The Community Music School serves individuals of all ages, incomes and abilities.
Each year, more than 3,400 students are served at the two CMS sites. Of those, approximately 85 percent are children and youth.
Through concerts, performances, partnerships and community events, CMS programs connect to more than 10,000 members of the Greater Lansing and Metro Detroit communities annually.

CMS programs are funded entirely through student tuition and fundraising efforts. The Detroit site, new in 2009, receives start up funding from the Provost’s Office to support its operations.
In fiscal year 2012, CMS grants and fundraising efforts totaled approximately $268,200.
Financial aid is available to students with need. CMS awards approximately $78,946 in financial aid to students annually. 47% of financial aid applicants are at or below the federal poverty line.

While goals and objectives vary by student and program, CMS works to bring members of the community together with music professionals who are committed to sharing their extraordinary gifts by offering accessible and affordable music instruction, music therapy, and performance opportunities for all.
Broadly, CMS strives to create an environment in which:
- Students feel safe, supported and part of a community.
- Students demonstrate an increase in confidence and self-esteem.
- Students demonstrate an increase in knowledge of music and ability.
- College of Music students gain teaching experience and faculty have research opportunities.

CMS offers private lessons on over 20 instruments, more than 15 classes and ensembles, eight summer camps, and music therapy. Youth classes and ensembles include: Early Childhood Music, Children’s and Youth Choirs, Jazz Ensemble, Rock Band, and Group Lessons. Adult classes and ensembles include: Beginning Strings, Choral Union, New Horizons Band, Folk Music and Group Lessons.
Currently, 20 MSU College of Music faculty, 64 undergraduate and graduate students and 69 professional musicians from the community teach or assist with programs at CMS in East Lansing and Detroit.
65% of CMS faculty hold at least a master’s or doctoral degree.
While contact hours vary by program, most students attend CMS programs weekly throughout the school year. Many have one-on-one time with talented faculty.

CMS provides a learning lab for students participating in College of Music classes such as MUS 465—Music in Early Childhood, MUS 346—Keyboard Methods and Literature I, and MUS 843—Seminar in Piano Pedagogy.
Through music, CMS programs and services have transformed lives.
- Therapy clients have spoken their first words at CMS.
- Young music students who were struggling academically have found the confidence and resolve to succeed in school.
- Adults who once felt isolated have found a community and a sense of belonging at CMS.
- Other students have found their career choice at CMS and have gone on to study music at the collegiate level.

Students and parents are surveyed each semester. Last semester, 97% of survey respondents reported that they either agreed or strongly agreed that: CMS met or exceeded their expectations and they would recommend their class or teacher to others.
CMS in East Lansing has partnerships with 24 different organizations. Partners include: Common Ground Music Festival, Community Mental Health, Early On, Montessori Children’s House of Lansing, Refugee Development Center and Allen Neighborhood Center.
CMS-Detroit has partnerships with 12 different organizations. Partners include: the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Focus Hope and COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter).

All full-time CMS faculty participate in grant writing
One out of every 20 CMS East Lansing students receives financial aid, and one out of every four CMS-Detroit students receives financial aid.
The total dollars awarded in financial aid to low-income students has increased 41% since 2010-2011.

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The Community Music School is the outreach arm of the College of Music.