Audience

- The Community Music School serves individuals of all ages, incomes and abilities.
- Each year, over 4,000 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 12,000 members of the Greater Lansing and Metro Detroit communities annually.

Funding

- CMS programs are funded through student tuition and fundraising efforts.
- In fiscal year 2014, CMS grants and fundraising efforts totaled approximately $326,870.
- Financial aid is available to students with need. CMS awarded $68,000 in financial aid to 492 low-income students in 2013-14.

Objectives

- While goals and objectives vary by student and program, CMS works to bring members of the community together through music by providing a creative and welcoming environment where music experiences, education and therapy services inspire individuals at all ability levels and stages of life to achieve their personal best.
- 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.

Description

- CMS offers private lessons on over 20 instruments, more than 15 classes and ensembles, seven summer camps, and music therapy. Programs vary by site but include early childhood music, children and youth choirs, group lessons, beginning strings, adult choir, adult beginning band and jazz.
- Currently, 16 MSU College of Music faculty, 45 undergraduate and graduate students and 96 professional musicians from the community teach or assist with programs at CMS in East Lansing and Detroit.
- 65 percent 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.

Outcomes

- 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, 94% 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 has partnerships with many different organizations. In East Lansing, partners include: Community Mental Health, Early On, Montessori Children’s House of Lansing, Capital Area Down Syndrome Association and Ten Pound Fiddle. CMS-Detroit partnerships include: COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter), the Music Learning Alliance of SE Michigan, St. John’s Hospital and VSA Arts.

Additional Significant Information

- One out of every 13 CMS-East Lansing students receives financial aid, and one out of every three CMS-Detroit students receives financial aid.
- Total dollars awarded in financial aid to low-income students have increased 73% since 2010-11.

Contact Information

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