



WHERE MUSIC MATTERS

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Music Conservatory of Westchester (MCW) was founded in 1929 in the American settlement house tradition of community service and the European conservatory tradition of excellence. The legendary cellist Pablo Casals was among its founders, and jazz legend Cab Calloway once served on its board.

Today, we serve 2,500 students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds with one-on-one instruction, performing ensembles, theory, composition, early childhood classes, lifelong learning for adults, and free community performances. Our Scholarship Program provides need-based tuition assistance for financially deserving students, ensuring they can continue their music training through high school. Our Music Therapy Institute brings music into the lives of children and adults with disabilities, both onsite at the Conservatory and on an outreach basis in collaboration with 30 community partners.

One of only sixteen non-degree-granting schools nationwide accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, the Conservatory has inspired generations of students contributing to a vibrant musical life in the county, the region, and beyond.

OUR HISTORY

- 1929** Opens its doors with an enrollment of 6 students
- 1937** Incorporates as a not-for-profit organization
- 1956** Renowned concert pianist Garrick Ohlsson takes his first piano lesson at MCW.
- 1977** Becomes accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.
- 1979** Moves from its first home, a small former private residence in White Plains, to a 13,000 sq. ft. building on Soundview Ave.
- 1980** American composer Aaron Copland conducts the MCW orchestra in honor of his 80th birthday and MCW's 50th anniversary.
- 1986** Establishes its Music Therapy Institute as a small pilot project, which today provides music programs for over 1,500 people with disabilities.
- 2001** Having outgrown its building, MCW relocates to its current 35,000 sq. ft. building on Central Ave., renovated to house MCW as well as the nonprofit Steffi Nossen Dance School.
- 2005** Celebrates its 75th anniversary in a gala concert at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center.
- 2013** Establishes Healing Our Heroes music therapy program for military veterans.
- 2022** Completes construction of a state-of-the-art Recording Studio, Digital Piano Lab, and three additional teaching studios in 3,500 sq. ft. of previously unfinished space in the building.
- 2023** Launches two significant programs for high school students: MCW Theatre Arts Prep; Recording Engineering and Music Production.

1929

FOUNDED

2,500

STUDENTS SERVED

70+

FACULTY

\$175K

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

25+

INSTRUMENTS TAUGHT

THE MCW PILLARS

OUR MISSION

To provide the extraordinary benefits of music to all in our community.

OUR CORE VALUES

- **EXCELLENCE:** We strive to provide leadership and innovation in music education, encompassing high standards, best teaching practices, and respect for individual differences.
- **ACCESS:** Guided by our commitment to inclusiveness, we believe that financial limitations should never be a barrier to learning. We offer scholarship opportunities for youth and adult students.
- **COMMUNITY:** We bring people together through musical collaboration, bridging differences, forging connections, and celebrating musical and cultural diversity.

We embrace active, student-centered music learning. Our programs are taught by exceptional music teachers who design and continuously update a robust instrument curriculum. From pre-kindergarten through high school students and adults, MCW helps each student realize their musical potential and become lifelong music lovers.



OUR PROGRAMS

MCW offers world-class music instruction through one-on-one instrumental and vocal lessons, performing ensembles, theory, composition, and songwriting, Suzuki and early childhood classes, lifelong learning for adults, and free community performances.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

MCW introduces the youngest learners to the fundamentals of music, using fun experiential activities and creative expression to teach melody, rhythm, note-reading, and instrumental technique. From Musical Munchkins classes for babies and preschoolers to Suzuki instruction and Piano Basics, MCW will give each child the best possible start in music!



YOUTH AND TEENS

Elementary school is the time to choose an instrument and stick with it over time. Middle and high school students are setting their own musical priorities, and our goal is to offer choices to meet them. We work with aspiring classical virtuosos, rock stars, and future Broadway performers, helping them choose the right classes and navigate the road to musical success! In addition to instrumental lessons, students may join a variety of performing ensembles, take classes in songwriting, composing, music theory, and music technology, and perform in recitals and concerts throughout the year.

Instruction is offered in piano, violin, viola, cello, double bass, drums, percussion, voice, flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, harp, harpsichord, jazz piano, jazz voice, and music technology. Suzuki instruction is offered in violin, viola, cello, piano, and flute.



