

The Central Music Academy: Giving Free Music Lessons to Low-Income Kids in Lexington

The Central Music Academy is a non-profit organization that exists to foster equitable access to high-quality, tuition-free music instruction in Lexington. We offer free private lessons to all levels of learners, in all areas of musical performance: winds, percussion, voice, and strings. **Since CMA's inception in 2004, our dedicated teachers have given more than 40,000 free lessons to 1000+ students.**

Fast Facts about CMA

- **100% of CMA students would not be able to pay for lessons without aid.**
- CMA is the only school in central KY that gives free weekly private music lessons.
- In free private lessons and group classes during the 2018-19 school year, we served 120 students on 19 different instruments.
- The lessons students learn while studying music help them to be more precise, to be better listeners, to collaborate well with others, to express themselves, and to persevere when setting and achieving goals.
- **In May of 2019, we graduated 6 seniors, continuing CMA's historical 100% high school graduation rate. And including the class of 2019, 99% of these graduating seniors have also gone on to college or into the United States Military!**
- CMA students have successfully auditioned into Lexington's School for the Creative and Performing Arts, the Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras, and all-district/all-state choir, band, and orchestra.
- We are diverse. 40% of our students identify as African American, 37% as Caucasian, 20% as Hispanic, and 3% as Asian or Pacific Islander.
- **Nearly half of our teachers have master's or doctorate degrees in music.**
- The CMA calendar includes at least one student performance every month.
- Summer camps include a World Percussion camp and a chamber strings camp; group classes have included a jazz improv class, a Bluegrass ensemble, a rock band, a guitar class, a clarinet choir, and a "Wee Move and Groove" class for preschool-aged kids.
- There are currently 80+ kids on our waiting list.
- **Providing one free music lesson for a child is \$22.50 (\$900/year). We accept donations on our website at www.centralmusicacademy.org, or by calling 859-221-2190.**