

The
**Community
Music School**
at
Southwestern College

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"CREATING COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC"



IN THIS ISSUE

Dear friends and musicians,

With the semester coming to a close and lessons wrapping up, in the mood of this holiday season, I want to express my most sincere gratitude to you, your children, and for taking lessons through the Community Music School. Without you, we could not exist or grow with new teachers and ensembles, and we appreciate your dedication and commitment to music and to us.

I am very excited for our upcoming recital on December 13th, because we get to feature 24 of our students and the pieces they have worked so hard on this semester. Please stay after the recital for a reception in the Darbeth Lobby where punch is provided and families are asked to bring one dessert to share. You can also reconcile your accounts with me at this reception for the fall 2017 semester.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and I hope you have a Happy New Year!

Brandi Young
Executive Director

Upcoming Events

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Upcoming Events

[December 13th](#)

CMS Winter Recitals
Messenger Recital Hall
6:00 pm

[January 23rd](#)

CMS Spring Lessons Begin
Lower Level of Darbeth
9:00 am

[January 30th](#)

Elementary Honor Choir Day
Richardson Performing Arts Center
9:00 am

[February 1st](#)

Cowley Percussion Collective
Rehearsal Hall
5:30-6:30pm

[February 8th](#)

JourneyKids Spring Rehearsal
Darbeth 207
5:30-6:30 pm

[April 2nd](#)

Autism Awareness Concert
Richardson Performing Arts Center
7:00 pm



Cowley Percussion Collective

The Community Music School at Southwestern is excited to start a new community through percussion! This new ensemble being offered will explore various areas of percussion. Middle school students and older are welcome to join in the Cowley Percussion Collective. Experience is always helpful, but don't fret, no experience is necessary to join in this ensemble. Rehearsals will be starting February 1. They will be held in Darbeth Rehearsal Hall on Southwestern Campus Thursdays 5:30-6:30 pm.

This ensemble will be led by Jeremy Kirk, an active performing artist, clinician, and adjudicator throughout North America and is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Southwestern College where he serves as Director of Bands, Percussion, and Music Education. During the course of this ensemble, there will be opportunities for a drum circle, some African Drumming, Novelty Percussion and other great experiences for all interests!

To get involved in the Cowley Percussion Collective, sign up by visiting our [website](#) or email us at cms@sckans.edu.

Teacher Feature: Dr. Amber Peterson

Dr. Amber Dahlén Peterson is an Assistant Professor of Music and the Mazie Barnett Kilmer Chair for Strings Education at Southwestern College. Through this position, she conducts the South Kansas Symphony, coaches the Williams String Quartet, instructs violin and viola students, and teaches music education, history, appreciation, and theory courses. She previously taught music appreciation and theory at Carl Sandburg College in Illinois, online graduate music education courses for University of Florida and Kent State University, and the laboratory orchestra at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Peterson completed her Ph.D. in Music Education, with a cognate in Music Cognition and Psychology, at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Prior to beginning her doctorate, Dr. Peterson taught orchestra in Moline, Illinois, teaching at the elementary, middle and high school levels. She has also served on the staffs of the Cole Family Summer Music Festival, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Illinois Summer Youth Music, Illinois Ambassadors of Music, and the Cleveland Music School Settlement. She has held leadership positions in the Illinois Music Education Association and American String Teachers Association. Dr. Peterson's research has primarily focused on music teacher education and music cognition. Her work has appeared in *American String Teacher*, *Contributions to Music Education*, and *Arts Education Policy Review*. She has presented sessions for state music education conferences in Ohio, Iowa, Illinois and Kansas, as well national conferences of the American String Teachers Association, the American Educational Research Association, the Symposium on Music Teacher Education, and the National Association for Music Education.



Playful Practice

Sometimes getting children to practice their instrument isn't all that easy. Here are a few fun tips to help make practicing more fun for both your child and you.

Have your child practice in a different room than normal (if the instrument can be moved).

Dance to the music your child is creating as they practice, even if you feel you are a bad dancer.

Encourage your child to mix up the tempo of the song or exercise to keep it interesting.

<http://hallmusicproductions.com/how-to-make-practice-fun/>



Like and Follow the Community Music School Facebook Page

The Community Music School makes daily posts on the Facebook page about upcoming events, pictures of students in lessons, pictures of ensemble rehearsals and practice, insightful music tips, funny music related pictures, and much more.

We would love to make our page a place to share successes of individual students and ensembles. In doing this, the Community Music School is making an effort to connect with parents of the students involved in our community.

If you have pictures of your students or any ensembles, feel free to share them with us. You can send them to us at cms@sckans.edu to be featured on our page. Please hop onto Facebook to like and follow our page.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheCommunityMusicSchool>



Winter Recital

The Community Music School will be having one Winter Recital on December 13th at 6pm in Messenger Recital Hall. CMS recitals are an opportunity for each of our students to perform pieces for their parents and families. This is a chance for the students to show their progress and celebrate all of their growth throughout the semester.

There will be a celebratory reception following the recital in the Darbeth Lobby where punch will be provided. **We ask each family to bring one dessert to share with others. You can also reconcile your accounts with Brandi Young at the reception.**

Elementary Honor Choir Day

The Community Music School at Southwestern College is hosting an Elementary Honor Choir Day on January 30, 2018. This ensemble will be directed by Nikki Kirk and accompanied by Marsha Granberry.

Along with other elementary students from around the county, your student, if chosen, will have the opportunity to explore technique skills, the chance to discover new music, and be able to work with others while having fun through this exciting experience.

School teachers will select the top six students and convey information about the Elementary Honor Choir Day to the students and their parents. The Elementary Honor Choir Day will be on January 30th, 2018 from 9 am to 6 pm. The cost is \$7 per student (if paying online, a \$0.50 service charge is added). This price includes: lunch, two snack breaks, a t-shirt, music, a CD/digital recording of the music to practice with before the day, and transportation from school to SC to start the day.

Be sure to register by the deadline of January 8, 2018. To gather more information about the Elementary Honor Choir Day, visit our webpage and check out the event! <https://www.sckans.edu/other/community-music-school/elementary-honor-choir-day/>

Connect With Us!

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