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 (other areas as available)

Group Piano

Group Guitar

Group Strings
  (Suzuki-based string lessons for students age 4 and older)

Children’s Chorus
  (Kindergarten - Grade 6)

Youth Chorus
  (Grades 7-9)

Musikgarten Piano
  (5 1/2 years - 8 years)

Musikgarten Piano
  (Birth - 3 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

I am so excited that you have made the decision to join with us as we enrich our community and the lives of people of all ages through instruction and experience in music. As a lifelong musician, I understand firsthand the benefits of musical training and I am honored to have the opportunity to facilitate these experiences for others.

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
731.661.5234
jhooper@uu.edu
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*

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 Piano

Group Piano lessons are available at two age 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 will register for Group Piano. Students Grade 3 or older may register for Group Guitar. In these lessons, they will learn not only the basics of chording, but also finger work and scales.

Group Strings

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

Children’s Chorus (Grades K-6)

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, it will be determined whether the chorister will be placed in the Preparatory Chorus (Grades K-2), which meets on Mondays from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. or the Union University’s Children’s Chorus (Grades 3-6), 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 contact:
Dr. Betty Bedsole, Children’s Chorus Director
661-5226 | bbedsole@uu.edu

Youth Chorus (Grades 7-9)

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.

Summer Music Camp

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 as well as to provide them with exposure to drama. 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.

Registration

Registration forms, along with all fees, are due by August 1. Payments received after August 1 will incur a late charge. 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.