opportunity to pursue it.
COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL
415 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.884.4887 | info@cms-buffalo.org
www.communitymusicbuffalo.org

TRUSTEES
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Mark Garcia, Vice President
David Krajewski, Treasurer
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Rachel Brown, Jason Christina, Gladys Guzman, Barry McLaughlin,
Tasio Pieri, Joseph Smidt, Elsa J. Schmidt Walter, Esq.

CMS STAFF
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Jennifer Guillow, Chief Operating Officer
Hassan Al-Mufti, Payroll Manager
Mark Banaszak, Bookkeeper
Rachael Bouquard, Administrative Assistant
Sean Crawford, Marketing Coordinator
Cleo Gallagher, Administrative Assistant
Maria Goodrich, Arts Administrator
Deb Jazczak, Cleaning & Maintenance
Shana Lee, Administrative Assistant

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Founded in 1924, CMS was originally called First Settlement Music School. It grew out of Welcome Hall Social Settlement, a South Buffalo facility run by First Presbyterian Church to serve low-income individuals and families. First Settlement Music School was founded by the Chromatic Club and other community leaders.

The University of the State of New York immediately chartered First Settlement Music School for the “musical education of young people unable to pay standard prices for expert teaching.” In those early days, the School was housed at 232 Myrtle Street in south Buffalo, just a few blocks from where the famed Chef’s Restaurant stands on Seneca Street.

In 1948, the School was renamed Community Music School of Buffalo to better represent the School’s services, its independent status, the population being served and directions for the future. The School quickly outgrew its original home and several other buildings before moving to its present location at 415 Elmwood Avenue in 1959.

CMS provides musical instruction to more than 500 people of all ages each year. Nearly 30% are from racially diverse communities, more than three-quarters are children, and 15% receive financial assistance through investments from various funding sources.

Notable alumni include Sal Andolina, Andy Anselmo, Jacob Artist, Michael Civisca, Carmen Intorre, Bobby Militello, Leonard Pennario, Faith Marion Robinson and Carol Wincenc.
FACULTY & STAFF

Our faculty is talented, experienced, creative and helpful … a team of more than 30 professional musicians ready to help you reach your musical goals. Teacher bios & photos available at communitymusicbuffalo.org

**Piano Department**
Hassan Al-Mufti, Chair
Christina Brown
Shirley Chan
Edward Kramer
Anna Whistler

**Voice Department**
Maria Goodrich, Chair
Jill Raisen Buerk
Jill Neuhaus
Audrey Shafer
Paul Waara

**Instrumental Department**
Phil Banaszak, Chair | Strings
Leslie Bahler | Strings
Brian C-DeJesus | Upright Bass
Sean Crawford | Woodwinds
Evan Courtin | Strings
Kevin Helfrich | Banjo, Guitar, Electric Bass
Joe Isom | Cello
Jacob Jay | Brass
Carol McLaughlin | Winds, Jazz
Jenelle Nyitrai | Violin
Sara Rogers | Brass, Ukulele
Gary Rutkowski | Percussion
Peter VanDyke | Guitar
Martin Weir | Percussion
Michael Zak, PhD | Guitar, Electric Bass, Theory, Composition

**Childhood Music Department**
Sean Crawford, Chair
Christina Brown
Maria Goodrich
Brianna Nilsen
Sarah Oguich
Anna Whistler

**Music Therapy**
Brianna Nilsen, MT-BC
Sarah Oguich, MT-BC
Sara Rogers, MT-BC
INDIVIDUAL LESSONS
CMS offers private instruction for children and adults at all city and suburban locations during the school year and in the summer. Students may enroll for 30-, 45-, or 60-minute lessons. The business office at 415 Elmwood Avenue opens at 10am, Monday through Friday during the school year and 11am during the summer.

Instruction is offered in piano, voice, strings (cello, fiddle, mandolin, ukulele, upright bass, viola & violin), guitar, electric bass, banjo, percussion (drums, drumset & marimba), winds (clarinet, flute, french horn, recorder, saxophone, trombone, trumpet & tuba), theory and composition.

