



Course Catalog | 2021-2022

Educational Philosophy

Instruction at the Center for Musical Arts (CMA) is ***student-centered***. By this, we mean that student goals, whether oriented toward personal growth or serious pursuit of musical excellence, guide the teaching and learning process. Specific curricula or pedagogies are not imposed; rather, students are guided toward skills and repertoire that are best suited to their individual needs and goals. Our general approach is inspired by the concept of Comprehensive Musicianship, meaning that all aspects of music are incorporated into teaching and learning (skill acquisition, theory, history, creativity, expression, and composition).

Teaching for a Cause

CMA faculty members are chosen for their skill, training, experience and dedication to working with students from diverse backgrounds, abilities, and financial circumstances. The cause is to foster a lifelong love of music, whether or not students choose careers in music (in fact, most students do not, but go on to become enthusiastic audience members and patrons of the arts).

Individual and Group Lessons

All ages, abilities, and financial circumstances

Student-centered studio instruction provides goal-oriented progress, a 1:1 relationship with an expert teacher, opportunities to interact with peers and other students of varying ages, backgrounds, and abilities; opportunities for performance. Students experience the many benefits of studying music as well as extra-musical benefits

(increased self-esteem, personal growth, improvement in academic performance and grades - particularly in languages and math).

All instruments and voice

30, 45, 60 minutes

(planned for fall to accompany lessons: Musicianship and Performance Skills classes)

Early Childhood Music

Experience-based programs for the very young, designed to foster familiarity and a love for music through moving, listening, playing, and singing.

- Music Together® is a research-based, nationally recognized early childhood music curriculum, designed to offer developmentally appropriate musical experience that is enhanced through participation by both the child and a caregiver. Birth-age 5
- Music in Motion - based on the Dalcroze pedagogy and offered in sequential order, Music in Motion classes provide movement-based music education.
- Suzuki Program - pedagogy for violin, cello, piano, flute and guitar using the sequential Suzuki curriculum. Starting at age 3.

American Roots, Latinx and World Music

Community based classes, ensembles, and collaborations that familiarize and promote vernacular musical forms while encouraging the maximum participation from students of all ages, abilities, and financial circumstances.

- Hammered Dulcimer - individual lessons and group classes/workshops
- Coro Santuario - Spanish-singing chorus for community members of all ages and abilities (no audition required)
- CMA Community Band - a no-audition concert band for avocational musicians high school through seniors. Performances at community and civic events. No tuition.

- Mariachi Program - in collaboration with the “I Have a Dream Foundation.” Graded, standards-based curriculum for upper elementary through high school students.
- African Music & Dance - in collaboration with Kutandara Center; based on Zimbabwean marimba, song and dance

Jazz Studies

Teaching improvisation and jazz techniques for combos and jazz band

- Jazz Combos (3-6 players)
- Jazz Ensemble (12-20 players)
- Jazz for Singers - class designed to teach vocal improvisation and techniques
- Jazz improvisation - class (beginner, intermediate, advanced) teaching improvisation

Theory and Composition

Teaching the elements and building blocks of music. Classes for beginning, intermediate and advanced and students of all ages.

- Composing with Computers - digital composition using Finale or Sibelius software platforms to create music
- Songwriting - the basics of writing popular songs
- Composition through Improvisation
- Music Theory I, II and III

Classical and Early Music

Small ensembles give more advanced amateur/avocational students high quality instruction and ensemble experience in a collaborative setting

- Chamber Music Program
- String quartets
- Early Music Ensembles

- Beginning Orchestra for individuals new to their instruments (all ages)

Stage Music

Teaching singers to use voice, movement, gesture, expression, and interaction to communicate with their audience; some classes/workshops will culminate in a staged production

- Musical Theater for Seniors - (Broadway Boomers)
- Musical Theater Retrospective (class)
- Opera scenes workshop

Music History and Appreciation

Classes for the general population on the background of music, designed to deepen experience, lead to greater understanding, and educate about all aspects of music

- Master Classes (also under Classical/Early Music, Stage Music, and Jazz Studies)
- Stories Behind the Score
- Starting From Sound (formerly “Getting Inside Music”)

Music and Wellness Programs

(Music Therapy programming in collaboration with Amanda Brigham, CMT, Neurologic Music Therapist)

- Individual music therapy sessions for neurodiverse students
- Social Music Jams - monthly groups for neurodiverse individuals, friends, families
- “Roost” groups for Imagine! Clients
- Music groups for “A Shared Vision,” (visually-impaired toddlers and their families)
- SPARK! Program (in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Association) for early-onset Alzheimer patients and caregivers

Festival Education Programs

- Family Concert - pre and post concert activities for kids and families
- Suzuki Play-In - pre (and/or post) CMF concert “play-ins” in collaboration with local youth symphonies, Boulder Suzuki Strings and other Suzuki studios
- Youth Musician Seminar - for advanced middle and high school students; in collaboration with Greater Boulder Youth Symphony. A one-week day camp featuring string ensembles, theory classes, electives, interaction with CMF musicians (?), observation of CMF rehearsal and attendance at CMF concert
- Talks Under the Tent pre-concert lectures
- Stories Behind the Score - recorded pre-concert lectures
- Curated Pre-concert picnics