



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.

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

-Albert Einstein

**2016 Gala:
Inspiring Greatness!**

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In just over a week we will come together at the 2016 Gala: Inspiring Greatness! We will celebrate the growth and accomplishments of ChiME students while also seeking to raise \$150,000 to continue to provide our programs to children and schools throughout Chicago. To purchase tickets [click here](#).

If you are unable to attend, you can still support the event through participating in our auction which will be available through our event website beginning Monday, May 9th.

We are also raffling off two baskets containing 12 bottles of premium wine or champagne personally selected by our Board of Directors. Baskets will be awarded to two separate ticket holders. Each basket is valued at over \$500. Tickets are available for purchase at the front desk at the following prices:

- 1 ticket for \$20
- 3 tickets for \$50
- 7 tickets for \$100

For more information about the raffle, please contact ChiME at 312-738-2646.

Music Artist Showcase

We are just two days away from the very first ever

Special Offer

[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

Friday, May 6

7:00pm

Music Artist Showcase

Saturday, May 7

2:30pm

All-School Recital

4:00pm



Music Artist Showcase at ChiME. Please come to watch, listen to, and support the dynamic group of young musicians who will take the stage on May 6 at 7:00 pm in the Spero Performance Space. They have been honing their skills on their instruments for the last few years and are now seeking to develop their own artistic voices and identities. Participation in the showcase is allowing them to think deeply about what impact they want to make on the audience and about the steps necessary to achieve that goal. Panelists **José Ochoa** (Executive and Artistic Director of the Chicago High School for the Arts) and **Troy Anderson** (Executive Director of ChiME) will provide feedback for the young artists during the evening.

Friday, May 6
7:00 pm
Spero Performance Space

This performance is free and open to the public.

Summer at ChiME

Guitar Graduation Recital

Friday, May 13

6:00pm

**ChiME Gala 2016:
Inspiring Greatness!**

Saturday, May 14

1:30pm

Suzuki Basics for Parents

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 Monthly Archives

Missed last month's ChiME

Monthly? Visit the [ChiME Monthly Archives](#) on our website!



As the school year draws to a close, we are turning our attention to the upcoming summer. Make ChiME part of your summer plans! In addition to summer camps (more info below), ChiME will continue to offer lessons and classes. Registration will be open in mid-May; keep your eyes wide open for summer class schedule and private lesson information.

Summer Camps

Keep your child motivated and engaged in music throughout the summer with our Summer Camp offering:

[Glee Camp](#)

June 27-July 1, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

If your child loves to sing, dance, and act, don't miss this camp! Instructors will motivate and inspire young musicians while teaching fundamentals of healthy vocal technique. This year we will be exploring a selection of songs in the "Disco Nights" theme.



Rock 'N' Roll Guitar Camp

June 27-July 1, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

This week-long experience will be filled with jam sessions and an electrifying force of some great Classic Rock songs. Students will be moved to collaborate, be creative, and express themselves as they exercise rehearsal discipline. Thrilling results of their work will be presented in an exciting show at the end of the camp.



[Suzuki String Camp](#)

July 18- July 22, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

This camp is designed for all violin, viola, and cello students for the ultimate, all-around musical experience. Participants will further their instrumental skills in mini lessons and group classes, and they will engage in motivating enrichment sessions, including musicianship, drumming, and fiddling.



To register for ChiME Summer Camps or for more information, please visit our website [here](#) or call us at **312-738-2646**.

Congratulations!

100 Day Practice Challenge Winners



Congratulations!



The 100 Day Practice Challenge is over, and 20 brave ChiME students successfully crossed the finish line on April 19 after 100 straight days of practicing their instruments. They not only showed tremendous perseverance, but perfected their ability to stay disciplined along the way. They set an ambitious goal and came up with a plan to achieve it. They learned problem solving through numerous scheduling conflicts and practiced the art of prioritizing to fit music into their busy lives. Today, these students keep practicing without hesitation, as they have developed a new habit and made practicing a natural part of their everyday life.