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* Younger in children’s group class (page 7)
+ Group classes and ensembles available for adults (page 10)
* Violin may begin age 5

Morning, afternoon and evening lessons are available.
(see back cover for complete listing of locations)
HOW TO REGISTER

Online: communitymusicbuffalo.org
Call: request a registration packet or register over the phone at 884-4887
Visit: 415 Elmwood Ave, between Bryant & Summer

TUITION

Group Classes
Tuition for ongoing classes and ensembles is due in full at the time of enrollment. Fees are prorated for students enrolling mid-semester.

Individual Lessons
Lessons are held once per week. CMS students must provide their own instrument and purchase music at the teacher’s direction. Total tuition for the school year is divided into equal monthly installments. Total summer tuition is due in advance. You may purchase summer lessons in blocks of 4 (minimum), 6 or 8 weeks.

$30 per half-hour lesson | $45 per 45-minute lesson
$60 per hour lesson
+Annual $30 registration fee per student

See pages 20-21 for Study Guidelines and Home Practice.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid is available to those who qualify. Aid determination is based on household income and other requirements set by funders of CMS.

The threshold for eligibility is higher than you might expect, and we consider all factors when making determinations.

Please apply if you feel you need help paying for your lessons/classes. We will consider every application.

To apply, please complete the financial aid request form (available online or by calling 884.4887). Documentation of income must be provided at the time of registration. Incomplete applications cannot be processed.
NEW CLASSES AND CAMPS AT CMS!!

**Camp Create!:** Ages 5-10
This week long camp focuses on music, art, theatre & literacy with activities designed by Community Music School, Locust Street Art & Story time Bookshop. Campers will perform a “Readers Theatre” for friends & family on the last day!

Session 1: Jul 16-20 | Session 2: Aug 13-17  
$200 or $350 for both sessions | 9:30-12:00pm | Elmwood  
Wednesday activities will be held at Locust Street Art

**Summer Strings Camp:** Ages 10 to adult
Join us for an intensive, six-week summer string program led by the teaching artists of Community Music School. Students will participate in 1-on-1 lessons, explore electronic sound manipulation and play in our weekly summer string ensemble in preparation for a performance on Aug 21. Two years experience required (under two with audition). Lessons times will be scheduled upon enrollment.

Tues, 6:00-7:30pm | Jul 10-Aug 21 (no class Aug 14)  
$250 | Elmwood

**Summertime Rocks!:** Ages 10 to adult
Rock out all summer-long with CMS faculty! Learn rock fundamentals in weekly jam sessions in preparation for a performance on the last day.

Wed, 6-7:00pm | Jul 11-Aug 15  
$60 | Elmwood

**Adult Choral Refresh:** Adults
Designed for adult choral singers, this course will help get you ready to jump back into singing this fall! Refresh and review vital choral singing skills including breathing, sight singing, part-singing, and overall vocal technique. Participants will sing a variety of choral selections and present a short choral concert on the last day.

Tue, 7:30-8:30 | Aug 7-Aug 21  
$40 | Elmwood
CLASSES FOR CHILDREN
All schedules & locations subject to change.

Music, My Grown Up & Me (MGM): Birth-4 years old with participating parent or caregiver
with Sean Crawford and Sarah Oguich
Grown ups & children bond through singing, rhythm & movement. The perfect way to introduce your child to the joy of music. Each child who attends MGM will receive a small musical instrument for take home practice & play! 25% off sibling discount. Children under six months attend free with paying sibling. | 45-minute class

Mon, 11:00-11:45am | Jul 9-Aug 20 (no class Aug 6)
$120 | Crawford | Elmwood Rm 14

Mon, 5:30-6:15pm | Jul 9-Aug 20 (no class Aug 6)
$120 | Oguich | Elmwood Rm 14

Wed, 11:00-11:45am | Jul 11-Aug 22 (no class Aug 8)
$120 | Crawford | Elmwood Rm 14

Thurs, 11:00-11:45am | Jul 12-Aug 23 (no class Aug 9)
$120 | Crawford | Elmwood Rm 14

Fri, 11:00-11:45am | Jul 6-Aug 17 (no class Jul 20)
$120 | Oguich | Elmwood Rm 14

