

CCSA · 1971 - 2013
 Over 40 Years of Changing Lives through Music
Musical Musings

May the Gifts of Music be Yours this Holiday Season!



Dear Friends of the CCSA,

I was recently asked how many of our students go on to study music in college or become professional musicians. I didn't know the answer. But the question made me think again about the mission of our organization. We have produced many excellent musicians in over 40 years, but I am even prouder of all the outstanding individuals who have graduated from our program. Our students go on to become doctors, engineers, lawyers, scientists, writers, teachers, and parents who share their love of music with their children.

The lessons we teach go beyond scales, bowing technique, or finger exercises. We are about developing discipline, poise, and perseverance. Through our ensembles, students learn teamwork, build leadership skills, and experience the thrill of being part of something larger than themselves.



Whether our graduates go on to careers in music, play in community orchestras, or just dig out their instruments to entertain their own children one day, the impact of the CCSA in their lives will, I believe, continue to be felt. If you want to invest in the lives of today's children to help produce the leaders of tomorrow, I don't think you could do better than to contribute toward programs in music education. Please consider a contribution to our scholarship fund to help make these benefits of music instruction available to even more children in our area.

Thank you for your continued support.

Maria
 Maria Bergstrom
 CCSA Board President



Delightful music and imaginative costumes took the stage at CCSA's October Costume Recital at the Bluffs Senior Residence.

Upcoming Events

Finlandia University Singers & Pep Band Concert with KYSO
 Chapel of St. Matthew · Hancock
 Nov. 20 · 6 p.m.

Finnish Independence Day Performance
 Finnish American Heritage Center · Hancock
 Dec. 6 · 6 p.m.

Poor Artists Sale Performance
 Calumet High School Gym · Calumet
 Dec. 7 · 1 p.m.

Holiday Recital
 Finnish American Heritage Center · Hancock
 Dec. 11 · 6 p.m.

Piano Recital
 The Bluffs Senior Residence · Houghton
 Jan. 18 · 2 p.m.

KYSO Performance at Heikinpäivä
 Finnish American Heritage Center · Hancock
 Jan. 25 · 11:30 a.m.

Solo Recital
 The Bluffs Senior Residence · Houghton
 Feb. 9 · 2 p.m.

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly Valentines Day Party Performance
 Location TBD
 Feb. 15 · 12:15 p.m.

UP Chamber Music Festival
 NMU Campus · Marquette
 Feb. 21 · 9 to 4 p.m.

Cellopalooza! & Violapalooza!
 A festival celebrating low strings
 Mar. 7-8 · TBD

KYSO & Preparatory Strings Concert
 Lake Linden High School Auditorium
 Lake Linden
 Mar. 26 · 6 p.m.

CCSA Staff
 Libby Meyer, Executive Director
 Violin & Viola Instructor
 Maggie Twining
 Cello & Violin Instructor
 Director of Orchestras
 Amanda Plummer
 Piano Instructor
 Keweenaw Family Music
 Katie Pflaum
 Assistant Violin Instructor
 Carla Phillips
 Accompanist

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Special thanks for the continued support of:
Finlandia University
 and
Michigan Tech University
 Department of Visual & Performing Arts



Thanks to Our Donors

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Copper Country Suzuki Association
 PO Box 161, Houghton, MI 49931-0161
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Student Spotlight

Erin McKenzie



How long have you played the cello?

I have played cello for 12 or so years, since I was 5.

What do you enjoy about playing the cello and what do you find most challenging?

I enjoy playing the cello because it is relaxing, and there is always something to strive for, always something to learn. When I'm playing, I think only of the music, which is why it is relaxing for me; the music calls for the musician's full attention and deserves to be given life, so I focus on making it sound as the composer meant it to, as well as giving it my own flair. I have struggled over the years with different things, from bow-holds to shifting to counting, but the main thing would be dynamics. I tend to play at one volume because I am so focused on playing the music right. I have learned to budget my time, and that I need to set aside time to practice, because it is easy for me to become distracted and, sadly, forget that I need to practice.

Besides playing at recitals and concerts, have you played anywhere else? I have played for many different occasions, such as Solo & Ensemble, Little Brothers lunches, Rotary meetings and parties, talent shows, and even in a quartet competition.

Do you enjoy orchestra? Do you play any other instruments? I love to play in orchestra; it's so different from playing solo music, and it's an important part of music education. I also play the oboe, and have done so for five or six years through Middle and High School band. With both orchestra and band, I like to listen to how the different instruments blend together to make a balanced sound, and how the intricate parts as a whole can make such seamless music.

What is your favorite piece to play or favorite type of music to play? My favorite pieces have changed over the years as I have progressed, from book one to the Bach Cello Suites. I enjoy playing solo, with a piano, or in orchestra, though playing solo is my favorite by a small margin. There's something about the sound of a solo cello that makes it decidedly my favorite.

