



Annual Report 2018



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Philanthropy starts with many people, many citizens in all walks of life, thinking even briefly about generosity.

opportunity to see up close how CMS makes a difference in creating brighter futures for our students.

Every day our outstanding teaching faculty tailor their music instruction, as they nurture personal maturity and artistic expression. Our students graduate as creative and critical thinkers, strong communicators and collaborators, and ethical global citizens. I am grateful for our dedicated faculty, volunteers, supporters, and Board of Directors, as we work together towards expanding our educational programming, community awareness, and financial resources.

It is said that “philanthropy starts with many people, many citizens in all walks of life, thinking even briefly about generosity” (Ted Grossnickle, Vice Chair of the Giving Institute). Your support and advocacy will be indispensable in the coming year and I hope to meet with each of you to share my vision for the road ahead. My door is always open.

- Dennis de Jong, Executive Director

For nearly 25 years, CMS has occupied a unique niche in the community: providing equal access to music education and mentoring for as little as \$1 per lesson. In my first quarter as Executive Director, I have had the

Our students graduate as creative and critical thinkers, strong communicators and collaborators, and ethical global citizens.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The 2017-18 fiscal year was a momentous one for CMS. The Board took major steps toward strengthening the organization, ratifying a new five-year strategic plan. Key goals are to double the number of students we serve annually to 200 while raising our profile and strengthening our fiscal outlook. Our new Executive Director, Dennis de Jong, will lead these efforts.

Our students and faculty continue to shine brightly.

Our students and faculty continue to shine brightly. In July 2017, Lanif Azcona received a CMS scholarship to spend 5 weeks at the prestigious Berklee Summer Music Program. In May, CMS cello teacher and former student, Myriah Luke was recognized with a Wake County Public School teaching award for her work at East Millbrook Middle School.

The loss of our founder, Mary Cates, in February was a bittersweet note amid these positive developments. Mary was the heart and soul of CMS for nearly 25 years. A five-term Raleigh City Council member, she rallied local leaders and musicians around the idea of a music school dedicated to serving underserved families in the community. Her example is an inspiration to us all.



Mary Cates

As CMS prepares to mark its 25th anniversary in 2019, we are proud to carry on Mary Cates' work. We are confident that the best is yet to come.

- Carol Holland, Board President

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FACULTY

Amanda Bateman - Woodwinds, Piano

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Alexandra Chibukhchyan - Piano

Julia Fair - Musical Theater

Mary Huntimer - Woodwinds

Patrick Jones - Violin & Viola

Jessica Kiernan - Piano

Bradley Kraemer - Piano

Myriah Luke - Cello

Elijah Melanson - Guitar, Recording & Production, Jazz Ensemble

Kelli Partin - Musical Theater

Rosendo Peña - Percussion, Percussion Ensemble

Waltye Rasulala - Fundamentals of Music, Voice, Piano

Zane Souvanlasy - Piano Peer Teacher

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Dennis de Jong - Executive Director

Stephanie de Jong - Interim Program Director

Travona Abrams - Operations Assistant

Matt Douglas - Music Technology Mentor/Berklee PULSE

Jack DeBruyn - Evening Volunteer

John Barnum - Day Volunteer

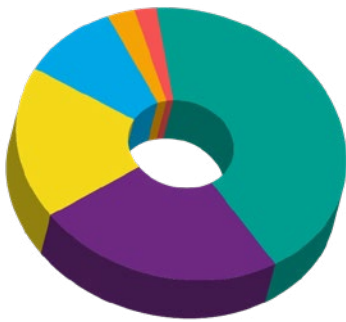


BROADWAY BELIEVES BENEFIT

CMS's October 2017 benefit Broadway Believes was a hit! The music-filled evening at the NC Museum of History featured Broadway and television star Alan Campbell, along with acclaimed jazz vocalist Yolanda Rabun and Broadway stars Kevin Kern and Kathy Voytko. CMS's first ever "Award for Philanthropy" was presented to Kristi Hipple and Dennis Mayfield, owners of the Cameron Village boutique C.T. Weekends, in recognition of their tireless efforts on behalf of CMS. The evening, organized by Cindy McEnery and Bonner Jones, raised more than \$50,000 for CMS programs.

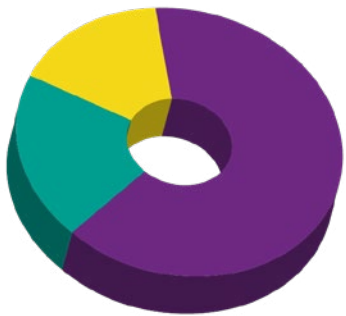
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

SOURCES



- **Contributions:**
\$102,905 (43%)
 - **Grants:**
\$56,881 (24%)
 - **Government:**
\$44,572 (18%)
 - **In Kind:**
\$23,834 (10%)
 - **Corporations:**
\$7,529 (3%)
 - **Program Fees & Other:**
\$4,530 (2%)
- Total Sources: \$240,251