Music & Me: On My Own (OMO): Ages 3-5; parents need not attend
with Maria Goodrich
Young children learn about music through singing, movement, rhythm & percussion. | 45-minute class

Thurs, 11:00-11:45am | Jul 12-Aug 23 (no class Aug 9)
$120 | Elmwood Rm 38
**Piano Exploration:** Ages 5-6  
**with Anna Whistler**  
Children learn about piano through basic note reading, movement, games, singing & ear training. Students must have a piano or keyboard at home. | 45-minute class  
Fri, 3:00-3:45pm | Jul 6-Jul 27  
$80 | Elmwood Rm 38

**Instrument Exploration: Peter & The Wolf!**: Ages 4-7  
**with Sean Crawford**  
Children will explore music and the instruments of the orchestra through singing, games, instrument play & the story of Peter & The Wolf. String, wind and percussion instruments will be used to teach music notation, aural skills & beginner performance techniques. | 45-minute class  
Tues, 3:00-3:45pm | Jul 10-Aug 21 (no class Aug 7)  
$120 | Elmwood Rm 14

**Joy of Singing Together:** Ages 6-9  
**with Maria Goodrich**  
Youngsters learn singing techniques by learning & performing in a group. Orff educational instruments will be explored, including glockenspiels, triangles & wood blocks. The Orff approach emphasizes children’s natural instinct to play through imitation, experimentation & personal expression, creating life-long musicians & creative problem solvers. 45-minute class  
Mon, 11:00-11:45am | Jul 9-Aug 20 (no class Aug 6) | Recital Aug 23  
$120 | Elmwood Rm 28
Ukulele 101: Just for Kids!: Ages 5-10
with Brianna Nilsen
Ukulele 101 caters to the needs of beginner players who have never picked up the instrument, more advanced players looking to play solos and melodies and anyone in between! Students will work in large groups, small ensembles and individually to target a variety of skills through popular and classic pieces. A recital including group and solo performances will be held during the last class. | 45-minute class

Wed, 4:30-5:15pm | Jul 11-Aug 15
$120 | Elmwood Rm 14

Totally Tween: Ages 10-12
with Maria Goodrich
Learn a song, healthy vocal technique and stage presence in a crash course for tweens. Students will perform for family and friends on the last day! | 45-minute class

Thurs, 12:00-12:45pm | Jul 12-Aug 23
$140 | Elmwood Rm 14

See page 6 for a complete listing of this year’s summer camps!
CLASSES FOR TEENS & ADULTS
All schedules & locations subject to change.

NEW! High School Piano Prep: Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors with Hassan Al-Mufti
A new course designed to prepare future music majors for college study. Musical literacy skills recommended. Student must have access to an outside keyboard or piano. | 45-minute class

Wed, 12:00-12:45pm | Jul 1-Aug 22 (no class Aug 1)
$120 | Elmwood Rm 38
*Discount applied when enrolled in group theory class.*

NEW! Music Theory 101: Teens & Adults with Anna Whistler
Learn all about written music theory—scales, key signatures, intervals, triads, and meters. Students will also be trained in basic aural skills such as hearing of major and minor, augmented, and diminished harmonies, intervals, and triads.

Dates and times TBD. Call with inquiry.
*Discount applied when enrolled in group piano class.*

Introductory Piano for Adults: Adults with Hassan Al-Mufti
For adults with little or no keyboard experience. Students will learn basic piano technique, note reading & rhythms. Close interaction with the instructor, an experienced concert pianist. IP1-semester 1, IP2-semester 2, IP3-semester 3 | 45-minute class

Wed, 11:00-11:45pm | Jul 1-Aug 22 (no class Aug 1)
$120 | Elmwood Rm 38 | IP 2

Wed, 5:00-5:45pm | Jul 1-Aug 22 (no class Aug 1)
$120 | Elmwood Rm 38 | IP 3

Wed, 5:45-6:30pm | Jul 1-Aug 22 (no class Aug 1)
$120 | Elmwood Rm 38 | IP 1
ENSEMBLES
All schedules & locations subject to change.

