Welcome to The Music Center!
A letter from our Executive Director, David Lapin

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We are so glad that you and your family are part of the Music Center community! If you have any questions about our services, please do not hesitate to contact the front office at (617) 482-7494. We will be happy to ensure you have a memorable experience at the Music Center.
Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the Music Center. We are so pleased to have you join the century-old legacy of the Music Center.

I still remember the pivotal moment more than thirty years ago when as a newcomer to Boston, a friend told me about Community Music Center of Boston with the simplest of suggestions: “It’s a great place. You ought to get to know it better.”

Community Music Center of Boston is far more than a place to take music lessons. It is a creative hub where people of all ages and abilities share music as common ground, and where diversity, self-expression and transformation are in the very air we breathe.

From two settlement schools that provided music instruction to immigrant youth over 100 years ago, we have grown from a cherished “hidden gem” to an essential educational and cultural institution serving more than 7,000 individuals each week. It’s hard to imagine the City of Boston without the “Music Center.” More than 700 students of all walks of life visit our South End home each week, studying music ranging from classical to jazz, pop, folk, world and rock. Thousands more are reached in virtually every city neighborhood through our leading partnership with the Boston Public Schools.

Welcome to Community Music Center of Boston.

David Lapin

Executive Director
II. Private Instruction

Welcome to private instruction – now that you are enrolled as a student at CMCB, we would like to make you aware of the process of learning your instrument. At CMCB, we believe in offering a well rounded musical education to all of our students. To this end we offer evaluations, recitals, workshops and other performance opportunities all year long.

A. Evaluations

What is an evaluation?
An evaluation is an opportunity for students to gain performance experience while obtaining constructive criticism from CMCB faculty members in order to improve on the skills they are currently learning. It also gives faculty members the opportunity to hear students from other teachers’ studios – and for our students to get to know more of our teachers.

When are evaluations?
Evaluations typically take place once per school year. Over the course of one week in early spring, all departments will conduct evaluations at CMCB.

Are evaluations mandatory?
Evaluations are mandatory for all students through high school age. Adult students are encouraged to participate as well.

What should I expect?
At a typical evaluation, students are asked to prepare their music ahead of time and perform it for several CMCB teachers. Students will also be asked to demonstrate technical proficiency for their level by playing scales and sight-reading. This is an excellent way for students to understand how to further their learning and give them a wonderful sense of accomplishment.

Depending on the student and his or her teacher’s requirements, evaluations can last anywhere between 5 and 15 minutes. They will replace a student’s lesson for the week.

Students should treat the evaluations like a performance/recital and dress accordingly.
Why have Evaluations?

The purpose of an annual evaluation is to provide valuable feedback to our students to help with the learning and enjoyment of music. Comments reflect both strengths and areas for future improvement. Students are graded according to their individual level within the current CMCB curriculum. Although grades are certainly an indication of what has happened up to this point, it is the comments that prove particularly useful to the student in assessing how to continue learning. For all involved, the evaluation experience should be considered a positive one, as it can only help foster continued musical growth.

B. Recitals

What is a recital?

A recital is an opportunity for students to showcase their work in a professional setting. At CMCB, recitals include students singing or playing their instrument in front of their peers, friends, and families. Recitals usually last no longer than one hour.

Benefits of a recital:

The recital preparation process strengthens a piece beyond its normal preparation for a lesson. In addition, the performance inevitably demonstrates strengths and areas of improvement for the student. Hearing their peers helps students to further their own learning process. Recitals also give students and their families practice in concert decorum and protocol.

C. Workshops

What is a workshop?

A workshop is an opportunity for students to practice some of the skills they have learned while gaining feedback from peers and faculty. A workshop is a great way to get performance exposure in an informal environment.

Students not only learn from their own performance, but learn from their peers’ performances and are encouraged to give constructive feedback based on their observations.

When and how often are workshops?

Workshop times vary. Your teacher will be able to provide you with information regarding their studio’s workshop.

What is an adult workshop?

