

Annual Appeal 2022|23

Celebrating musically into our 4th decade!



Dear CMS Friends,

As Mayor of Collegeville, I am often heard bragging to people that “Collegeville is a great place to come home to!” Now, I know that the Community Music School (CMS) doesn’t technically have a Collegeville address, but I have been claiming its positive impact on our greater community since I moved here almost thirty years ago. Now entering its fourth decade, CMS continues to demonstrate that it is here for good! Last year, CMS performed **61 free concerts** and events that delighted **over 4,000 people**. My wife and I have personally taken advantage of some of those concerts as our “date night.” What a bargain, and what a rich and rewarding experience!

In 2021-2022, CMS served **450 unique student families** weekly. Speaking of unique families, did I mention that both my granddaughter and I have taken lessons at CMS? Now preparing to enter college, my granddaughter is using the confidence she gained learning guitar and voice. As for me, when I retired from full-time ministry six years ago, I decided to pick up my old trombone which I hadn’t played since I was seventeen years old. With the guidance of talented CMS instructors, I began to get my lip back! When the house is empty, I occasionally play my trombone as a form of meditation and relaxation.

I began this letter by sharing how important it is to me that our communities be great places to come home to. For me, that must include a commitment to racial, ethnic inclusion, and diversity. **Forty percent of CMS students identify as African American, Asian, Hispanic/Latino(a) or biracial.**

Last year CMS offered over \$50,000 in scholarships, financial aid, discounts, and free classes as part of their strong commitment to the inclusion of everyone in our greater community.



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Please join me in helping Community Music School continue to fulfill its mission of enriching lives and communities with your financial support. As a 501c3, CMS relies on donors like you and me to be able to continue to offer financial aid and free classes. When you give to CMS, you make it possible for students of all backgrounds to transform their lives through music. *Truly, music is universal and unifying and helps our communities become great places to come home to!*

Respectfully,

— Dr. Aidsand F. “Ace” Wright-Riggins,
Mayor of Collegeville

thank you!