NEW! Uke in The Park: Teens & Adults
with Sara Rogers
Learn ukulele as you relax in the shade of Bidwell Park! This beginner ukulele class focuses on beginner chords, strum patterns & listening skills. Ukelele required. All abilities welcome. | 60-minute class

Wed, 6:30-7:30pm | Jul 11-Aug 15
$60 | Bidwell Park

Fiddle 'n Folk Ensemble: Teens & adults
with Phil Banaszak
Members learn to play folk music in a jam setting as they improvise, play by ear & have an all-around good time. Must have own instrument. 60-minute ensemble

Wed, 7:15-8:15pm | Dates TBD. Call with inquiry.
$78 | Elmwood Rm 24

Glee Club: Teens & adults
with Maria Goodrich
Members have fun singing Broadway, pop, rock & folk music with an experienced director. Music reading is helpful but not required. Our summer theme this year is DISCO!
60-minute ensemble

Thurs, 6:00-7:00pm | Jul 12-Aug 23 | Recital Aug 23
$91 | Elmwood Rm 14
MUSIC THERAPY
All schedules & locations subject to change. See our NEW Music Therapy catalog for additional detailed class listings.

**Individual Music Therapy Sessions:** All ages
Our board-certified music therapist offers individual sessions using music to help people with a variety of diagnoses, at our Elmwood location and off-site venues. Visit communitymusicbuffalo.org or call us at 884.4887 for more information.

- **$35 per half-hour lesson | $52.50 per 45-minute lesson**
- **$75 per hour lesson**
+ Annual $30 registration fee.

Financial aid may be available depending on need & other requirements set by donors to CMS.

**Individual Adaptive Lessons:** Ages 7-Adult
See “Individual Lessons” page for pricing.
Our music therapists offer the following individual lessons, adapted for people with special needs. Instruction available: drums, piano, voice, guitar, trumpet, french horn, flute & ukulele.
Policies and Procedures

Welcome to Community Music School! Please read these Policies and Procedures before signing the Registration Form.

1. Individual Lessons

   A. Each student must either own or be renting his/her own instrument before starting lessons at Community Music School. CMS has many instruments available for rent. Please ask about your specific instrument.

   B. Each student is responsible for buying his/her own books or sheet music as requested by the instructor. Photocopying of copyrighted music is illegal.

   C. Any student whose first lesson occurs before March 1 is entitled to one excused student absence for the school year. Any student whose first lesson is March 1 or after, or during the summer, will not be entitled to any excused student absences through the end of the school year.

For an absence to be excused, the CMS office (716-884-4887) – NOT the teacher – must be notified by telephone at least four hours before the scheduled lesson (or by 9:15 a.m. for morning lessons).

Refunds or credits will not be given in place of makeup lessons. A makeup lesson will be scheduled for one excused absence per school year, any lesson missed because of teacher absence, or any lesson canceled due to the closing of the School for weather or other emergency. Makeup lessons will be scheduled at a time mutually agreeable to the student and teacher. The office does not keep a master schedule of makeup lessons. Faculty has the option of scheduling makeups with another instructor.

If a student is absent from a makeup lesson, with or without notification to the teacher or the School, the makeup is forfeited. Makeup lessons must be completed by the end of June.

   D. All regular and makeup lessons must be given at the CMS main location or a CMS satellite location unless the executive director gives written approval in advance.

   E. Any student who misses two consecutive lessons without notifying the School will be disenrolled. A notice of disenrollment will be sent to the student or parent. In this situation, any outstanding makeups as well as any tuition which has already been paid, will be forfeited.
F. A student may receive credit for a lesson that falls on a religious holiday by contacting the office at least one business day in advance.

G. If a student expects to be absent for two to three consecutive weeks due to a prolonged illness or other unusual circumstance, he/she should request a leave of absence. The student will not be charged for these weeks. This should be arranged with office staff—not the teacher. A student planning to return from a leave of absence must give at least one business day’s notice.

A lesson time cannot be held or guaranteed for more than three weeks. After three weeks, that time slot will be considered open and may be filled with another student. For billing purposes, a student will automatically be disenrolled after three weeks and will be sent a final adjusted bill. The student is welcome to re-register and return to CMS at any time. In that event, the student may select from any lesson times that are available.

No makeup lessons may be given during a leave of absence. Only one leave of absence will be granted per school year (Sept 1 – June 30).

