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.

Through participation in the Community Music Center, 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.

Jennifer Hooper
Director, Community Music Center
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Musikgarten at the Community Music Center offers instruction which is just right for each age level—from your baby who benefits greatly from being part of a live music environment, right up through school-age children who delight in our group piano classes.

Beginning simply with singing, moving, and exploring rhythm instruments, we add levels of complexity as the children grow, expanding the singing repertoire, teaching more complex dances, and building instrumental ensembles. Children coming through the Musikgarten program inherently “know” the music they eventually play in later years in group piano instruction.

Private lessons are offered to children, youth, and adults regularly in voice, 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 three levels. Children ages 5½ 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 may select from either beginning or intermediate class piano.

Students Grade 3 or older may register for Group Guitar lessons. In these lessons, they will learn not only the basics or 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.

Following registration, members of the chorus and their parents will meet with the director of the chorus. At this time it will be determined whether the chorister will be placed in the Preparatory Chorus, which meets on Mondays from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. or the Union University’s Children’s Chorus, which meets on Tuesdays from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Demonstrations and concerts are scheduled at the end of each semester for parents and members of the community.

For further information regarding Children’s Chorus: Dr. Betty Bedsole, Children’s Chorus Director 661-5226 | bbedsole@uu.edu

Registration forms, along with all fees, are due at the beginning of each semester. 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.