Musical Gifts

PNC Bank of Michigan is giving a priceless gift of Early Childhood Music to Detroit area tots in 2011.

This fun curriculum for the "under five" set uses specialized singing and dancing exercises to stimulate the brain during its most critical growth period -- paying dividends over a lifetime.

A $10,000 grant from PNC will support Saturday morning Early Childhood Music classes at CMS-Detroit, as well as provide 14 free workshops serving 200 urban children.

These lively events for the little ones will be hosted by Detroit Public Schools Parent Resource Centers, with additional support provided by the DPS Foundation.

Families can sign up for Early Childhood Music classes at CMS-Detroit by calling (313) 578-9716 or online at www.cms.msu.edu.

A Musical Mission: AMP!

Music education is disappearing from schools across the nation, and particularly in urban areas such as Detroit -- even as experts say such training can skyrocket a child's overall cognitive development.

In Detroit, where students need more resources, not less, the opportunities are fewer.

Working to counteract this trend for metro area children, the MSU Community Music School-Detroit launched its Aspiring Musicians Program (AMP) in 2010-11.

Providing beginner and intermediate music instruction to youth in grades 5 through 8, group lessons are available for flute, clarinet, oboe and bassoon, saxophone, tuba, percussion, trumpet, trombone, French horn, guitar and piano.

Led by MSU College of Music faculty and music students, Detroit music educators and Wayne State University students, the AMP Saturday morning program teaches children instrument fundamentals, how to read music, theory/ear training, music history and ensemble playing. Free student performances are given for families and the community.

Parents can register children now for AMP by calling (313) 578-9716 or online at www.cms.msu.edu.

AMPED UP! FOR FIRST RECITAL

A standing-room only audience enjoyed the first-ever AMP student recital at the MSU Detroit Center on December 18, 2010. Over 20 students participated in the concert -- most making their onstage debut!

CMS-Detroit Executive Director Rhonda Buckley gave the kids a fun intro to concert etiquette and a lesson on how to make a graceful bow (as long as it takes to silently say "my shoes are tied!"). Each student was presented with a congratulatory rose and families enjoyed a punch and cookie reception for these brave new performers.

"Our goal with AMP is to introduce a whole new generation of Detroit children to the joy of playing music," says Buckley.

Photo Above: AMP Clarinets receive roses.
Photos Left: Trumpet student John and instructor Gibron Lockhart; Saxophones Wesley, Evan and Kahlif with instructor Deborah Scales.

Students -- Share the Music! Bring a Friend in 2011, Get a Prize
From the Executive Director Rhonda Buckley

We are now in our second season of offering high-quality music education and music therapy opportunities to people of all ages, abilities and incomes.

In particular, we focus on recruiting participation among the most vulnerable members of our diverse community -- children, seniors, and individuals with special needs.

New families are discovering our services every week, and as we visit schools and neighborhoods organizations, we are met with great enthusiasm for our classes. As music education becomes more the exception rather than the rule, there is a growing demand for accessible and affordable programs that enrich lives.

We are extremely grateful to the Kresge Foundation, the Erb Family Foundation, PNC Bank and Cooper Standard, as well to our growing base of individual supporters for enabling us to carry out this important educational work.

Please, share information about CMS-Detroit with your social networks. We encourage you to get involved through your energy and ideas, or by making a gift. Thank you.

COOPER STANDARD Supports Musical Youth at 2011 Auto Show

January's Charity Preview of the 2011 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) was music to Detroit kids' ears.

Cooper Standard, a Novi-based global automotive supplier, chose CMS-Detroit as one of its NAIAS gala beneficiaries in support of music lessons and music therapy for Detroit youth.

At the Cooper Standard afterglow, gala guests enjoyed a live MSU Jazz @ CMS-Detroit performance featuring Detroiter Najee Bell on saxophone. Bell, age 17, is a senior at Martin Luther King Jr. High School. For the past two years, he has been a standout player in CMS-Detroit's Wednesday night jazz program for middle and high school teens.

CMS-D Executive Director Rhonda Buckley said, “We are so thrilled that more Detroit children will have the tremendous opportunity to learn to play music. Music lessons are known to have a permanent and lasting impact on a child’s overall development, yet they are no longer available or affordable for many Detroit families.

Music can engage and inspire a child to achieve great things. We’re very grateful to Cooper Standard and the NAIAS.”

Helping facilitate the charitable gift was Sharon Wenzl (BA '81), Vice President of Corporate Communications for Cooper Standard. She is an alumnus of the MSU College of Communication Arts and Sciences, as well as an individual donor to CMS-Detroit.

Cooper Standard is a leading global automotive supplier, offering solutions in the body sealing, fuel, brake and emissions, thermal management and anti-vibration segments of the industry. The company employs approximately 19,000 people in 18 countries around the world.

Gifts to CMS-Detroit can be made online at www.cms.msu.edu.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARCH
3  MSU Youth Jazz @ CMS-Detroit Concert at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 5:30 p.m.
9  MSU Spring Break (no youth Jazz classes)
16  New Horizons Band Concert at CMS-Detroit, 7 p.m.
22-26  Start of Session III classes (NHB, Adult piano, guitar & flute, Early Childhood Music programs)

APRIL
16  MSU Youth Jazz @ CMS-Detroit Concert at MSU
23  Closed for Detroit Public Schools Spring Break

MAY
8  Jazz @ CMS-Detroit Season Finale Concert at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3:45 p.m.
21  Aspiring Musicians Program Concert, 10 a.m.
24  Dress rehearsal for CMS-D Spring Concert, 7 p.m.
25  CMS-D Spring Concert at The Music Hall, 7 p.m.
30  Closed for Memorial Day

JUNE
4  VSA of Michigan Southeast Regional Festival & CMS-Detroit Music Therapy Recital
11  Music Time for Tots and Toddlers Conferences
**Band Boot Camp: It’s a Winner!**

Detroit’s high school band students were invited to step up their game by attending a three-week Band Boot Camp at CMS-Detroit in November. Students enjoyed clinics and group lessons that taught them skills to bring back to their school bands.