H. If a student needs to discontinue study at CMS before the end of the year (June 30), he/she must notify chief operating officer, Jennifer Guillow, by phone or in writing. Notice to the teacher is not sufficient. The office must receive this official notification at least one business day before the next scheduled lesson or the student will be charged for that lesson. A student is responsible for the payment of lessons scheduled between the start date and discontinuation date. Makeup lessons not completed before early discontinuation will be forfeited.

I. If CMS discontinues a student for any reason, any outstanding makeups will be forfeited.

J. If a teacher leaves CMS before the end of the year (June 30), another teacher will be assigned to each student as soon as possible. Lessons missed in the interim will be credited or made up.

K. A CMS student may not approach a CMS teacher for private study outside the School until at least one year has passed from the student’s disenrollment from CMS, unless the executive director gives advance approval.

L. Each student is expected to participate in recitals and year end performance exams. Exceptions are made upon recommendation of the teacher to the chief operating officer.
M. Parents are invited to consult with their child’s teacher at any time or to request a meeting that includes the department chair and/or the executive director.

N. A student may request a change of teacher by speaking to the chief operating officer or the executive director.

2. Classes and Ensembles

   A. CMS reserves the right to discontinue any class or ensemble because of low enrollment. In this case, any tuition already paid for remaining classes will be refunded to the student.

   B. Classes and ensembles are offered for a specified number of weeks (e.g., nine weeks in the fall). Each student enrolls for the entire session (e.g., the fall session) and is responsible for the total class tuition whether or not he/she attends every meeting. No credit or refund will be given to a student who withdraws before the end of the session.

   C. A makeup class will be scheduled for any class session that is canceled because of teacher absence, or due to the closing of the School for weather or other emergency.

   D. No refunds are given for student absences from any regularly scheduled or makeup class.

3. Dismissal

The School reserves the right to dismiss a student for lack of interest or progress; disruptive or disrespectful behavior; frequent absences; nonpayment; possession of guns or other weapons at CMS locations; or evidence of alcohol or drug use.

4. Financial Aid

Students who are having difficulty paying for their studies at CMS are encouraged to apply for financial aid. Whenever possible, aid is made available to students who qualify under the terms of our funding sources. Financial aid is provided through grants, donations, bequests and investments. When CMS’s financial aid is exhausted for a particular program year, no further financial aid will be made available until the next program year.

To be considered, an applicant must complete a request form detailing all sources of income for the family and provide proof of this income, such as
federal tax forms, Social Services budget sheets, Social Security/
disability benefits statements, child support documentation, or any other
official proof. Frequent absences or lack of participation in recitals and
exams (as well as reasons listed under “Dismissal”) will jeopardize a
student’s continued financial aid.

5. Tuition and Fees

A. A non-refundable annual registration fee of $30 is charged to each
individual lesson student. This fee applies to the period from July 1 or the
date of enrollment, whichever comes first, through June 30. A time slot
cannot be reserved unless the registration fee is paid. It is non-refundable
except as provided below under “Refunds.”

B. Tuition payments may be made by cash, check, money order,
MasterCard, Visa, Discover or American Express. Automatic credit card
payments will be processed on the first business day of each month after
submission of the auto-deduction form. Post-dated checks cannot be
accepted. Any post-dated check received will be destroyed immediately.
The bill payer will be notified and will need to provide a new check
before the 15th of the month to avoid a late fee.

C. A charge of $30.00 will be applied to the student’s account for a
check returned from the bank or a chargeback from a credit card
payment for any reason. The check will not be re-deposited, but must be
replaced with good funds, including the $30.00 charge.

D. For individual lessons, the total tuition for the year is divided into
equal installments which are due on the first of each month from
September (or the beginning of lessons) through June. Students are not
charged for lessons or classes that fall on CMS holidays. The first tuition
installment— or for summer lessons, the total tuition – must be received at
least one business day in advance of the first scheduled lesson, or the
lesson will not occur.

