



ChiME

Chicago Center
for Music Education

ChiME Monthly

At the Chicago Center for Music Education (ChiME) we provide an exceptional music education to a diverse community as a path for social, emotional, and character development.

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

-Hamilton Wright Mabie

December at ChiME



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Special Offer

[Click here to print out our coupon for a free class or lesson!](#)

Social, Emotional, and
Character Development

The holiday season is here and ChiME will celebrate it in many festive ways. We hope you'll join us for the following special events during the month of December:

Recitals

Friday, December 9, 6:30pm - Holiday Voice Recital

Saturday, December 10, 2:30pm and 4:00pm - Guitar Department Recitals

Saturday, December 17, 2:30pm - Holiday Recital

All recitals are free and open to the public.

Open Mic

On **Saturday, December 17** ChiME will host a holiday Open Mic from **10:00am until 2:00pm** in the Family Room. A stage will be set up for all those who want to share their music with ChiME families. Stop by to play or listen! A table with craft activities for younger children will also be provided.

Caroling Outing

Immediately after the Holiday Recital on **December 17 (around 3:30pm)**, we will gather in Spero to run through five carols before walking across the street to the firehouse to perform them for the firemen. Teachers, students, families, and friends are all welcome to join and bring their voices and instruments. Hot cocoa will be served to all participants after the singing. The selections we will be performing are:

"Rudolf" in F

"Deck the Halls" in C

"Jingle Bells" in D

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas" in C

"Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" in A

Book Sale

Books make wonderful gifts for the holidays! During the month of December we are offering a selection of great kids and tweens/teens books in English and Spanish for sale at bargain prices:

1 book = \$3

2 books = \$5

3 books = \$7

Stop by the Family Room to check out the available titles!

Self-confidence
Listening
Patience
Respect
Perseverance
Self-expression
Problem Solving
Set, work toward, and achieve goals
Discipline
Self-assessment
Giving back
Collaboration
Empathy
Quality standards
Pro-activity
Motivation

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 9

6:30pm

Holiday Voice Recital

Saturday, December 10

1:30pm

[Suzuki Basics for Parents](#)

2:30pm and 4:00pm

Guitar Department Recitals

Saturday, November 17

10:00am-2:00pm

Holiday Open Mic

2:30pm

Holiday Recital

3:30pm

Caroling Outing

Wednesday, December 21 -

Tuesday, January 3

Winter Break

ChiME Wishlist

- Solid, bright colored, or

Gratefulness Tree



In November we invited ChiME students to put leaves on our Gratefulness Tree with short messages of what they are grateful for. As all the trees outside were losing leaves, ours was rapidly getting new ones each day! Here is a sample of what ChiME students are grateful for this year:

"I am grateful for food and water and my friends and family."

"I am grateful for mom and dad and a house."

"I am grateful for being able to sing."

"I am grateful for the guitar, all my teachers, my family and friends, and everyone that surrounds me with happiness in my life."

"I am grateful for the music I hear every day!"

"I am grateful for Ms. Kristen's songs."

"I am grateful that I am able to get a good education and that I have the opportunity to receive an education in music as well."

"I am grateful to live in a safe country."

I am grateful for ChiME and all the wonderful teachers here!"

"I am thankful for music and the joy it brings."

We at ChiME are grateful for all of you!

educational 8x10 area rug for new Music Therapy room

- Sink fixtures for our restrooms (and plumbing skills for installation!)
- Storage organizers for our instruments in Spero Performance Hall
- Fun artwork for the walls
- Full-sized electric guitar

Follow Us!



ChiME In!

We would love to hear any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

[Click here to ChiME in!](#)

ChiME Monthly Archives

Missed last month's ChiME Monthly? Visit the [ChiME Monthly Archives](#) on our website!

Family Recital



We have added a new kind of recital to ChiME's calendar of performances this year: the **Family Recital**. We will host two of those events this year, and the first one is coming up on **Saturday, January 14 at 2:30pm**. The Family Recital will provide an opportunity for musical members of ChiME students' families to perform together. Many parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings already play an instrument; some are learning along with their children. This recital will give all of those families a chance to share their love of music and family collaboration in a comfortable and friendly setting. You will be surrounded by families like you - who all just love to play together!

A sign-up sheet for the first Family Recital this year is posted in the Family Room. If you would like to participate in the event, simply fill out the requested information. You can also email Gosia Bagley (gbagley@chimemusic.org) or Faith Keady (fkeady@chimemusic.org), and we will add you to the list. The last day to sign up will be **Saturday, January 7**.

There are no repertoire limitations for this recital. You can choose any musical genre, as long as the performance is well prepared and has family-appropriate lyrics (where applicable). A ChiME accompanist will be available for this event and rehearsals will be scheduled in advance. Please let us know if you have any other special needs or requests and we will work with you to provide all necessary help or assistance.

New Steinway Partnership



Thanks to a partnership with Steinway & Sons, Chicago, ChiME students and faculty get to perform on a beautiful new grand piano that resides in the Spero Performance Hall. During the Piano Department Recitals in November, two representatives from Steinway & Sons gave short presentations about how the piano works and how it is manufactured. We are thankful for this new partnership and look forward to many amazing performances on the piano.

You Can Help!



Consider a tax-deductible donation to ChiME.

This year we seek to raise \$400,000 to sustain our current level of programming and to add three distinct pieces to the pathway:

- **Instrumental instruction for low-income students** at our Chicago Public School (CPS) partner locations
- Individual **music therapy for low-income diverse learners** at our CPS partner locations
- A **Music Artist Lab** at our West Town location

As we strive to extend the pathway, please consider a donation that will help move us closer to our vision for the children we serve. **To donate** or to learn more about our giving program, please visit our website at www.chimemusic.org/donate.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Another Way to Support ChiME



A simple way to support ChiME while going about your usual and holiday shopping at Amazon is to use its charitable giving program, AmazonSmile. When you shop at smile.amazon.com,

you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization-ChiME! To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select Chicago Center for Music Education as your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. The system will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to ChiME. You can use your existing Amazon account.