Congratulations to the following ChiME students:

Sam Brusstar, piano, student of Taylor Ross

Zoren Co, cello, student of Lisa Lithall

Laura Deppe, piano, student of Gosia Bagley

Anna Deppe, piano, student of Gosia Bagley

Preston Du, piano, student of Gosia Bagley

Elijah Grevious, piano, student of Taylor Ross

Ben Jackson, guitar, student of Michel Chatara-Morse

Tommy Jackson, guitar, student of Michel Chatara-Morse

Gabi Jamieson, violin, student of Cecilia Pinto

Leyla Jha, piano, student of Taylor Ross

George Kolodziej, piano, student of David Andrews

Molly Kolodziej, piano, student of David Andrews

Sophie Kolodziej, voice, student of Ana Munteanu

William Dale Murphy, piano, student of David Andrews
Alex Olmstead, violin, student of Cecilia Pinto
Anjelica Sasieta, violin, student of Cecilia Pinto
Nicolas Sasieta, piano, student of Taylor Ross
Isaac Sutherland, guitar, student of Carolina Folmer
Perrin Weidner, guitar, student of Carolina Folmer
Priya Yamada, violin, student of Cecilia Pinto

Early Childhood Music



Developing a love and understanding of music starts early at ChiME. Children and their families can join our Early Childhood music program, Baby STEPS, beginning at six months, and the program continues until they are 4 1/2, and ready to begin instrument instruction. Baby STEPS teaches our youngest students musical concepts such as beat, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, and pitch, as well as social-emotional skills such as listening, patience, collaboration, and the ability to follow directions, all of which are necessary in music and in life.

We asked our Baby STEPS families to share their thoughts on the program, and how it is impacting their first experiences with music. Here are some of their thoughts!

Why have you chosen ChiME for your child's early

childhood music classes?

"...we landed on ChiME as a good fit for our family--we liked the curriculum, and the stages of music classes that start as early as six months. Additionally, we liked that ChiME offers music classes of all kinds for kids of all ages. If our son is interested in playing a musical instrument or singing as he gets older, we know we will feel comfortable with the various music programs offered at ChiME."

How have Baby STEPS classes impacted your child's musical development?

"There is no question that our son really likes music...listening to music, hearing us sing, playing his instruments...He will often point to our stereo and say "music" requesting that we turn it on for him to listen."

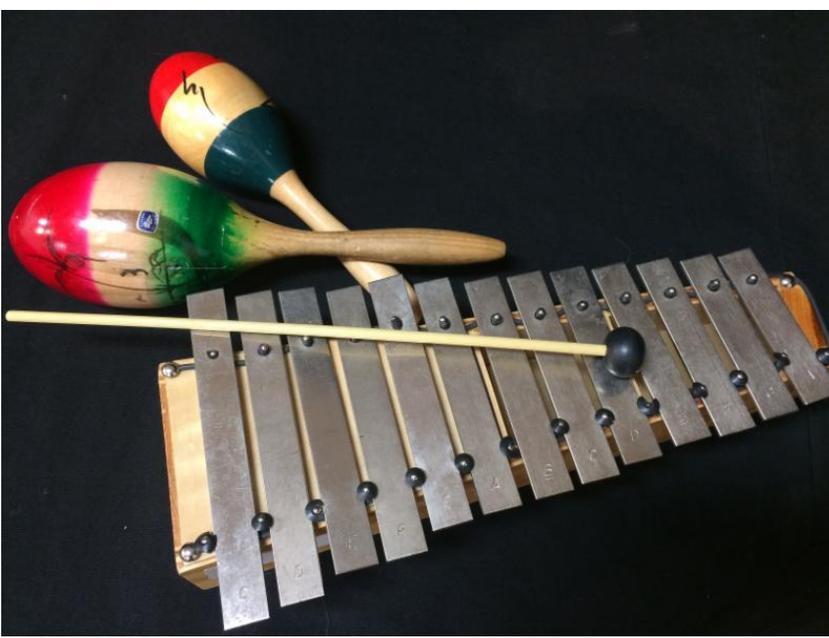
How have Baby STEPS classes impacted your child's social-emotional development?

"My boys are different, yet each benefitted according to his needs from Baby STEPS's social-emotional tools. My shy child got, over time, the confidence to play and sing in front of others, my wild little one learned patience, to follow directions, and be part of a group, while my musically inclined child greatly improved his musical ear."

