



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.

*"Who hears music, feels his solitude
Peopled at once."*

-Robert Browning

Registration Open for Fall Session B

Registration is now open for the next session of Baby STEPS classes, the Instrument Primer, and Ukulele for ages 4 to 6. Click on your preferred class below to register online!

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Special Offer

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



Ukulele - This class is FREE through January 24!

Tuesdays from 5-5:30pm

This group class for ages 4 to 6 provides a friendly and fun setting for children to engage with music while introducing basic ukulele playing technique. Students will learn to sing and play together as they learn both traditional and modern-day ukulele repertoire. Ukuleles are provided for use here at ChiME.

Instrument Primer

Saturdays from 12-12:45pm

For ages 4 to 6, the Instrument Primer introduces students to the wonderful world of instruments while developing skills for instrumental lessons in the near future. This class serves as the perfect bridge from Baby STEPS to private Suzuki instruction.

Baby STEPS

See class schedule below.

In these Early Childhood music classes, children ages 6 months to 4.5 years experience and internalize musical concepts through movement, dance, instrument play, and singing. The sequential Baby STEPS curriculum teaches students building blocks of music through listening, imitating, and repetition.

Twinkle Tots - 6 to 18 months

Tuesdays at 9:15 am with Ms. Ana

Thursdays at 11:45 am with Ms. Cecilia

Saturdays at 8:00 am with Ms. Kristen

Saturdays at 9:00 am with Ms. Ali

Mi-Fa-Sol-Agú - 6 to 18 months, Spanish immersion

Thursdays at 9:30 am with Ms. Cecilia

Beat Explorers - 18 months to 2.5 years

Tuesdays at 11:15 am with Ms. Ana

Thursdays at 8:30 am with Ms. Cecilia

Saturdays at 9:00 am with Ms. Kristen

Saturdays at 10:00 am with Ms. Ali

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, November 5

2:00pm

Violin Graduation Recital

Tuesday, November 8

Fall Session B begins

Saturday, November 12

1:30pm

Suzuki Basics for Parents

2:30pm and 4:00pm

Piano Department Recitals

Saturday, November 19

2:30pm

All-School Recital

Tuesday, November 22 -

Sunday, November 27

Thanksgiving Break

ChiME Wishlist

- Solid, bright colored, or

Rhythm Explorers - 2.5 to 3.5 years
[Tuesdays at 10:15 am with Ms. Ana](#)
[Thursdays at 10:45 am with Ms. Cecilia](#)

Steppin' Up - 3.5 to 4.5 years
[Wednesdays at 3:15 pm with Ms. Ana](#)
[Saturdays at 11:00 am with Ms. Kristen](#)
[Saturdays at 11:00 am with Ms. Alli](#)

November - A Month of Gratefulness



With warm days behind us, we welcome the falling autumn leaves with a bit of sadness but also a spirit of gratitude for all the wonderful things around us. The Thanksgiving Holiday at the end of the month provides plenty of motivation to find really great reasons to be grateful and full of joy.

As this year marks the 35th anniversary of ChiME (previously known as the Suzuki-Orff School of Music), we are challenging our students to come up with 35 reasons (or more!) to be grateful. Next time you're at ChiME, you too can participate in this **Gratefulness Project**. Simply cut out the shape of your hand print from the provided construction paper (you'll find it on the tables in the Community Room), write a statement about

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!

what you are thankful for this year, and attach it to the trunk of the Grateful Tree in the Community Room at ChiME.

Can we get at least 35 leaves on the tree?! We will let you know in the December issue of ChiME Monthly.

Thank You!

As we celebrate our 35th year, we would like to acknowledge and thank the numerous individuals, foundations, businesses, and corporations who provide us with the opportunity to continually increase the breadth and depth of our programming every year. Your support allows us to make sure children get the most out of their music education. Thank you to the entire community of ChiME donors!



A Day in the Life of...

Wilma Rudolph Learning Center

It may be a gloomy, rainy day in Chicago, but inside the walls of Wilma Rudolph Learning Center, the sun is always shining. There is bright artwork on the walls and smiles on the faces of faculty, staff, and students. This near-West school for students with special needs in grades K-5 is one of the newest partners in the ChiME family.

