**THE MISSION**

of the Community Music Center at Union University is to enrich our community and the lives of people of all ages through instruction and experience in music.

Our goal is to foster a lifelong appreciation of and involvement in the musical arts and to serve as a resource for the musical needs of the people of Jackson and West Tennessee.

**THE COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER**

offers programs for children of all ages as well as adults. All programs are specifically designed to meet the needs and skills of specific age and interest groups.

**PRIVATE INSTRUCTION**
- piano, voice, guitar, violin, flute, and trumpet

**GROUP PIANO**

**GROUP GUITAR**

**GROUP STRINGS**
(Suzuki-based string lessons for students age 4 and older)

**CHILDREN’S CHORUS**
(Grades 1–6)

**YOUTH CHORUS**
(Grades 7–9)

**MUSIKGARTEN PIANO**
(5 1/2 years – 8 years)

"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."

J.S. Bach

Howard Gardner, director of Project Zero at Harvard University has identified nine intelligences that human beings possess. While persons usually have more gifts in one or two of these intelligences than the others, Gardner believes that we all possess each of these intelligences to some degree. While we usually think of linguistic (language) and logistical (math) as intelligences, Gardner also identifies music as one of the nine intelligences that all human beings possess.

In his publication *Arts with the Brain in Mind*, Eric Jensen discusses the importance of the arts, specifically musical arts, visual arts and kinesthetic arts. Jensen discusses the importance of music for all people as well as the importance of beginning at an early age. He provides research results, which indicate that music-making contributes to the development of reasoning, creativity, thinking, decision-making and problem solving, in addition to enhancing emotional intelligence.

Through participation in the Community Music Center at Union University, students will not only have aesthetically rewarding experiences, but also will realize academic benefits and build meaningful relationships. In addition, students will be connected to the strong reputation of musical excellence that belongs to the Department of Music and Union University. Most importantly, students will be inspired to develop their talents and gifts to glorify God, the One Who created music and Who gives us the joy of its discovery.

It is my privilege then to encourage you to enroll in one or more of the music programs provided by the Community Music Center at Union University. We look forward to taking this musical journey with you.

Betty Bedsole, Ed.D.
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Private lessons are offered to children, youth, and adults regularly in voice, violin, piano, and guitar and may also be available in other areas upon request. During each semester, highly qualified, experienced teachers craft an individual course of study that is appropriate for the student’s interests and ability. Weekly, 30-minute lessons are designed not only to teach proficiency in the specified area, but also to develop music-reading skills and a passion for music.

*Young students and beginners are encouraged to register for appropriate group lessons. Children under the age of 13 who are interested in developing vocal skills should register for Children’s Chorus.

Group lessons are an effective, economical avenue for beginning students to develop musical skills as well as to foster self-discipline and to forge new friendships. The Community Music Center offers groups lessons in piano, guitar, and strings.

Group Piano lessons are available at two age levels. Children ages 5 ½ to 2nd Grade will enroll in Music Makers, a Musikgarten curriculum designed to teach participants to play by ear as well as to read music. Students grade 3 and older will register for Group Piano. Students Grade 3 or older may register for Group Guitar lessons. In these lessons, they will learn not only the basics of chording, but also finger work and scales.

Group Strings are taught using the Suzuki method and are open to students ages 4 and older.

The Union University Children’s Chorus provides an opportunity for children to participate in a variety of musical experiences including singing, playing instruments, creative activities, and music reading. Participation in this program will enhance the child’s self-discipline, self-esteem and performance skills.

Children in grades 1 and 2 will be placed in the Preparatory Chorus which meets on Mondays from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Children in grades 3 through 6 will be placed in the Children’s Chorus which meets on Tuesdays from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Students in grades 7–9 are eligible to enroll in the Community Music Center’s newest vocal ensemble. Literature will be challenging and rewarding and, in many cases, will coincide with selections used for regional and state festivals.

Registration forms, along with all fees, are due at the beginning of each semester. No registration fee is required. Early registration is encouraged, as many of our classes and private studios have limited capacities. Payment plans and late registration may be allowed. Contact the Director of the Community Music Center for further information.

Each summer, the Department of Music at Union University hosts a Summer Music Camp for CMC participants as well as members of the community. This affordable camp is designed to expose children and youth having completed grades 1–8 to a wide variety of musical experiences. The continued success of the camp is founded on the excellence of the staff, many of whom are university faculty and all of whom are well respected and highly trained in the field of education, particularly music education.