



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.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

Aristotle

Spring Semester

ChiME's Spring Semester is about to kick off on **Saturday, February 6**. There is still time to sign up for lessons and classes!

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Special Offer



Early Childhood

You're invited to join us for the Spring Session of Baby STEPS, ChiME's early childhood music program, starting on Saturday, February 6th! Instilling a love and understanding of music in your child begins at birth, and our Baby STEPS classes help to reinforce musical concepts through movement, play, and singing. These parent-child classes are sequenced based upon developmental milestones and the belief that children feel and experience basic musical ideas before they name them. Children not only gain musical knowledge, but develop patience, listening skills, an ability to follow directions, and self-confidence as they master concepts at each level.

Twinkle Tots (6 to 18 months)

[Mondays at 9:15 am](#)

[Thursdays at 11:15 am](#)

[Saturdays at 8:00 am](#)

[Saturdays at 9:00 am](#)

Beat Explorers (18 months to 2.5 years)

[Mondays at 11:15 am](#)

[Thursdays at 10:15 am](#)

[Saturdays at 10:00 am](#)

Rhythm Explorers (2.5-3.5 years)

[Mondays at 10:15 am](#)

[Thursdays at 9:15 am](#)

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

Social, Emotional, and Character Development

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

**Saturday 1/30
through Friday 2/5**

Semester Break

**Saturday, February 6
Spring Semester begins**

**Saturday, February 20
1:30pm**

Suzuki Basics for Parents

[Saturdays at 11:00 am](#)

Select classes are open for free Drop-Ins for new families during the month of February. Please see the flyer below.



Instrument Lessons

Children 4 years and older are invited to join the instrumental program at ChiME. We offer lessons on cello, flute, guitar, piano, viola, violin, and voice. For more information on about the process for beginning instrument lessons, please visit our website [here](#).

For those students who might not know what instrument they would like to play yet, the **Instrument Primer** is the perfect class. In addition to discovering the world of instruments and exploring the basic elements of beat, rhythm, and melody, students will work on developing focus, following instructions, and listening - all the skills needed in private instrument lessons.

The Instrument Primer is held on **Saturdays from 12-12:45pm**. You can register for the Instrument Primer by clicking [here](#) or by calling ChiME at **(312) 738-2646**.

Early Childhood Drop-In Music Classes

2:30pm

All-School Recital

3:30pm

FREE Parent Session with Nancy Lokken: "Positive and Effective Practice Strategies"

Friday, 2/19

through Sunday, 2/21

Violin Workshop with Nancy Lokken

Saturday, February 27

2:30pm

Guitar Graduation Recital

ChiME Wishlist

- Storage organizers for our instruments in Spero Performance Hall
- Fun artwork for the walls
- Full-sized electric guitar
- Overhead projector

Follow Us!



ChiME In!

We would love to hear any questions, comments, or

concerns you may have.

[Click here to ChiME in!](#)

ChiME Weekly Archives

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

Early Childhood Drop-In Music Classes

FREE for new students for the month of February!

Twinkle Tots - 6 mos to 1½ yrs
Thursdays at 11:15am with Ms. Ana
Saturdays at 8am with Ms. Kristen
Saturdays at 9am with Ms. Alli

Beat Explorers - 1½ to 2½ yrs
Thursdays at 10:15am with Ms. Ana
Saturdays at 10am with Ms. Alli

Rhythm Explorers - 2½ to 3½ yrs
Mondays at 10:15am with Ms. Ana
Thursdays at 9:15am with Ms. Ana
Saturdays at 11am with Ms. Alli



Come meet our early childhood teachers and experience the joy of making music in a fun and friendly environment! You and your child will explore concepts of beat, rhythm, pitch, and musical expression through movement, dance, instrument play, and singing.

Watch your child gain self-confidence, practice self-expression, and learn the skills of collaboration, patience, listening, and respect while discovering a love of music. This is a great way to take a peek at ChiME's innovative Early Childhood music curriculum and see whether it is the right fit for your family.



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**Call (312) 738-2646
for more details!**

info@chimemusic.org | 1148 W Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60642 | chimemusic.org

NEW Instrument Play Room

Instrument Play Room

Come and jam at ChiME in our new Instrument Play Room! Designed for children who are eager to learn more about musical instruments, the Instrument Play Room offers children the opportunity to fit, feel, and play musical instruments. A ChiME employee will be on hand to show you around and help students hold and make sound on the instruments. Reservations are available in 30 minute increments for the month of February and are free of charge. Call to reserve a time slot today!

FEATURED INSTRUMENTS

piano
guitar
microphone and speaker
xylophone
handheld percussion



violin
viola
cello
flute



AVAILABLE DAYS/TIMES

FEBRUARY

Mondays 3-7pm
Tuesdays 3-7pm
Thursdays 3-7pm
Saturdays 3-5pm

**Call (312) 738-2646 to
make a reservation!**



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Violin Workshop

Nancy Lokken, a renowned Suzuki violin clinician, will be working with ChiME students in a series of masterclasses **February 19-21**. We encourage all violin students to participate! Stop by the front desk at ChiME to pick up a registration form or [click here to download](#).



Parent Session

Ms. Lokken will also offer a free Parent Session on the topic of positive and effective practice strategies. Parents of all ChiME students (all instruments) are invited to attend this free lecture.

Saturday, February 20

3:30pm

Spero Hall

Please join us!