An adult workshop is an opportunity for adult private students to play or listen to each other and talk about their experiences and share their feelings about studying as an adult. Adult students come to meet other students and socialize! Adult workshops typically happen once per semester. Adult students are not required to come or play at the workshop, however we encourage our adult students to participate at whatever level they feel comfortable.
III. Classes and Group Instruction

Group classes are an opportunity for students to learn together in an environment that encourages collaborative thinking and learning. While they are most common in our Early Childhood Program, group classes can continue for the adult learner. Group classes for older children and adults commonly encompass general music education such as music theory, ear training, etc.

Group lessons are not available for all instruments. Please consult the front office if you are interested.

A. Music Theory Classes

Music Theory classes at CMCB are a core part of the Intensive Study Project (ISP) curriculum. The classes combine music theory, composition and sight-singing/ear-training. The goal of Music Theory classes is to give students practical skills and a deeper understanding of the structure of music that they can apply on a daily basis. These classes will help improve students’ sight-reading, enhance their performances and even help them create their own original music. There are eight levels of music theory, starting with an introductory class and continuing through college-level material. Graduates of ISP have gone on to “test out” of introductory and first-year theory classes at several universities. Students will also get an introduction to Sibelius, a professional music notation software, and have opportunities to have their own original music performed throughout the school year. Students do not have to be enrolled in the Intensive Study Project to take theory classes.

B. Ensembles

What is an ensemble?

Ensembles are a great way to increase one’s musical aptitude while joining friends to create exciting and fun music! An ensemble is made up of three or more students who play music together, under the guidance of a CMCB faculty member.
To offer all students a high level of instrumental expertise, group engagement and year-round performance opportunities, CMCB offers a full range of ensembles:

- Beginning Band
- Junior Wind Ensemble
- Junior String Ensemble
- Intermediate String Ensemble
- Senior Wind Ensemble
- Chamber Orchestra
- CMCBeats: High School A Capella Chorus
- Youth Chorus
- Jazz Combos
- Rock Bands
- Una Voce: Adult Chorus

**Who can be in an ensemble?**

*Anyone who is interested can audition or sign up for an ensemble.* Taking lessons at CMCB is not required in order to join an ensemble. Ensembles only form when enough students are available to participate. If an ensemble is not already formed, a student can express interest to his/her teacher who will work to form an ensemble with other interested students.

**When do ensembles rehearse?**

CMCB ensembles meet once per week. Rehearsal lengths range from one to two-and-a-half hours. All ensembles perform 3–5 times per year.

**Are there auditions?**

Some ensembles require an audition while others are open to all. Auditions are held twice per year. If you are interested in joining or auditioning for an ensemble, please contact our Artistic Director.

### A. Piano Seminars

Piano Seminars are an opportunity for piano students to study together in a class setting. Led by a CMCB piano faculty member, students will learn from each other through performances, peer review, and class demonstrations. When enrolled in a piano seminar, students attend weekly class meetings that supplement but do not replace their private instruction assignments.

### B. Music Technology

BeatShop teaches the technical aspects of digital music making. Incorporating traditional music theory concepts like harmony, melody, and rhythm with computer technology, this class immerses students in the world of digital audio production.

Topics covered: sequencing, MIDI, synthesizer programming, drum programming, sampling, equalization, compression, delay, reverb, song structure, mixing, basic signal flow, and audio recording.
Throughout the year CMCB offers a variety of opportunities for students to gain performance experience while also supporting the Music Center. Performance opportunities range from recitals and workshops to yearly fundraising and community events.

The CMCB faculty strongly encourages students to audition for local and national opportunities such as:

- Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) Eastern District orchestra festivals
- Sphinx Academy Summer Program at Oberlin Conservatory
- Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra
- Boston University Tanglewood Institute
- New England Conservatory Preparatory Training Orchestra

Below are a few of our most popular and noted performance opportunities:

A. Lapin Competition

Since 1991, CMCB has hosted an annual merit-based competition named in honor of our Executive Director, David Lapin. Artistic excellence is the primary criterion for evaluation of student performance of two pieces, at least one of which must be played from memory. Two rounds of judging occur over two days with an esteemed panel of outside master artists, composers, university faculty, CMCB alumni and more. Students who are part of ISP are required to participate.