USES



- **Program Services:**
\$140,839 (64%)
 - **Fundraising:**
\$44,814 (20%)
 - **Management & General:**
\$34,541 (16%)
- Total Uses: \$220,194

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: BARBARA & AL MARZETTI



CMS is deeply grateful to Barbara and Al Marzetti, who since 2011 have donated \$5,000 annually to support the David L. Marzetti Percussion program. Barbara and Al explained their special relationship with CMS:

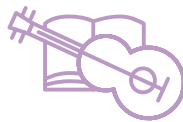
"We originally chose to contribute to honor our son, Dave, who passed away in 2010. Music was his life. Dave was a drummer in a Raleigh band that was poised to go places. He was also someone who was always looking to help others less fortunate, especially kids. In 2011, we created The David L. Marzetti Memorial Music Trust Fund and committed to a multi-year pledge to sponsor a percussion program at CMS, named in Dave's honor. Year after year, we stick with it because we see the dedication of the teachers and students, witness incredible talent being cultivated, and see how CMS is making a difference in the lives of so many kids. It is rare indeed to contribute to a charitable enterprise and actually see the tangible results of your contributions. And it doesn't get much more tangible than listening to kids play a marimba that you funded or playing in a jazz ensemble on your son's drums."

ACHIEVEMENTS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU

\$1
per lesson



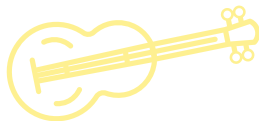
1,800
hours of classroom instruction



62,530
minutes of practice time



62
instruments provided this year



100%
high school graduation rate



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LANIF AZCONA



For the past seven years CMS has been more than just a school; it has been a second family, molding me into the musician I am today. I was introduced to CMS in 2011 and began taking violin lessons. Later I studied additional instruments and focused more on singing/songwriting.

“CMS has been more than just a school; it has been a second family.”

This past summer I received a full scholarship from CMS to attend the Five-Week Music Performance Intensive Program at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. I was a winner of the Singer Songwriter Program, performed in the Salsa Ensemble and was able to open the Five Week Blowout concert. The Singer Songwriter Program was by audition only and more than 200 five-week students auditioned. I was able to perform my original, “Never Leave My Side.” The program changed my life in a way that I cannot express.

As a senior, this is sadly my last year attending CMS. I want to thank Matt Douglas and Erin Zanders for their mentorship and support, and to the board, faculty, and donors who helped me pursue my dreams. I am eternally grateful.

MUSICAL THEATER PROGRAM

The 15 students in CMS’s Musical Theater program brought the house down with their May 5 performances of Seussical Jr. at St. Saviour’s Center. A partnership with Right On Cue Kids Theater, the program was underwritten by the Mary Biddle Duke Foundation.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MYRIAH LUKE



I would like to thank CMS for its enormous role in furthering my education with access to private music instruction. CMS gave me an exceptional opportunity as a student, and now I am able to give back as a CMS faculty member. This spring, I was honored to receive Wake County’s Diane Kent-Parker Award, which recognizes outstanding first-year teachers.

I first came in contact with CMS in 2007 when my Wake County teacher insisted that I take private lessons because of my talent. As my family was financially disadvantaged, CMS was the only option for me to receive private lessons. It’s hard to describe the difference that private lessons made for me, but suffice it to say that after only two years, I entered high school at a level far above peers who had been playing longer than I. My high school orchestra teacher recognized that I could take a leadership position, assigning me to lead sectionals and, eventually, to lead and conduct classes. And I would never have been ready for college auditions without my CMS lessons. While attending Meredith College, I was hired as the cello faculty at CMS. It is gratifying to be able to give back to the organization that has done so much for me.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER



For the last two years, CMS has been offering recording classes in our Music Technology Lab. In addition to our affiliation with Berklee City Music Network, CMS started a mentorship program in 2017/2018 that offers CMS students additional resources for their artistic and educational growth. We want to make sure that students have an awareness of outside opportunities, summer music programs, college prep, vocational options in the arts other than that of a performing musician, and just a place to talk openly and creatively about music! As a part of this new program, we took a group of teenage students on two field trips. The Fall trip was to visit Manifold Recording Studio in Pittsboro where they were given a tour by the Grammy-winning engineer, Ian Schreier. In the Spring, a group of CMS students were given a tour of Myriad Media by Brand Director Jedidiah Gant. Recently we worked with partners Sweetwater, Singer/Songwriter for the Mountain Goats, Ten Atoms Management, and Merge Records, to secure \$2,000 in funding to improve our audio production resources.

Thank you to all of our individual, corporate and foundation supporters, and local business and nonprofit partners, for giving our students the gift of music education. CMS is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission, and supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, with funds from the United Arts Campaign as well as the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.



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Donations of instruments, music books, sheet music, and other goods and services are vital to CMS's programs. We deeply appreciate the many individuals, organizations, and retailers who contributed goods or services in 2017-18.

CMS regrets any inadvertent errors or omissions in this roster. Please notify us of corrections.

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Raleigh, NC 27603



community music school

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