

Upcoming Events

Spring Recital

McArdle Theater · MTU Campus
May 11 · 2 p.m.

Spring Chamber Music Recital

The Bluffs Senior Residence
May 15 · 6 p.m.

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Dear CCSA Families and Friends,
Reports on the benefits of music education are all over the news. As schools and families try to squeeze more out of each dollar, programs in the arts are often the first to be cut. In response, there have been many claims about what role music and art play in academic achievement. If you've heard the buzz but wondered just what the reality might be, check out a recent publication by the Arts Education Partnership entitled, "Music Matters: How Music Education Helps Students Learn, Achieve, and Succeed" (see the CCSA website for an online link). The Partnership reviewed existing research on music and education. Their report gives an impressive list of benefits for students. Here are a few highlights:

- Musically trained children have better fine motor skills (necessary for everything from learning to write to operating a computer).
- Students who took music in middle school scored significantly higher on algebra assessments in ninth grade than their non-music peers. Algebra is seen as a gateway for later achievement in math.
- Young students who took keyboard lessons had greater abstract reasoning skills than their peers, and these abilities improved over time for students who continued their music education.
- Students who took four years of arts courses in high school earned the highest scores on both the verbal and math SAT. Music students earned the highest math and second highest verbal SAT scores.

The studies also show advantages in attentiveness, perseverance, creativity, reading, and language arts skills. I encourage you to check out the report for yourself. I think it will inspire you to encourage the music-loving children in your life. I hope it will also challenge you to continue to champion the efforts of music educators in our schools and communities. All children deserve a chance to experience the personal and academic growth that comes from participating in music.

Thank you for your continued support of the CCSA.

Maria

Maria Bergstrom
CCSA Board President



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Student Spotlight

Meet the Neves Sisters

Which instrument do you play, and how long have you been playing?

Sophia Neves: I have played the violin since I was 5.

Bria Neves: I play the violin, which I have played for 9 years. I started when I was 3.

Chloe Neves: I have been playing the piano for five years.

What do you enjoy most about playing your instrument?

Sophia: Doing bow games.

Bria: I like learning new songs.

Chloe: I love to learn a song really well and play it over and over again. I love listening to the songs I learn on the piano.

What is your favorite piece to play?

Sophia: May Song.

Bria: The Bach Double—it's fun to play with the second part.

Chloe: Cossack Dance. It's a Russian dance and it sounds really cool.

Do you play for family or friends?

Sophia: I really like playing in recitals, and I sometimes like to play for my parents and sisters.

Bria: I like bringing my out of town family with me to lessons and recitals when they come to visit.

Chloe: I love to play the piano for my friends, but I especially love to play it with my friends. It's really fun when we know the same songs and can play it together. Sometimes we even teach each other the songs we are learning! I play for my family a lot, too.

What are your other interests besides music?

Sophia: I like to go to school, play soccer, read, and go to birthday parties.

Bria: Playing with my dog, Puccini. I also love baking, reading, and swimming.

Chloe: I love art and I like to make cool things with Legos.



Bria: age 12, Chloe: age 10, Sophia: age 6

Family Duets Recital

Shinichi Suzuki reminded us to nurture our children with love by surrounding them with beautiful music. And Dr. Plummer reminds us that no child in the history of the world ever formed or stopped a habit because an adult said they should; but for better or worse, children watch what their parents do and mimic it. Together, we conclude the strongest message is a good model.

This idea was the main reason we scheduled a "Family Duets" recital this year on Saturday, May 4th in the McArdle Theater with 16 families participating. Family music making is very much at the heart of the Suzuki ideal. As teachers, we frequently hear from parents how much they used to enjoy playing when they were younger. And from the kids we hear that their parents don't know how to make music at all. We felt it was important for parents to come out of the closet and share their talents with their kids (instead of just telling the kids to practice!)

The result was a fun, relaxed hour of family music making. Several families came to watch, but didn't play. On the way out the door they were already planning for next year!



The Bergstrom Five at the Family Duets Recital

Violapalooza

The first annual "Violapalooza: A Celebration of all things Viola!" took place this past April at the Orpheum Theater in Hancock. Over 18 violists from all over the UP including CCSA students and members of the Keweenaw Symphony, Fox Valley Symphony and Marquette Symphony took part in this great event. The day long event included a workshop, rehearsals and concert and of course, pizza from Studio Pizza. The viola is considered the "middle child" of the string family and like many middle children is often over looked. The idea behind this event was to bring this wonderful instrument and those who play it, to the forefront. The concert began with J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concert No. 6 which is often considered the "Viola Brandenburg". Other pieces included Bartok viola duets, Telemann viola concerto and fiddle tunes. This concert was made possible through the generous support of Copper Range Abstract & Title Company. We hope this is the first of many *Violapaloozas* and plan an even bigger event for next year. Stay tuned!

Milestones

Martin Schutte and Erin McKenzie both received a 1st rating at district and state Solo Ensemble. Cameron Juntunen received first place in the K-2nd talent show at Dollar Bay School. Kalani Juntunen received second place in the 3-6th grade talent show at Dollar Bay School.

Alexandra Huotari, violin - Book 1
Brandy Kinunnen, violin - finishing Book 4
Darren McKellar, cello - Book 2
Elaine Min, piano - started Book 2A
Grace Bergstrom, violin - finishing Book 4
Heidi Karinen, violin - Book 1
Jack Kinnunen, piano - started Book 3
Kolson Kytta, cello- Book 1

Kora Johnson, violin - finishing Book 6
Lillian Austin, piano- started Book 2A
Margaret Ensminger, cello - Book 3
Marielle Raasio, piano - started Book 2A
Seth Helman, violin - finishing Book 5
Soham Mehendale, violin - Book 1
Susanne Dewald, piano - started Book 2B

Welcome new students Abbey Ross, piano and Caianna De Milo Silva, violin.

Love that Sound

Love that sound

Like a bluebird loves to sing

I said I love that sound

Coming slipping off the strings

Love that sound

Coming off my violin.

— Grace Bergstrom

KYSO Celebrates 10 Years!



Keweenaw Youth Symphony Orchestra celebrated 10 years of making music with a children's concert in March at Lake Linden High School Auditorium. Under the direction of Maggie Twining, the KYSO played selections from Saint-Saëns *Carnival of the Animals*. CCSA's Preparatory String Orchestra also played selected children's tunes, disguised as animals, of course. The grande finale included an animal parade with audience participation!



Graduating soloist Anna Ensminger performs Hindemith's *Trauermusik* on her viola with the KYSO while Robert Hicks conducts. Congratulations Anna!



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