The intensive instruction camps are geared towards developing students who would like to advance their skills. Lessons are first-come, first-serve and cost $15 for the three sessions. Tuition assistance is available.

For information about upcoming Boot Camps email cmisd@msu.edu.

**PBS Features CMS-D!**

The PBS television program "A Wider World" featuring individuals with special needs, recently taped an episode on CMS-D music therapy clinical services.

The program will air on 45 PBS stations nationwide. Check CMS-D’s Facebook page for air dates!

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**LINKS Program**

**Lonely Instruments in Need of Kids**

Did you know? CMS-Detroit accepts gifts of used band instruments for its LINKS program: Lonely Instruments In Need of Kids.

The Oakland County Alumni Association of MSU took this challenge to heart recently. The group collected nearly 40 instruments of all types and delivered them to CMS-Detroit in February. All donors receive tax credit donation receipts... and endless thanks!

**Healing News in Music Therapy**

Incredible healing and growth opportunities are taking place as part of CMS-Detroit’s two-year old Music Therapy program led by Jody Conradi Stark, a Board Certified Music Therapist. There is much good news to share!

**Detroit Public Schools Transitions Center East** has visited CMS-D twice for experiential music and movement therapy. The teachers who accompanied their groups of young adult men with Autism Spectrum Disorder raved about the positive interactions and feelings generated. The DPS has provided funds for a schedule of monthly visits in 2011.

“Kids on the Go,” a St. John’s Hospital pediatric program for special needs, contracted CMS-D in 2010 to provide two five-week music therapy sessions for children ages 3-5 and 7-9. In summer 2011, “Kids on the Go” is providing a music therapy clinic at CMS-D for the Detroit Institute for Children (DIC).

**Coalition for Temporary Shelter** (COTS) received a $1,000 contribution which they are allocating to continue "COTS Kids Create!," a music and dance-movement therapy program at CMS-D in Spring 2011.

**Tau Beta Association**, a local philanthropic organization benefitting people in Southeastern Michigan, is funding a 2011 CMS-D Music Therapy summer program at The Children's Center.

CMS-D will host the annual **VSA Michigan Southeast Regional Festival** on June 4, 2011, an event promoting creativity and arts accomplishments for people with disabilities. CMS-D clients will perform a "Celebrate Arts Abilities" Music Therapy Recital.

**Jody Conradi Stark** has been named VSA Michigan 2011 Educator of the Year. She will be honored at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival on May 13, 2011 at Western Michigan University.

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**MERIDIAN WINDS**

**Beneath Our Wings**

Eric Satterlee, owner of Meridian Winds in Okemos, MI, has generously offered to donate all repair work to the instruments in CMS-Detroit’s loan-bank. He also made the gift of an oboe that is already in use by a student.

For many families, the opportunity to borrow an instrument from the school makes a child’s musical education financially possible.

To learn more about this amazing instrument repair and retail shop visit www.meridianwinds.com.
CMS-D makes Music Hall Debut!

Once a year, CMS-Detroit students of all ages come together for a giant joint performance that can put as many as 65 players onstage at a time. This year’s spring fling, titled “Our Community in Concert,” takes place May 25, 2011 at Detroit’s historic Music Hall, a venue that can accommodate CMS-D’s expanding musician ranks, as well as an audience of nearly 2,000.

The program will feature CMS-D’s beginner and advanced New Horizons Bands, members of MSU’s Jazz@CMS-Detroit, sponsored by the Erb Family Foundation, and AMP students, plus members of local school and community bands. It promises to be a night to remember! Visit www.cms.msu.edu for more information.

New Horizons Band Breaks New Ground

As former music teachers, music majors and professional musicians, many members of the New Horizons adult band are pros at giving concerts. Others are just learning to play instruments for the very first time.

In a program titled “Something Old, Something New” on November 17, 2010, both the Advanced and Beginner NHB groups performed, as did the NHB jazz combo The Three C’s.

Highlighting the evening was the world premier of a new work for band by Detroit composer and Cass Tech graduate Chad Hughes. Led by Director Ed Quick (BMUS ’74), NHB players introduced the work titled Ruth and Boaz, inspired by the biblical love story.

Participation in these recreational bands is open to anyone. Players range in age from 18 to 80 and come from across metro Detroit.

SUPER STUDENT SPONSORS!

MSU College of Music alums Bill Sachs (BMUS ’68, MMUS ’75) and Ann Sachs (BMUS ’69) have more than 55 years of teaching music between them, and that’s before Ann went on to become a successful corporate project manager! Now, they are both recently retired and looking for ways to give back to the community they live in.

Through a gift to CMS-Detroit, Bill and Ann are funding music lessons for one year for a Detroit student in financial need (anonymous). They have also generously donated a clarinet the school’s instrument repository for student use.

"We have seen music turn lives around -- and it's not the ones you expect," says Ann. "There are a lot of studies about left-brain growth and the discipline that is learned just from being part of a musical group. This has tremendous importance in the life of a student and it influences their future success."

Thank you Bill and Ann!!