E. For classes and ensembles, the full tuition for the entire session is due
in advance of the first meeting.

F. A $10.00 late charge will be automatically added to a student
account if payment is not received by the 15th of the month. The student
will be discontinued, and all makeup lessons will be forfeited if payment
is not received by the beginning of the next month. In extenuating
circumstances, the chief operating officer may make special payment
arrangements with students or parents.
G. Account balances that have been overdue for more than 90 days will be handed over to a collection agency. Written notice of any such action will be provided. The collection agency now reports delinquent accounts to the national credit bureaus TRW, TransUnion and CBI. The collection agency fee (33.33 %) and any additional attorney’s fees charged to CMS will be added to the outstanding account balance when the account is turned over to the collection agency.

H. A student returning to CMS after an outstanding balance is sent to collection or discharged due to bankruptcy, or any immediate family member who wishes to register at CMS, will be required to pay two full monthly installments in advance of the first lesson. If the student discontinues, any money paid in excess of lessons received (according to CMS policies) will be refunded.

I. Schedule changes will be granted when possible. A $10 change fee will be assessed for each schedule change requested by the student.

6. Weather or Other Emergency Closings

CMS makes weather closing decisions independent of any school districts or individual schools. In some cases, CMS may close one location but not others. Unless a disruption in power prevents it, a notice regarding closings will be posted on the website, social media and the School’s voice mail system. To learn of any weather-related closings, please call the School at 716-884-4887, check the website at www.communitymusicbuffalo.org, visit the School’s Facebook page, listen to WBEN 930 or watch channels 2, 4 or 7 for information. Students are entitled to makeups of any lessons/classes missed due to the School’s decision to close.

7. Nondiscrimination Policy

Community Music School of Buffalo welcomes students of any race, age, gender, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religious belief or veteran status. Every student will be given access to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to all other students at the School. CMS does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, gender, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religious belief or veteran status in the administration of its policies, admissions policies, financial aid programs or any other School administered programs.
8. Refunds

Refunds of tuition and/or registration fee are available upon request in accordance with the following guidelines:

A. For Private Lessons

1. The registration fee and all tuition paid will be refunded if CMS cannot provide the student with a mutually acceptable teacher and/or lesson time.

2. The registration fee – if already paid – will be refunded if a student requires financial aid to study and CMS is unable to provide it.

3. If a teacher leaves CMS or takes a leave of absence, any lessons missed while a replacement is being found will be made up, or the account will be credited. If the original teacher does not return and the lessons cannot be made up, the student’s account will be credited for any outstanding makeup lessons. If a replacement teacher is not hired, the student will be given a refund for lessons paid for but not received.

4. No credits or refunds will be given in place of makeup lessons (for excused student absences, teacher absences or CMS weather or emergency closings) except as provided in # 3 above.

5. A student who discontinues lessons before the end of the school year, or who does not return from a leave of absence, forfeits makeup lessons not completed before the discontinuation or leave. He/she will be given a refund for remaining regular lessons paid for but not received, provided that the office has received the required 1 business day advance notice (see Item H under “Individual Lessons” above).

B. Classes and Ensembles

1. If CMS cancels any class or ensemble due to low enrollment, the tuition already paid toward remaining classes or ensembles will be refunded.

2. No credits or refunds will be given for any classes/ensembles missed by the student. Classes or ensembles cancelled because of the teacher’s absence or a weather or emergency closing will be rescheduled.

3. A student must enroll for the entire class/ensemble session. No credit or refund will be made to a student who withdraws before the end of the session.
C. Procedure for Refunds

1. After a student account has been adjusted, the student or parent will be sent a statement along with a request for refund form. This form must be returned to CMS for a refund to be processed.

2. Payment of refunds will be made within 60 days of CMS’s receipt of the request.

3. Refunds of $10.00 or more will be sent to the student or parent. Refunds under $10.00 must be claimed in person at 415 Elmwood Avenue with advance notice.

4. Any refunds not requested within the academic/fiscal year in which the credit balance arose will revert to CMS on June 30 of that school year.

TO REGISTER, CALL 884.4887 OR COME TO 415 ELMWOOD AVE IN BUFFALO.

Between Bryant and Summer Streets near the old Children’s Hospital.

Parking is free in our on-site lot on Elmwood Avenue.