Music therapist and educator, Ms. Kristen McManus arrives each Wednesday at noon and pulls the cart filled with musical instruments through the hallways of the Center, visiting a different classroom every half an hour. She greets all students upon entering each room with a big smile and is welcomed with equally big smiles greeting her. As she sings her "Hello" song, her voice fills each classroom with cheerful echoes and gets students focused on music making. One by one, Ms. Kristen engages every student in singing together and taking turns playing instruments.

Whether they are strumming guitar strings, tapping on the

drum, or shaking jingle bells, students explore various musical concepts: they experience high and low pitches, fast and slow tempi, and soft and loud sounds. Throughout the class Ms. Kristen continues to encourage all students to stay focused and on task, challenging them to work on non-musical goals in the musical activities. For many of them, these adaptive music lessons provide a way to communicate with the world. Some students are working on saying or singing simple words, like "my turn" and verbalizing wishes, such as choosing the color or kind of an instrument they want to play. Others are trying to reach physical goals through music, like holding an instrument in hand or making eye contact with the teacher.



Ms. Holly Dacres, principal of Rudolph Learning Center is thrilled to have added music to the curriculum. She reflects on how "Ms. Kristen is great at making sure every single child in each classroom is being engaged. She checks in with the classroom teachers to learn about the themes or special goals they are working on and incorporates those into her music lesson plans." Rudolph's classroom teachers stay in the circle during music and learn how they can use music throughout the week, when Ms. Kristen is not there, to keep working on each student's non-musical goals.

Students wave their bye's as Ms. Kristen sings her goodbye song. Many of them look sad as they wave. It will be another week before they see her again, and they don't want her to leave. Luckily, thanks to the efforts and dedication of their classroom teachers, the joyful spirit of music will stay at Rudolph throughout the week.

ChiME in My Life

A Student Story by Ingrid Wasmer



Hello, I'm Ingrid Wasmer, a student at ChiME. I'm 17 years old and I go to Whitney M. Young High School in Chicago. I've attended ChiME for about eight years. I take voice lessons with Mr. Scott Dankert and violin lessons with Mr. Billy Oh, and I participated in group classes for violin in the past. I run on my high school cross country team, and work backstage on the properties crew during theater productions at my school. For now, I am still undecided about which career path I'd like to follow. I know I want to travel, and in particular do volunteer work abroad in environmental conservation. I know I'd love to incorporate music into my life as much as possible.

Before taking classes at ChiME, my life revolved mostly around school and sports. Music was just something to listen to in order to make a car ride less boring. But I was always looking for a challenge, and when ChiME began to offer violin lessons at my school, I was immediately drawn to it. Since then, music has been my entire life. Through violin lessons and practice I learned discipline and patience. Through voice lessons I learned poise and how to be a performer. ChiME opened doors for me to places I didn't even know I wanted to be. I learned what an orchestra environment was like at my high school and joined choir.

Looking at my experience as a whole, I can say that my appreciation for music has deepened. It's impossible to say exactly where I'd be without ChiME, but I very well could have listened to pop music for the rest of my life. I'd never notice the intricacies of a Mozart concerto, or listen to Cecilia Bartoli and fully appreciate the technique she uses. I'd never experience the camaraderie of choir, or the way music brings people together. These are the things ChiME has made accessible to me, and I'm so glad I'm a part of it.

Music Therapy and Music

Education

What is the Difference?

Allison Dunn, MT-BC

As both a music therapist and a teaching artist, I often find people are confused as to what differentiates these two roles from each other. What constitutes a music therapy session from a typical music class, or from an adapted lesson? Can any teaching artist be considered a music therapist if they are working with children who have disabilities? What IS the difference?

To first approach these questions, it is important to distinguish what makes one a music therapist. The music therapy schooling process is as follows:

- Music therapists must have a bachelor's degree or higher in music therapy from an approved college or university. A music therapy degree can be a degree in the Arts or in Science, depending on the school.
- This schooling includes 1,200 hours of clinical training. The largest part of this training is the music therapy internship, which is 1,040 hours of supervised work with a particular population.
- Music therapists must hold the MT-BC credential, earned by passing an exam written by the Certification Board for Music Therapists, which protects the public by ensuring competent practice and requiring continuing education. Some states also require licensure for board-certified music therapists.
- Music therapy degrees require knowledge in psychology, medicine, and music.

