



CREATING BRIGHT FUTURES

Impact Report 2019-20



DEAR FRIENDS,

Thanks to so many of you, the CMS 2019-20 program year began and ended on strong and beautiful notes – further proof of the importance of our music program to our students. We have much to share in this annual report.

CMS is reaching more students than ever, in deeper and more meaningful ways. This past academic year, we reached 170 students, plus some special students from our partner, Neighbor-to-Neighbor. We moved into Longleaf School for the Arts (and look forward to returning to it when schools reopen). Our students had many opportunities to perform all over Raleigh in various venues from Cameron Village’s 70th Anniversary celebration to the North Carolina Symphony. Our faculty provided hours of instruction, support, mentorship, and converted to a virtual learning environment in March when the COVID-19 pandemic ended in-person classes. It was heartwarming and inspiring.

Music education transforms students’ lives. Children who have access to quality music education score higher on standardized tests, have larger vocabularies, stronger reading skills, and higher self-esteem. They are more likely to stay engaged in school, graduate, and pursue higher education. CMS students reap these benefits every day.

Thank you for your continued partnership with this life-changing work.

WITH GRATITUDE,



Rose Kenyon
President and Chair of the Board of Directors



JOHN REX ENDOWMENT GRANT

A major two-year grant from the John Rex Endowment is enabling CMS to promote professional development with our faculty on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) techniques.

SEL focuses on five areas that are integral to student learning and lifelong success – self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making– and has been shown to benefit kids of all backgrounds. CMS is partnering with NCSU’s Friday Institute for Educational Innovation on this important initiative.

THIS 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

We partnered with several other community groups to provide programs, master classes and performance opportunities for our students, including NC Symphony, Raleigh Little Theater, North Carolina Chamber Music Institute, Neighbor-to-Neighbor, among others.

We opened a new space at Longleaf School of the Arts, in the heart of southeast Raleigh, with a fabulous facility and room to grow. We also debuted our new curriculum, offering foundational tiers of learning for elementary and middle school students.

Coronavirus did not stop us in our tracks. In March, we converted to a completely virtual environment and continued lessons for the remainder of the school year via Zoom. Our students participated in a virtual music contest and we held virtual recitals in May.



“I would never be able to afford music lessons without CMS.”

- 2020 CMS Parent



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

FOR VIOLIN STUDENT GABRIEL BRAVO, 16, CMS HAS OPENED UP A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY.

A native of Venezuela, Gabriel began studying violin at age 10 at El Sistema, the world renowned music education program. Gabriel had dreams of becoming a concert violinist, but when the family immigrated to the US three years ago, he was unsure if he would be able to continue his musical studies. Then he discovered CMS.

At CMS, Gabriel has grown as a musician in ways that he could never have imagined. Through CMS's Mary Cates Scholarship, Gabriel receives supplementary monthly lessons with violinist Brian Reagin, Concertmaster of the North Carolina Symphony. He has been awarded a scholarship to participate in the North Carolina Chamber Music Institute, an intensive program for advanced music students. He has attended concerts, met with acclaimed professional musicians, competed for music prizes, and performed for live audiences.

One of Gabriel's most cherished CMS experiences is last year's Gifts of Grace event at St. Michael's Episcopal Church.



Gabriel

After the performance, Rev. Holly Gloff, the Associate Rector, told him he deserved a better instrument and offered him one of her violins as a gift. Gabriel now has an instrument worthy of his talents.

No wonder he says,



"At CMS I get the chance to be happy."

\$1 per lesson, and instruments are supplied free of charge for students' use.

1:1 Music advanced instruction and small-group foundational classes

32 weeks of instruction, with 77 classes per week
After March 2020, all programming was via Zoom.

NIKKI HUNTE AND HER SON, DAVID, ARE FAMILY – CMS FAMILY.

For two years Nikki Hunte has been a key member of CMS’s staff. Nikki is the friendly presence overseeing CMS’s “front of house,” making sure everything runs smoothly when students and families arrive for lessons. In 2019 she took on a new role: CMS parent.

David, now 17, had shown musical talent from his preschool days but was never able to have private lessons until his mom found CMS. Today he is studying both piano and voice.

David is a gifted singer who loves performing. It was through CMS that he first experienced the thrill of singing for a live audience. His solo at a North Carolina Symphony Ovarations performance at Meymandi Concert Hall is one of his happiest CMS memories. David has big dreams for his future: *“Helping others, teaching, and, of course, music!”*



“CMS is a wonderful gift for families whose children would never have this life changing experience without it.”



Nikki & David

100%

High School graduation rate among CMS seniors

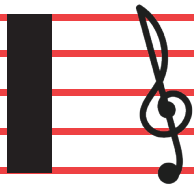
100%

CMS students qualify for Federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program

170

students enrolled, 11 wait-listed





Faculty Spotlight

WALTYE RASULALA



My introduction to CMS was in 1996. I had been invited to sing in the school's First Annual Benefit Concert along with international jazz artist, Nneena Freelon, as well as other outstanding North Carolina musicians. CMS's mission spoke to me and in 2000, I joined the faculty.