Music Therapy



The language of music reaches far beneath the surface of everyday interactions and touches not only minds but also hearts of those engaging in musical activities. ChiME's new Music Therapy program aims to provide meaningful musical experiences to children with special needs that will help them achieve non-musical goals via music instruction. Many children with various diagnoses respond remarkably well to music and can use music as a tool in communicating and relating to the world outside of them. The program includes group sessions for three different age groups, individual sessions, and adaptive instrument lessons in voice and guitar. Please visit our website [here](#) for more information.

Stock Elementary Field Trip



On Monday, February 1st, students from Stock Elementary School visited ChiME for a field trip to complete their unit on "sounds." Students spent the month of January exploring a variety of sounds and instruments in their classroom, culminating in a hands-on experience at ChiME that included making instruments with a variety of materials, investigating pitch on instruments and everyday objects, and creating a sound orchestra, using instruments of different sizes and substance. The children were also introduced to a variety of

musical instruments and the sounds they produce by our instrumental faculty, exploring the unique way that sounds are created on each instrument. We thank Stock Elementary School for their partnership, and for joining us for a celebration of sound at ChiME!

February: a Month of Discipline



In January many of us set up some goals for the new year ahead. At ChiME we have been focusing on the art of setting bigger goals and splitting them up into smaller ones so that we have a map of goal posts to reach on the way to achieving the bigger goals. Now we are in the midst of diligently working towards achieving them. When budding musicians first learn to set goals, they quickly discover that those goals can be reached only through practice. If we don't work on something, we don't move forward or gain the skill. Over time students also discover how this is true not only in music, but in any area of life. The best way to achieve any goal is to apply consistent effort towards it. This is what we call discipline.

Sometimes the word discipline has a negative association, as in a situation where disobedience of rules brings about punishment. But in music - and in any area where we want to develop or improve our abilities or skills - discipline simply means the systematic and focused practice and effort applied

to the area which we want to improve. The ultimate goal of parents and teachers of young musicians is developing self-discipline, the ability of the child to own his practice. We want our students and children to know how important it is to make daily effort; we want them to want to practice because it is rewarding and not because we want them to do it. But how do we motivate each child to develop the passion for daily practice? How do we create the desire to sit with the instrument daily and make new discoveries and progress? How do we create an environment where practicing becomes a source of joy?

This month, instead of focusing on the idea of duty of consistent practicing, try to take a different approach, one where joy is the key component. Can the simple joy of playing be the motivation to bring about the daily habit, the discipline of practicing? As you try to take this approach, remember that joy doesn't have to mean fun and games all the time, as it comes in many shapes and forms. The simple joy of accomplishing a small task can be a reward in itself and often motivates students to do more difficult work. Celebrate little accomplishments and compliment the effort. Focus on the journey and discovery - the process rather than the final product (although it does help to keep the end goal in mind as a compass to guide practice activities). The more joy you develop in your child, the more disciplined he will be about daily practicing.

En*JOY* practicing and send us your joy reports!

Teaching Artist Spotlight



Alli Dunn started working at ChiME in the summer of 2015. She currently teaches in the Early Childhood program, the In-Schools program, and in the new Music Therapy program, which is launching at ChiME next week. Ms. Alli attended Maryville University in St. Louis, Missouri, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Science in Music Therapy. Her principle instrument is guitar, but she is also passionate about piano, voice, arranging, and writing. Here are a few more facts about Ms. Alli:

Please tell us a bit about your family.

I was born and raised in St. Louis. My parents and two younger brothers still reside there, where my brothers both play high school basketball during most of their free time. My dad owns a car service station and a community basketball organization, while my mom is a respiratory therapist at a St. Louis hospital. My older sister lives here in Chicago with me, and is a speech pathologist at a local assisted living facility - so you can definitely say we all love working with people!

Why do you teach and what is your teaching philosophy?

I have grown to love teaching because of the true connection and relationships one can build with students. It's amazing to see children make progress, especially in the early childhood setting, where the progress comes so rapidly. My personal philosophy when it comes to being a music therapist is a strengths-based perspective, where it is my job to utilize a

student's unique strengths and interests to enhance their areas of need. And - so importantly - stressing the importance of play!

What do you do in your free time?

Most of my free time is dedicated to seeing live music! I love the intimate settings that many Chicago venues provide. If I'm not attending concerts, I'm probably exploring the Chicago neighborhoods that are all still so new to me - which usually involves eating out too much and indulging in thrift shopping with friends.

What is your favorite movie or book?

My favorite movie will always be *The Princess Bride*, and I love reading everything from pure fiction to the latest neuroscience book.

If you were not a musician, what would you like to do?

If I hadn't pursued music therapy as a profession, I would have gone deeper into my study of psychology to become a researcher. More specifically, I'm fascinated with play therapy and how important play is for a child's growth and development.

Thank You Polk Bros. Foundation

For a number of years now, the Polk Bros. Foundation has provided ChiME with \$40,000 annually to support its in-schools program in Chicago Public Schools. The Polk Bros. Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for the people of Chicago. The foundation partners with local nonprofit organizations that work to reduce the impact of poverty and provide area residents with better access to quality education, preventive health care and basic human services. Through grantmaking, Polk Bros. strives to make Chicago a place where all people have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Funding from the Polk Bros. Foundation supports programs at the following Chicago Public Schools:

Blair Early Childhood Center
Burnside Elementary Scholastic Academy
Frederick Stock Elementary School
Lyman A. Budlong Elementary School
Rufino Tamayo UNO Charter School
Wendell E. Green Elementary School

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