(American Music Therapy Association, 2016)

Music therapists at ChiME work in a variety of settings, including typical music classes, adapted lessons, and both individual and group music therapy settings. The biggest factor when contemplating, "Is this music therapy?" is the concept of taking data. Music therapists take quantitative data during MT sessions that tracks and records each child's progress on their unique goals, which have been previously written by the therapist. During a typical music class, a teaching artist or music therapist might note progress and conduct assessments, generally speaking, but not in the same strict way a music therapist does during each music therapy session.

Another factor when considering if something is music therapy or music education is the ultimate end goals. Music education

will typically focus on musical goals, while also incorporating social/emotional skills throughout. Music therapy, however, is working toward non-musical goals first and foremost, using music as the tool. Adapted lessons at ChiME are unique in that the goals are half musical (usually aimed at voice, guitar, or piano instruction) and half non-musical, addressing the unique needs of the child. While still considered music therapy, as data is being recorded and lessons are given by certified music therapists, this can be a great stepping stone to ease a music therapy client into the world of music education.

November Practice Challenge

*"You don't have to practice every day,
just the days that you eat!"*

S. Suzuki

We call on all our instrumental students to challenge themselves and put first things first by picking up their instruments every day of November. The goal of this project is to elevate practice to a daily event.

Instructions:

- Pick at least 3 activities to accomplish each day.
- On Private Lesson day, just "warm up" for your lesson.
- Color a turkey for each day of practice.
- Share your progress with your teacher weekly.
- If you want your chart displayed in the Family Room, bring it to the front desk when the month is over.

Please visit our [home page](#) to download the practice chart or stop by the front desk to pick up a copy.

Big thanks to Ms. Breana Bauman, a violin instructor in Boston, MA for sharing this idea and practice chart.

Teaching Artist Spotlight

Ian Baker, Guitar



Ian Baker is the new guitar instructor at ChiME. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree in classical guitar performance at Northwestern University with a minor in music technology. He currently continues his guitar studies with Denis Azabagić. Ian's teaching experience encompasses various musical genres and styles, and he has a passion for combining music and technology and the use of technology as an expressive musical instrument.

Please tell us a little bit about your background.

I'm from Nashville, TN. My family moved there when Nissan moved their world headquarters in 2007. I come from a family of musicians: my dad is a guitarist and many of my aunts, uncles, and cousins play several instruments. My own journey with guitar didn't begin until moving to Nashville in the 7th grade, when an uncle of mine gave me a Les Paul guitar and a small combo amp so I could play music with my friends.

Who inspired you to become a musician?

My friends growing up inspired me to pick up the guitar and this led to me being the musician that I am today. I had never had much interest in music before moving to Nashville and being able to connect to people my own age via music rather than exclusively with older teachers and musicians. My teacher Danny Combs also was an important guiding force in my desire to be a professional musician. He helped push me in the direction of classical guitar performance and was supportive throughout my college application and audition process.

Why did you choose to teach?

I teach because my music teachers shaped my own life in very significant ways. I think that teaching and passing on that knowledge is important and that an understanding of music helps create more intelligent and well-rounded individuals, regardless of where their life might lead them.

What is your favorite genre of music?

I don't really have a favorite genre of music. I listen to a lot of music from orchestral to solo guitar to electronic to

contemporary music to grindcore and math rock. The only genre I don't enjoy is probably country music and most of its variants.

What place in the world would you like to visit?

I would love to backpack through south east Asia at some point in my life. The combination of cultures, landscapes, and history of that part of the world has always fascinated me. New Zealand is also on my list of places to visit since it has some of the most breathtaking landscapes on earth. I'm a big hiker, camper, and general nature person so experiencing the beauty of nature in different parts of the world and in the US is very important to me.

Thanksgiving Break

ChiME will close for Thanksgiving Break at 9pm on Monday, November 21 and will reopen at 1pm on Monday, November 28. We wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving!



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