Please contact your teacher or the Artistic Director for information on the audition process and requirements.
B. Perfromathon

The Perfromathon is an all-day performance marathon and fundraiser of mini-recitals ranging from Mozart to Marley, rock to Rachmaninoff, Schumann to show tunes. All students are required to participate in CMCB’s annual fundraiser where 100% of the proceeds benefit CMCB’s financial aid program.

The Perfromathon typically features more than 400 student performers — aged 5 to 85. Even entire families have performed together!

Performances include all instruments and ensembles. Each performer is asked to solicit pledges for his/her performances. The student's teacher will provide information on the event in October.

The Perfromathon is streamed live on our website and is available to watch anywhere in the world.

www.cmcb.org/performathon
V. Summer Programs

A. Private Instruction

CMCB offers limited private instruction in selected instruments over the summer. Schedules are released in mid-May and students can sign up at that time.

B. SummerARTS

SummerARTS is a four-week recreational program for children aged 4–14 with a full range of performing arts instruction. Located at the Music Center, this program offers daily classes in music, dance, drama and visual arts as well as performance opportunities. Our 3:1 student-to-staff ratio combined with a stellar roster of professional teaching artists ensures a wonderful summer of artistic experiences and friendship.

Registration for SummerARTS
begins in late-April/early May.

C. SummerMUSIC

Located at the Quincy School, SummerMUSIC is a unique, culturally enriching four-week summer program which offers individual attention, group instruction, and opportunities for developing musical skills and self-expression. Young musicians in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 will enjoy an exciting summertime experience while they study their instrument under our wind & string faculty. The SummerMUSIC program includes:

• Ear-training lessons
• Rhythmic exercises
• Fun & educational field trips
• Small group lessons
• Participation in a large ensemble
• Participation in a chamber group
• Theory classes with games and computer access

Registration for SummerMUSIC
begins in late-April/early May.
VI. **Exposure and Training**

The Music Center offers our students a comfortable and relaxed environment so students of any age, level and ability can comfortably pursue their passion of music. CMCB also offers students the opportunity to study their instrument more intensely. The school offers a variety of events that exposes students to professional performances, and provides opportunities to meet music professionals and study their instrument with a more rigorous approach.

**A. John Kleshinski Concert Series**

Named in honor of our late Board President, John Kleshinski, these concerts provide a great opportunity for everyone to enjoy a diverse sampling of musical instruments and genres. More importantly, these concerts give students the opportunity to observe their teachers and other seasoned musicians perform in a recital. **We strongly encourage students to attend at least one concert a year in order to learn more about the art of performing and see what they can aspire to!**

Our informal and family-friendly concerts are free to members of the CMCB community and run approximately ninety minutes in length.

The John Kleshinski Concerts are announced each semester.

**B. Young Composers Festival (YCF)**

YCF is a 3-day festival of new music by young composers, and fun, challenging workshops for the whole family. YCF presents various workshops, panel discussions and concerts by and for students of all ages. Young musicians work alongside professional composers and performers to create and perform contemporary music. Opportunities include collaborative workshops, reading sessions, visual arts, and improvisation. There is no cost to participate in the festival and all students are encouraged to attend. YCF is open to the public.
C. ISP—Intensive Study Project

The Intensive Study Project (ISP) is an accelerated and comprehensive program designed to cultivate exceptional musical talent and prepare students for advanced study at an institute of higher learning.

Students selected for ISP are talented, motivated and must be willing to take on additional challenges. Students in grades 7-12 are eligible to enter the program based on a recommendation from their private instructor.

The curriculum of ISP includes:

- Extended private lessons
- Participation in a large ensemble such as Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra or a seminar such as Piano Seminar
- Music theory, ear-training and composition classes

These students may also be selected for special performances including the annual Young Composers Festival, the Lapin Competition, and outside events at which they serve as ambassadors for CMCB. The skills learned and the responsibilities gained by participating in the program prepare ISP graduates for life in and outside of the classroom.
CMCB Instructors are all certified music professionals and have a broad range of teaching and performance experience. Each department has a Department Chair who is responsible for communication and guidance of department faculty, student curriculum development and the overall vision for the department and its students.

CMCB Department Chairs welcome parents and students to contact them with feedback, questions or concerns regarding their studies. Below is a current list of CMCB Department Chairs. A complete list of CMCB faculty can be found online at www.cmcb.org.