Twenty years later, I still find inspiration watching the children's excitement while learning to play a musical instrument. And it means so much to their parents that we can offer this opportunity for only \$1 per lesson.

CMS's students are remarkably diverse. Over the years, I have taught students from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds, including many who hailed from countries in the Caribbean, Africa, or across the globe. Music is their universal language.

For each of my students music means different things. Yet in each it creates a level of confidence, and joy in accomplishment, when they learn to perform on their instrument or sing a song in a year-end concert.

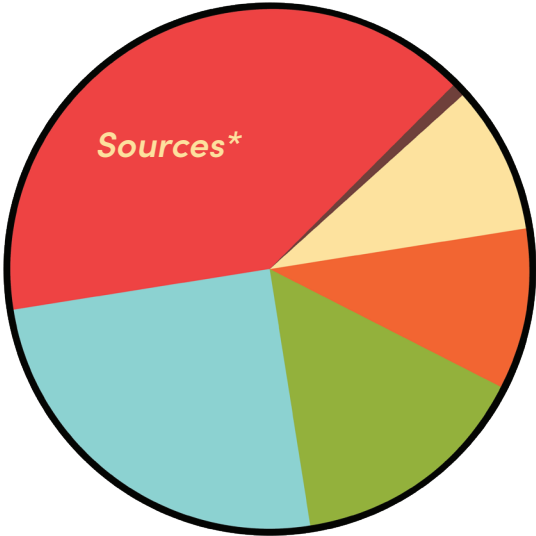
ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Kevin, 14, came to CMS in 2019. He was initially enrolled in a one-hour piano class with 5 other students, but had difficulty focusing and sitting still and was bothered by loud sounds. Seeing traits of ADHD/ADD and Autism, Waltye thought he would benefit from a different class format and more individualized attention. Now Waltye teaches Kevin one-on-one for 30 minutes. With the new format, Kevin is improving his concentration and making progress musically.



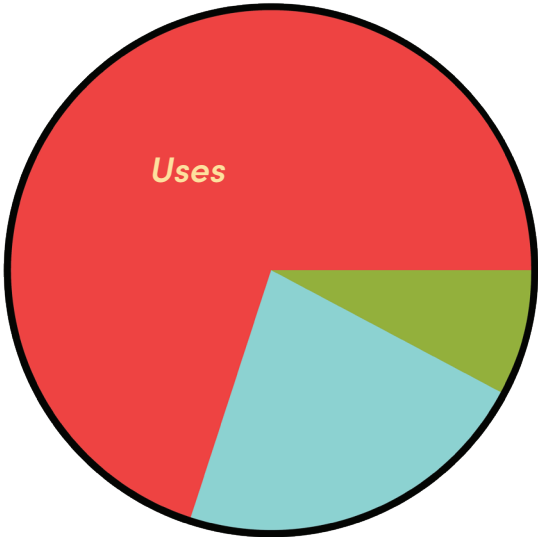
"When he touches the piano keys, he doesn't want to get up from the piano. He just wants to play," says his mother. "CMS is amazing for kids whose parents can't pay for expensive classes. I was praying that the school would take [Kevin]. When he played notes at home I was so excited. I did not ever think he would play and now he sits and plays the notes. I am so glad I found CMS!"

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



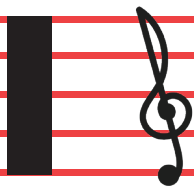
● Grants	\$189,517
● Contributions	\$107,547
● In Kind	\$52,250
● Corporations	\$46,156
● Government	\$41,360
● Program Fees & Other	\$7,831
Total	\$444,661

● Program Services	\$205,038
● Fundraising	\$63,373
● Management & General	\$22,737
Total	\$291,148



**FY 20 income includes a multi-year grant booked in FY 20 as revenue with time restrictions.*





THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY DONORS

GRANTS

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of NC awarded us a grant for the expansion of our program, new instruments and technology.

Marble Museum – Kaleidoscope Project awarded a grant which allows us to further engage our students through added technology.

The A.J. Fletcher Foundation awarded a grant with a matching challenge which we exceeded by leveraging additional support from individuals, foundations, corporations, and community organizations.

NOTABLE IN-KIND DONATIONS

A state-of-the-art digital piano lab was donated by Ruggero Piano.

Grand pianos donated by Keenan Family, Janice and Gary Carlton, and Patricia and Lynman Smith.

DONOR EVENTS

CMS was the charitable partner and beneficiary of Cameron Village's 70th Anniversary Celebration in October 2019. Thanks to Smedes and Rosemary York, the event's Honorary Co-Chairs, \$50,000 was raised for CMS.

