As part of its mission, the MSU Community Music School (CMS) provides music education and music therapy to individuals of all ages, incomes, and abilities.

Each year, the two CMS sites (CMS-East Lansing and CMS-Detroit) serve over a total of 4,000 students - last year, 4,872 students were served. 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.

CMS programs are primarily funded through student tuition, grants, and gifts/donations.

In fiscal year 2016, CMS grants and gifts totaled approximately $606,732 (including $201,205 for the Verses program at CMS-Detroit.)

Through various grant funding and donations, CMS is able to offer financial assistance to students with need. In 2015-16, CMS awarded a total of $53,530 in financial assistance to ensure that 465 low-income students received music education/music therapy services.

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 feel empowered and valued, increasing their confidence and self-esteem.
- Students are provided with the tools and resources to increase in their knowledge of music and ability.

Additionally, CMS provides faculty with research and professional development opportunities as well as ways for College of Music students to gain teaching experience.

CMS offers private lessons on over 20 instruments, more than 15 classes and ensembles, nine summer camps, and music therapy clinical services. 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, 15 MSU College of Music faculty, 37 undergraduate and graduate students, and 94 professional musicians from the community teach or assist with programs at the CMS-East Lansing and CMS-Detroit locations.

CMS faculty are highly-trained professionals with 65 percent of faculty possessing at least a master’s or doctoral degree.

While class/lesson/ensemble times vary by program, most students attend CMS programs weekly throughout the school year — many gaining one-on-one time with highly-trained 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.
- For over 20 years, CMS has proven through its programming and services that music has the ability to transform 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, 96% 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.

- Focused on expanding its reach to the greater community, CMS has built partnerships with many different community organizations. CMS-East Lansing partners include: Community Mental Health, Early On, Montessori Children’s House of Lansing, Capital Area Down Syndrome Association, Hospice of Lansing, Peckham, Rainbow Homes, Moore Living Connections, St. Vincent Catholic Charities, All Faith Ministry for disABILITIES, and Ten Pound Fiddle. CMS-Detroit partnerships include: Coalition on Temporary Shelter, Detroit Institute of Music Education, the Music Learning Alliance of SE Michigan, St. John’s Hospital, VSA Arts, and more.

Additional Significant Information

- One out of every 12 CMS-East Lansing students, and one out of every three CMS-Detroit students receives financial assistance.
- The need for financial assistance continues to grow. Since 2010-11, the total amount awarded in financial assistance to low-income students increased by 102%! This reflects the necessity for continued support of CMS so that more students are afforded the opportunity to experience the benefits of music.

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