SEE TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID FOR MORE DETAILS
Study Guidelines

At Community Music School we approach each student as an individual and tailor our instruction to fit his/her background and goals. However, based on our many years of experience teaching students of all ages and levels, we have found that the following conditions are important to each student’s success:

For Everyone
- desire to learn
- possession or access to your own instrument (not voice) for daily practice; the instrument must be in tune and in working condition.
- purchase of music which the teacher requests, as soon as possible
- regular attendance at lessons
- scheduling of daily practice time (as agreed upon with the teacher) in a quiet place, free from distractions and interruptions

Adults (in addition to the above)
- realistic expectation of progress and the acceptance of some frustration when the body does not respond as quickly as the mind

Children (in addition to the above)
- minimum age, depending upon the individual child’s maturity and the availability of an instructor with the interest and skills in teaching younger children (see chart on page 4)
- readiness to accept and follow directions
- readiness to relate to a non-parental adult
- ability to concentrate for about 30 minutes on musical activities
- realization that progress may occur in very small steps, especially with young children

For Everyone

Please come to the first lesson prepared:
- to play (if you have previously studied or played on your own) or to bring a sample of music you have played before (which will indicate the level you had reached)
- to discuss goals you may have in mind relating to your study.
- to tell us any limitations or conditions which may affect your study (occupational, physical, etc)
- to bring your instrument (if not piano or voice)
to bring your electric keyboard or the brochure describing it (if you intend to use it for home practice)
Note to Prospective Keyboard Students

Sophisticated keyboards can open up interesting sound and computer-linked possibilities. They are especially appropriate for people wishing to perform in the rock, pop or jazz fields or those intending to use a keyboard linked to a computer for notation/editing, arranging, composing or orchestrating activities.

We recommend a keyboard with at least 61 full-sized keys for everyone. Keyboards with small-sized and fewer keys are very inadequate for even a beginning experience with a child.

Students who wish to concentrate on learning pianistic skills and music composed for the piano will find that they will soon need a larger, more sophisticated keyboard - one with a pedal attachment and more than 61 touch-sensitive keys. Eventually, the teacher may also insist that the student have regular access to an acoustic piano. Pianos donated to CMS may be available at no cost to financial aid recipients.

Home Practice

There is a direct correlation between musical progress and consistent home practice between lessons. We have developed a procedure for setting practice goals and the Music Practice Record as a tool for students, parents and teachers.

The teacher and the student will talk about good practice, including designating a time each day for practice and evaluating the conditions under which good practice should occur (no television on in the background, no sibling distractions, etc.). They will discuss a realistic practice goal which involves both length of time each day and the number of days each week practicing should occur. The teacher will then introduce the Music Practice Record as an easy way for the student to keep track of his/her practice.

Crucial to the process is the support of families in planning for home practice on a regular basis and assisting the student in completing the form. The Music Practice Record contains a place for a parent/caregiver to initial confirming that the practice was done. (At the teacher’s discretion, teens may omit this step). The form should be brought to the lesson each week. Practice goals may be renegotiated during the year.
Kenneth Atkinson Scholarship Competition

Kenneth Atkinson served as Piano Chair Emeritus at CMS until his passing in 2018. During his 51-year tenure, Ken inspired countless students, colleagues and audience members alike. Each year, CMS students of all ages and levels are encouraged to participate in the Kenneth Atkinson Scholarship Competition held in May. An application with guidelines will be distributed to each student and teacher in April.

Performance Exams

Performance exams for students of all ages and levels are held at the end of each school year. Although exams are held at the Elmwood location, students from all sites are involved. We hope that parents will support their child’s participation and that adults will choose to be involved. Our exams are intended to be positive, motivational experiences that accomplish several things:

- give the student the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of certain skills* and to feel satisfaction from having succeeded in doing that.

- provide an incentive for each student to practice more diligently, knowing that teachers other than his or her own will be listening to the exam.

- provide parents and adult students with the assurance that the School is overseeing the quality of instruction.

Because of excellent performances during exams and notable progress over previous exams, some students will be selected to receive a Special Commendation or Honors Certificate. Others will be chosen to perform in the annual Honors Recital, based on outstanding, memorized performances.