"A Gig in our Digs" on November 5, 2019 was a celebration of our new space at Longleaf School for the Arts. Smedes York was Honorary Chair of the event and we had the opportunity to honor and thank several special people: Smedes and Rosemary York, Cindy McEnery and Bonner Jones, and past-president Carol Holland. We also dedicated pianos and a piano lab donated by special friends.



A Gig in our Digs

In Memoriam **DR. TOM MCGUIRE**



FUTURE EVENTS

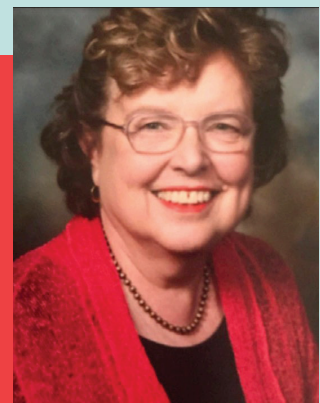
CMS and the A.J. Fletcher Foundation will host a special event to honor the late Dr. Tom McGuire and his passion for music and dedication to children's welfare.

Tom McGuire had more than 35 years of experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector. The event was planned for April 2020 but was postponed due to Covid-19. Keep an eye out for your invitation and sponsorship opportunities.

In Remembrance of **MARILYN BUDROW**

We were saddened by the passing of our long time board member and friend Marilyn Budrow.

Marilyn was adored and respected by all who knew her for her work in fostering classical music education for all children. A special warm thanks to all those who donated to CMS in Marilyn's name.



2020/2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Waltye Rasulala, Faculty Representative
Ginny Zehr

FACULTY

Andrea Blanchfield- Harp
Michael Buckley- Guitar
Alexandra Chibukhchyan- Piano
Lekisha Crouch- Explorations I
Angela Dowless- Explorations II- Ukulele
Andrew Dillon- Violin/Viola & Explorations II
Matt Douglas- Woodwinds & Berklee City Music Network
David Dowless- Cello
Rosendo Peña- Percussion
Waltye Rasulal- Piano & Voice
Monica Song- Piano
Zane Souvanlasy- Piano

STAFF

Interim Executive Director: Michael H. Friedman
Music Education Director: David Dowless
Music Technology Coordinator: Matt Douglas
Program Assistant: Nicola Hunte



***"This program changed
my kid's life!"***

- 2020 CMS Parent

2019/2020 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS July 1st, 2019 - June 30th, 2020

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

HARMONY SOCIETY:

\$5,000+

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Sue and Larry Yarger
Ginny Zehr

**INSTITUTIONAL
SUPPORTERS**

\$10,000+

A.J. Fletcher Foundation
City of Raleigh Arts
Commission
John Rex Endowment
John William Pope
Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

David L. Marzetti Memorial
Music Trust Fund
The Kaleidoscope Project
St. Michael's Episcopal
Church
State Employees
Combined Campaign
TowneBank
Truist Foundation
United Arts Council of
Raleigh & Wake County
WakeMed
York Properties

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Capital City Civitan Club
Chick-fil-A
Christ Episcopal Church
Crunch Fitness
Dell Corporation
Duke Energy Foundation
Hayes Barton United
Methodist Women
Johnson Lexus
Morningstar Law Group
North State Bank
Ruggero Piano
Smith, Anderson,
Community Fund of
Triangle Community
Foundation
WCPE Education Fund
White Memorial
Presbyterian Church
The Woman's Club of
Raleigh

\$500 - \$999

Hutchison PLLC
John Montgomery, Inc.
Longleaf Law Partners
Raleigh Kiwanis
Foundation
Triangle Community
Foundation
Smith, Anderson, Blount,

Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan
LLP

\$100 - \$499

616 At The Village
Apartments
IBM Employee Charitable
Contribution Campaign
Irregardless Café
United Way of South
Hampton Roads

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Thomas B. Anderson
Marilyn Budrow
David Cates
Mary Cates
Warrick Fister
Lisa Permar Ham
Charles M. Hensey
George Levine
Michelle Lindley
Tom McGuire
Jerry Nelson
Clayton O'Dell
Else Shewmake
Mary Louise Spain's
parents
Karl and Shirley Tyree
Louise Wilson

GIFTS IN HONOR OF:

Jack Budrow
Deb Bunn
Marion Church
William Curry
Stephanie de Jong
Dabney Dougherty and
Rosemary Somich
Madison Hunter
Bonner Jones
Rose Kenyon
Martha Keravouri
Sara Jo Manning
Anita Nicholls
Dare O'Connor
Richard Ruggero
Jane StikeleatherV
Supporters from Woman's
Club of Raleigh
Matt Thee
Deana Vassar
Carol Yeargin





INSTRUMENT PICK-UP DAY; FIRST WEEK OF CLASS

"Can we do this everyday?"

"I'm so glad CMS is here to help us."

"Y'all are making a difference!"

"My kids love their music class!"

"My child is so excited about her music class!"

"I can't believe these kids are learning ukulele!"

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(919) 832-0900

www.cmsraleigh.org



community music school