"...the structure and consistent environment allows individual improvement in a group setting. Making friends and music in a fun atmosphere while learning valuable life skills is what Baby STEPS is all about."

Thanks to our families who shared their thoughts! If you have a child between six months and 4½ years and would like to join in the fun, please call **(312) 738-2646** to schedule your free trial class.

Understanding Music Therapy



Music therapy is an evidence-based practice in which board-certified music therapists use music as a tool to work on non-musical goals. What does this mean, though? What might music therapy look like in action? The following is a hypothetical example of what one might encounter in a music therapy session at ChiME in an adaptive instrument lesson setting:

A music therapist is meeting with an adaptive instrument instruction student, James, for their fourth guitar lesson together. James is 13 and was given an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis when younger. During their time together the music therapist and James work on both musical and non-musical goals written by the therapist. One non-musical goal that has been written for James is to demonstrate autonomy by completing his homework assignments 90% of opportunities presented. After sitting down, James gets out his guitar folder from his backpack, eager to show the therapist his completed assignment. Instead of taking the folder from James, however, the therapist points to the first item on their schedule board, which reads "Instrument Jam". Another non-musical goal for James is to respond to redirection without engaging in any of his typical target behaviors, such as biting his left thumb. James responds to the therapist's redirection appropriately by putting his folder back into his backpack, an action which is praised by the music therapist and recorded on her data sheet. Later in

the lesson, they work on his musical goal of playing an E minor chord with a steady beat. So far, James has been able to maintain a steady beat for 20 seconds before requiring help. Today, the therapist has brought a metronome that also features a flashing light, hoping the visual cue might be engaging for James. With this aid, he is able to keep a steady down-stroke on the E minor chord for 35 seconds, which the music therapist praises and rewards by pointing to the next item on the schedule, which James reads out, "Break Time!". The therapist and James play percussion to his favorite song as a reward for his on-task behavior before moving onto more guitar work, another homework activity, and eventually singing their goodbye song. The combination of rewards, breaks, and teaching activities geared towards James's specific needs creates an environment in which James feels confident and successful while learning an instrument. Furthermore, James's mom can see these positive work and social skills beginning to show in his school assignments and home life.

This is only one way in which ChiME's music therapists touch the lives of children with special needs and diverse learning styles. We are very excited to offer this opportunity for families to experience the power that music has to help your child, or children you know, grow toward their full potential while playing, making music, and having fun!

In addition to adaptive instrument instruction, ChiME offers individual and group music therapy. Tuition assistance is available for all music therapy options. For more information on ChiME's Music Therapy program, please contact us at [\(312\) 738-2646](tel:3127382646) or info@chimemusic.org.

May: Month of Problem Solving

Reflections by Gosia Bagley



When my daughter started skating lessons, the skating director came out to talk to all the new parents while the children met their instructors on the ice. In addition to practical advice, such as bringing gloves to each class or wearing appropriate clothing, we all thought we were going to be given words of encouragement. Most parents probably expected to hear something along the lines of "Your children will flow effortlessly through the ice in just a couple of weeks!" Instead, what the director said left many parents with confused looks on their faces. "Your children will fall. Lots. And that's OK, don't worry. We actually WANT them to fall. That's when and how we will be able to teach them."

I can't say that as a piano teacher or a Suzuki parent I've ever wanted my students or children to make mistakes or to get stuck in the music. Of course, that IS a completely acceptable part of the process, and I am very aware that mistakes offer many lessons, but I had never before intentionally hoped for mistakes. I had never said to my students "Please mess up as much as possible." On the contrary, I had always wanted them to flow effortlessly through the music with the least amount of struggle or frustration.

Over the next few days, I thought deeply about what the skating director said, and my paradigm slowly began to change. I started to focus more on the process of what happens when mistakes are made, the discomfort that we

all feel when we mess up, and the many reasons for which we all dislike the frustration of even a small failure. We don't like it when we can't do something well, and sometimes it's really difficult to accept that when things don't go as smoothly as we want them to, it may actually be a blessing in disguise.