*These are specific fundamentals on which students work during their first years of study. They are important building blocks for successful playing or singing at more advanced levels. The skills range from identifying notes, note values and time signatures to demonstrating various technical skills such as playing staccato or legato or playing patterns and scales or chords.
Benefits of Music Instruction

The greatest challenge facing musicians, teachers and others is how to instill our love of the arts in children and adults whose lives have not yet been touched by the same passion we have. How do we educate the general public to the real value of the arts?

We often find that we must expend a great deal of time and effort to justify funding or even the very existence of the arts. As you will see, we go to extreme lengths to describe the value of music instruction in non-musical terms - explaining the physical results, skills, qualities as well as positive interpersonal relationships.

How true all of that is but is it not a shame that we cannot simply speak about that which is most important: the incredible satisfaction, joy, rejuvenation and elation we derive from creating, performing or feasting visually or aurally on works of art. As artists and teachers, we must continue to reach out to others with exceptional presentations for only by personal experience can people truly understand what the arts mean and why they must be supported.

Having said all of this, there are still many related benefits from music study which must not be overlooked. In addition to the skills of concentration, memorization, problem solving and socialization, there are the physical benefits of developing large and small muscle control, patterning, eye-hand coordination and brain activity (left and right sides). Enhancing the personal attributes of self-esteem, self-confidence, self-discipline and self-motivation are extremely important in children and adults alike. The structured musical experiences in themselves are valuable but the bond that develops between teacher and student is unparalleled. This situation often provides a child's only ongoing one-to-one relationship with a non-parental adult.

Opportunities for instruction, particularly for youngsters, continue to decrease. This is extremely unfortunate in light of the fact that there is a growing realization of the value of arts education in affecting other learning (e.g., improving spatial intelligence) and in preparing youngsters for the workplace (e.g., managing resources, thinking creatively, communicating effectively, accepting individual
responsibility, negotiating, leading, monitoring/correcting performance and much more). The results of various studies verifying these claims have been discussed in articles appearing in Time, Newsweek and Business Week Magazines, in segments aired on the Today Show and Dateline NBC, in reports published by the National Endowment for the Arts/Kennedy Center and the United States Department of Labor and in Don Campbell’s 1997 book entitled The Mozart Effect.

A recent Getty Education Institute for the Arts’ publication entitled Arts Education for Life and Work contains excerpts from presentations made at a 1997 conference sponsored in cooperation with Business Week as well as articles by guest contributors. Dr. Elliot Eisner, Professor of Education and Art at Stanford University, has identified eight key competencies of cognitive growth that are developed through an education in the arts:

- Perception of relationships
- Attention to nuance
- An awareness that problems can have multiple solutions and questions multiple answers
- Ability to shift aims in process - to recognize and pursue goals that were not conceptualized at the outset
- Ability to make decisions in the absence of rule
- Calling upon imagination as a source of content - the ability to visualize situations and consider in the mind’s eye the rightness of a planned action
- Ability to operate within the constraints of a medium
- Ability to frame the world from an aesthetic perspective

But cognitive skills, important as they are to the workplace of tomorrow, are only a part of the reason that the arts should never be marginalized. “A school’s mission is wider than learning how to make a living,” Eisner says. “It is a place where students can learn how to make a life.”
Community Music School
Serving our community for 95 years and partnering in successful collaborations with the following Western New York organizations:

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra • Waterfront Elementary School • Larkin at Exchange • Amherst Community Church • Perks Cafe • Discovery Charter • Ebenezer United Church of Christ • Westminster Presbyterian • Elmwood Avenue Festival of the Arts • Parkside Lutheran • Epiphany United Church of Christ • Erie County Music Educators Association • Locust Street Art • First Presbyterian Church • WNED-TV • Buffalo Museum of Science • Chromatic Club • Holy Trinity Lutheran Church • Canterbury Woods Gates Circle • Mini Maker Faire of Buffalo • Catholic Health • Shea’s Performing Arts Center • West Side Bazaar • Arts Services Initiative of Western New York • Story Time Bookshop • Catholic Academy of West Buffalo • Saint Mary’s School for the Deaf • Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum • Music is Art • The Buffalo Zoo • Immanuel Lutheran Church • Buffalo Babies & Bumps • The George K. Arthur CAO Headstart Program

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