SPECIAL HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

• MCW THEATRE ARTS PREP

A triple-threat training program that includes voice, acting, and dance, taught by nationally known stars of television, film, and Broadway. The program includes private voice lessons, vocal performance classes, acting and dance classes, music theory, ear training, piano skills, and recording session techniques. In addition to musical theatre, students receive expert classical and pop repertoire training.

• RECORDING ENGINEERING AND MUSIC PRODUCTION

Westchester County's first pre-college training program for students who want to prepare for a career in digital music production and a variety of other 21st-century technology-based careers. The curriculum offers hands-on experience and covers topics such as digital audio fundamentals, Pro Tools and other software platforms, MIDI sequencing and programming, the basics of music theory and composition, mixing techniques and plugins, and a Studio Production Project that takes an individual song through the recording process to fully mixed, mastered, and ready for release.

• HONORS PROGRAM

A comprehensive program for high-achieving students seeking musical challenges. In addition to private instrumental or vocal lessons, students take advanced music theory, a large ensemble, and a chamber music ensemble, and participate in a monthly master class. Students can also earn community service credits by participating in outreach concerts and school activities.

SUMMER

Summer at MCW offers a variety of engaging programs for youth and teens to try something new, hone their skills, and expand their musical horizons. From our traditional Music & Arts program to our Summer Orchestra Festival, Jazz Workshop, Music Production Workshop, and Suzuki Beginner Special, there's something for everyone! Summer is also a perfect time to continue with private lessons or "test drive" a new instrument. A flexible schedule enables students to coordinate lessons with their summer plans. Visit our website for details.

ADULTS

Celebrate your love of music at any age! Whether you're trying something new or dusting off an instrument you haven't touched in decades, the Conservatory will help you find joy and opportunity in music. Private lessons, group classes, music theory, and performing ensemble options from chamber music to rock or jazz band are available. We also offer Music Production classes for adult students in our new Recording Studio.

MUSIC THERAPY INSTITUTE

MCW offers music therapy and adapted instruction for children and adults with disabilities. Using the innate qualities of music, our board-certified therapists design an individualized program to meet the needs of each student. Our program is the largest professional provider in the Westchester region. In addition to our onsite program, our Outreach Program provides music therapy in partnership with 31 school districts, special education schools, medical facilities, and social service agencies.



HEALING OUR HEROES

Serving military veterans with combat-related injuries, Healing Our Heroes provides music therapy services to assist in coping with physical pain, stress, and anxiety. Since 2013, our life-changing program has served more than 50 veterans, providing free services to them or their families.

HOW TO ENROLL



PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are customized for each student and processed by the Office of Student Services.

GROUP CLASSES AND ENSEMBLES

You may sign up directly for selected group classes and ensembles by visiting mcw.asapconnected.com. Placement may be required for some classes. Group classes and ensembles are offered free or discounted for students taking private lessons. On your Inquiry Form, please let us know if you would also like to sign up for group classes.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We believe that music is fundamental to every child's development and should be attainable for all students. Our goal is to provide scholarships to financially deserving students.

For details and application forms, please visit:
www.musicconservatory.org/scholarships

MCW STUDIOS

THE FUTURE OF MUSIC IS HERE

In today's world, music and technology go hand in hand, and MCW aims to be a leader in educating students for the 21st-century. In fall 2022, we completed our Legacy Project, constructing five important new teaching studios in our building, of which the centerpiece is a professional Recording Studio with audio and video capability and a Digital Piano Lab equipped with iMac computers and Yamaha Clavinovas. MCW Studios now houses Westchester's first pre-college training program in Recording Engineering and Music Production.

The Recording Studio is networked to MCW's Recital Hall to enable high-quality recording of every performance. Our students and faculty now have the opportunity to participate in professional recording sessions. MCW Studios are also available to outside students and professional groups.

Also constructed as part of the Legacy Project are an upgraded Percussion Studio, a multi-purpose Rehearsal Studio, and an additional Music Therapy Studio.



JOIN THE MCW FAMILY AND
EXPERIENCE THE TRANSFORMATIVE
POWER OF MUSIC!



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