What do you like to do when you're not playing cello? How do you fit practicing in?

When I'm not playing cello, I like to do many things: I play hockey, run cross country, go horseback riding, dance, read, and, of course, study. I take things one at a time, so I can focus fully on whatever the activity is. To fit in practicing cello, I work it in around my other activities, sometimes only fitting in 15 minutes. I've practiced at odd times, from before school to 10 at night. When I am stressed from everything else I do, I make time to play my cello because it is a stress-reliever for me.

Is the rest of your family musical, do you play together? My father plays the bagpipes and has played the banjo, piano and trombone. My siblings both played in the CCSA when they were younger, my brother on violin and my sister on viola. Neither stuck it out, though my brother now plays the classical guitar and my sister plays the flute. We usually don't play together, due to the differences in our instruments and the lack of musical literature we have.

Any memorable "musical moments"? I have many memorable "musical moments," though for a favorite, it's best to ask my mother, Lisa McKenzie, or Libby Meyer. They can tell the story much better than I, and it's truly funny. Also, I would like to thank Maggie for instructing me for many years, and for putting up with my early refusal to learn. I couldn't ask for anyone better to teach me, or those in the program!

What are your plans after high school? After high school, I plan on continuing to play while I attend Michigan Tech in pursuit of a pre-medicine degree so I can, in the future, attend medical school. I will play, I hope, in the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra and in the community, and continue to take lessons, because there is always something to learn!

Meet New Instructor: Katie Pflaum

Katie is very excited to work with CCSA and KYSO this season and share her passion for music with the community. Katie began playing viola as a 4th-grader in her hometown of Rapid City, SD. She graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN in 2012 with a B.A. in Dance. Throughout high school and college she has had the opportunity to play in symphonies, chamber orchestras, string quartets, and pit orchestras for musicals, as well as private study on viola. She



With an eye on technique, Katie teaches the violin group class.

moved to the Keweenaw just over two years ago and immediately fell in love with the area. She has worked at Isle Royale the past two summers and is in her second season playing with Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra. Through teaching, Katie hopes to bring out the best of her students' technique and artistry on their instruments and integrate music theory and history into lessons. She believes it is very important to help each student develop their own sense of musicianship, and she is sure that she will continue to learn much of value through teaching.

Catching Up with CCSA Grad

Lena Sutter



Lena Sutter, now and then



What is your background with the CCSA?

I started with Suzuki when I was in kindergarten, and continued to play with the CCSA until 8th grade. At one point or another, I took advantage of everything CCSA had to offer: private lessons, group lessons, orchestra,

fiddle, and of course all of the performances. It gave me a great jumping-off point for who I have become as a musician and a person.

Where are you now and what are you up to?

I am currently in Ann Arbor studying Sound Engineering in the Performance Arts Technology Department at the University of Michigan. The program is within the School of Music, so it involves a lot of creativity and music, but also has a large focus on engineering and math. I'm also working on recording my first album!

How has your Suzuki music training influenced you?

Suzuki was where I got my start. I learned to read music and play by ear, which is the cornerstone of most of the classes I'm taking and the music I make every day. And, of course, I still pick up my fiddle from time to time and I've used it as a live element to some electronic compositions.

Even though I left Houghton almost four years ago, every time I see Libby she gives me a hug and asks if I'm still fiddling. It's really nice to know that the connections you make through programs like this are lasting.

The Copper Country, as many rural areas, doesn't have many music and arts programs. CCSA and the wonderful instructors it has brought to our community give so many kids a place to start exploring something new. There are many people like me, who started with Suzuki and ended up somewhere totally different, but wouldn't have got there without the exposure to music or friendships CCSA gave them.

Milestones

Erin McKenzie, Elise Cheney Makens, and Margaret Ensminger participated in masterclass with Nathan Jasinski, attended Strings Festival at MTU, and played with Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra in their October concert.

Vi Wusirika is finishing Suzuki Book 1. Megan Messner finished Suzuki Book 1. Erin McKenzie and Elise Cheney Makens finished the complete Bach Suite No. 1.

William Shapton received his first term report card with the only "4" (highest rating) in his class, the subject being music.

Welcome New Students:

Layan Aboudah	Russ Trewartha	Maren Pietila
Noran Aboudah	Inseo Yoon	Michael Keller
Indrek Seigel	Seojun Yoon	Daniel Lyle
Manny Trewartha	Rosemary Eisele	

Our New Space!



Over the summer CCSA moved into the new studios upstairs in the E.L. Wright Building. There are three separate teaching studios and a large space for rehearsals and group classes. Beautiful with lots of natural light, it's a great space for making music. We celebrated the move in September with an open house.



PO Box 161
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