Thank you for considering ChiME as you shop during the holiday season and throughout the year.

Student Spotlight: Ajani Mui-Brown



Eight year-old Ajani started music at ChiME when he was two years old. He first attended the Rhythm Explorers class and then moved into the Steppin' Up class. After about half a year break, Ajani asked to go back to the Rhythm Explorer class because he was missing Ms. Kristen. When he realized that he was too old to enroll in that class, he asked for private voice lessons with her. He has been taking voice lessons with Ms. Kristen ever since. Aside from voice, Ajani also took piano lessons with Ms. Virginia, and about a year ago he started guitar lessons with Mr. Mike.

Ajani's mother, Shirley, reflects on his musical journey and the

impact that lessons at ChiME have made on his life so far:

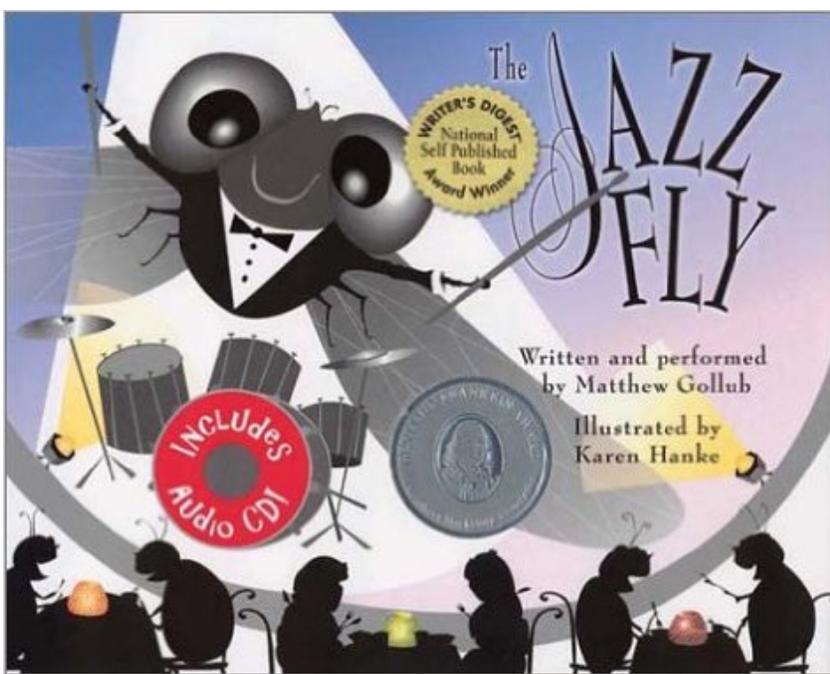
"Ajani's love for music started when he was only about a few months old; he could help finish singing Do-Re-Mi from the Sound of Music before he even knew what those words meant or how to speak in complete sentences. Already as a baby, he displayed a natural sense of rhythm and an ability to hear very clearly, and he could hum to lengthy classical musical scores that he heard on a CD. Thus, learning to sing and then eventually to speak came easily for him, even more easily than learning how to walk.

Ajani had been wanting to learn to play the piano and guitar since he was two, but was told at his school that he was too young. When he was old enough, his school only offered traditional music lessons, which frustrated him with having to read music while playing pieces that were way too simple compared to all the music that he had been exposed to in his early years. It was the Suzuki method offered at ChiME that enabled Ajani to learn piano, voice, and guitar at an early age.

The most important aspect of Ajani's involvement at ChiME is that music has helped him build confidence, which he was lacking in other areas of life. Growing up with a sensory integration disorder diagnosis, Ajani was having trouble finding confidence in regular classroom settings. The opportunity to prepare for and perform in recitals at ChiME built that sense of confidence in him naturally. His newly found confidence quickly carried over from music lessons at ChiME to his academic settings, including situations such as doing presentations for science projects and writing stories to share with his classroom.

Ajani looks forward to having his lessons at ChiME. He literally hugs and kisses his guitar. Aside from the guitar, he will continue to take voice lessons. He also chose to take violin lessons at his grade school. Fortunately for me as a parent, I never have to push or remind him too much of what he needs to do in his music practice. He has created standards for his own performance and somehow wants to make everything perfect for his recitals, despite the fact that this has never been my expectation of him. I'm certain that he will continue to build confidence and advance in his musical abilities at ChiME."

Great Musical Gifts



If you are looking for a musical gift for your child this season, consider one of the books below. With lively stories and beautiful pictures, they are sure to grab the attention of your budding musicians and inspire them to explore, express, and create! Click on each title to read descriptions and readers' reviews. (And if you decide to purchase, please consider using Amazon Smile.)

[*Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin*](#) by Lloyd Moss

[*I Know a Shy Fellow Who Swallowed a Cello*](#) by Barbara Garriel

[*Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo*](#) by John Lithgow

[*M is For Melody*](#) by Kathy-jo Wargin

[*Can You Hear It?*](#) by William Lach

[*Listen to the Birds: An Introduction to Classical Music*](#) by Ana Gerhard

[*Lives of the Musicians: Good Times, Bad Times \(and What the Neighbors Thought\)*](#) by Kathleen Krull

[*The Jazz Fly*](#) by Matthew Gollub

Winter Break

ChiME will close for Winter Break at 9pm on Tuesday, December 20 and will reopen at 12pm on Wednesday, January 4.

We wish everyone a happy and relaxing holiday!



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