The truth is that we won't ever learn to solve problems if we are perfect at everything the first time through. Each problem offers an opportunity for growth, a solution to be found, a break-through to be made. Each one is a window to a deeper understanding of the area we are studying; it is sometimes the perfect motivation to work even harder at finding the right way. Difficulty, frustration, discomfort can often lead to huge discoveries and major steps forward, so why not get comfortable with them embrace them as a needed part of the process? When we mess up, we are forced to look at what we do and how we do it with a meticulous attention to detail. We have to analyze and discover what exactly we are doing wrong. At first, teachers are there to help, but soon students develop the ability to find and solve problems on their own - if we let them. A balanced amount of struggle for the right answer often provides the best background for the formation of a bullet-proof problem-solving process: identify a problem, brainstorm various solutions, and test the possible solutions to find the one that works best.

Music has the potential of not only teaching us how to solve problems, but also to do so with high levels of emotional intelligence. Patience, ability to stay calm, perseverance all help solving problems and are all cultivated by music. They are interwoven, integrated, and don't exist without each other.

During my reflections I realized that perhaps I am spending too much energy preparing students to avoid making mistakes, especially on their first time through new material, as if I don't think they can handle failing. Is it possible that through that approach my students may be missing out on some important lessons in problem

solving? I slowly started taking more time in those moments when students did make mistakes. Instead of giving them solutions, I began asking more questions. Do you know what went wrong? How did you know something wasn't right? Where exactly did the mistake happen? What do you think you could do to fix it? How can we put your solutions to a test?

I also thought about how good this skating class would be for my daughter: she hates not getting something perfectly right away, which makes our practice sessions on the violin rather difficult. Tension builds and frustration sets in almost daily. I thought if she could learn that falling and making mistakes is OK in her skating class, perhaps that can transfer to her music practice. And if she mastered the skill of falling and getting up both in skating and music, perhaps then that skill will transfer to the rest of life. This is still very much my hope today, as we continue our journey both in skating and in music, learning to persevere and solve problems one day at a time.

ChiME Staff Spotlight

We are excited to welcome **Jill Halco** to the ChiME team! As our new Business Manager, Jill oversees and maintains business operations including IT, HR, front desk activities, participant registrations, financials, website, and building maintenance.



What aspects of ChiME drew your attention the most and motivated you to join our team?

ChiME's mission is what moved me. I've had the opportunity to experience first-hand the difference that an exceptional musical education can make in a person's development. ChiME's focus to include social and emotional development along with excellent musical education seemed tailor made for me. I'm thrilled to be able to take my business skills and background and apply them to an organization that is working to make such a difference in the community.

Please tell us something about yourself that we wouldn't find on your resume.

I'm an avid Drum Corps fan! For those who don't know, a Drum Corps is a group of very talented and very hard-working musicians. Members come from around the world to participate in a very competitive audition process to earn a spot in their corps. Each corps has approximately 150 members made up of Brass, Percussion (and keyboards) and Color Guard (flags and dancers). These corps meet once a month during the school year to rehearse and refine their skills, and receive wonderful teaching from many great musical educators. Once the season begins, they rehearse between 8-12 hours a day, striving each day to better themselves and contribute to their corps' performance. They will spend the summer performing all

around the country, working to entertain their fans and improve their show (and scores) each night. The motto of my favorite Drum Corps is "We use music and excellence to teach each other about success in life", so you can see why I felt so drawn to ChiME.

There are several Drum Corps shows near the Chicago area each summer, and they make for some wonderful family entertainment. Every 12 minutes or so, there is another group of 150 performers out on the field, telling you a different story through their music and movement and giving their all to entertain you. I highly recommend it!

A quick YouTube search of Drum Corps International performances may get you hooked (or look to DCI.org for more information).

What do you like to do in your free time?

I'm a seamstress, and love many of the needle arts. A perfect day for me is to escape to my sewing retreat, listen to a great audio book or music to fit the mood, and sew the day away - usually creating something for my family and friends. I also enjoy college sports and much of my free time is spent following my beloved Michigan State Spartans. Go Green!

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you like to go?

I haven't traveled a great deal, and usually enjoy a good road trip with my family. However, if you're offering the whole world, I'd put Ireland, Italy, Vienna and Prague on my list - in no particular order. So many places and so many adventures to experience!

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