Piano – Erin Lindsey (lindsey@cmcb.org)

Wind, Brass & Percussion – Geoffrey Shamu (shamu@cmcb.org)

Strings – Ann Miklich (miklich@cmcb.org)

Guitar – Michael Giordano (giordano@cmcb.org)

Music Theory – Eva Kendrick (kendrick@cmcb.org)

Jazz & Popular Music – Chuck Gabriel (gabriel@cmcb.org)

Voice – Eva Kendrick (kendrick@cmcb.org)
How do you “take” music lessons?

A. Practicing

Studying music requires a dedication to practicing. To be effective, practice has to be viewed as a routine, daily activity. Once a proper routine is established, changes will start to unfold. Students who practice regularly will generally notice improvements sooner and more often than those who do not. Some students find it helpful to practice with a parent/guardian, while others just need a gentle daily reminder and encouragement in their progress.

The amount of practice required to progress depends on a few factors: the level and age of the student, the student’s ambitions, and the instrument. The student’s teacher can offer guidance as to what type of practice is expected over the course of the year.

B. Growing Your Talent

The staff and faculty of CMCB are always ready and willing to help its students pursue their talents. If you are looking to study music professionally, or are looking to study at a collegiate level, our teachers are ready to guide you through the audition process. Please use our teachers and resources as a tool to help you grow your talent and achieve your goals.
IX. Beyond the Music Center

Our Satellite Programs

A. Sing It!, Jamaica Plain

Rehearsing in Jamaica Plain, the JP Kid’s Chorus sings Pop, Rock, R&B and other musical styles. This is an excellent opportunity for students to strengthen their musical talents in a fun and welcoming setting. This program is open to all students in grades 3-6.

B. Boston Latin School (BLS)

For over 10 years, CMCB has had a partnership with BLS. BLS was CMCB’s first satellite program and is open to any student who would like to study music. At BLS, CMCB offers private instruction along with Master Classes and group instruction. The music teachers who teach private instruction are faculty members of CMCB and are often the same teachers who teach at the Music Center.

C. Advent School

In Beginning Violin, students ages 4-6 years at the Advent School explore the violin in a small group setting. Students learn the basics of rhythm, notation, playing open strings, simple tunes, and technique that will prepare them for private instruction.

D. The Learning Project (LP)

Starting in the fall of 2012, the Learning Project satellite program teaches small group instruction in guitar and piano. Piano is available for students in grades K-3 and guitar is available for students in grades 1-6. The school year is comprised of two 16-week semesters. While encouraged to begin and the fall and continue through the spring, students can join in either semester.

E. Orchards Gardens K-8 Pilot School

Private lessons are offered on band and string instruments for those who attend the school and are in the surronding area.

F. Blackstone Community Center

The Music Center holds Family Music Class, for families with children ages 5 months through 5 years at the Blackstone Community Center. Sing, dance, play and explore as a family. Children will build a solid music foundation, while sharing their experience with loved ones in class and at home.
### A Typical Year at CMCB

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Fall lessons start&lt;br&gt;Boston Latin School lessons start&lt;br&gt;Classes/Ensembles start</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Annual Halloween Jam</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Performathon</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>String Ensemble Performance&lt;br&gt;School Outreach Winter Concerts</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Jazz Combo Night&lt;br&gt;Young Composers Festival&lt;br&gt;Adult Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>SummerARTS/SummerMUSIC Registrations start&lt;br&gt;Adult Workshop&lt;br&gt;Winter/Spring Lessons Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Evaluations&lt;br&gt;Lapin Competition Preliminaries (end of month)&lt;br&gt;Adult Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Audition Dates for Ensembles announced&lt;br&gt;Lapin Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Ensemble Concerts</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Spring Fundraiser (sometimes in May)&lt;br&gt;Composition Recital&lt;br&gt;Strings Outreach Concert&lt;br&gt;Senior Recital/Alumni Bash&lt;br&gt;Summer Session begins&lt;br&gt;SummerARTS begins&lt;br&gt;SummerMUSIC begins&lt;br&gt;School Outreach Spring Concerts</td>
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*Events that occur monthly:*<br>Student Workshops and Recitals<br>Studio Recitals<br>John Kleshinski Concert Series