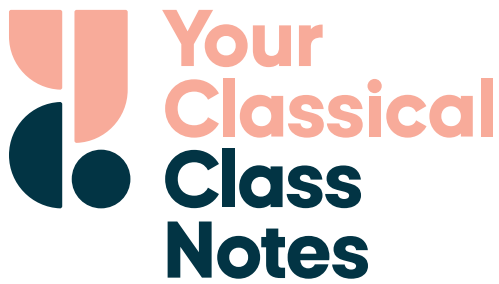




Teaching Artist Directory *2026-2027*





Hello, Teachers!

For more than a decade, Minnesota Public Radio's Class Notes program has served teachers and students in Minnesota schools and beyond. Through live, in-person concerts in schools around the state and via the lesson library at classnotes.org, we provide free, high-quality music education resources for you and your students.

Each year, the Class Notes team assembles a roster of musicians to perform concerts in schools. Many considerations go into assembling our roster, and each year we have more excellent applicants than we have roster spots. With this in mind, we have decided to compile an annual Teaching Artist Directory!

We simply put out a call to folks who love performing in schools and asked them to share a little bit about themselves and their work. Maybe you are looking for something specific for your classroom- we hope you will find what you are looking for in this directory. We figured we'd save teachers an extra step by gathering as much good information in one place.

Please note this is different than the Class Notes Concert Artist Menu we publish each fall on classnotes.org, though some of the artists on our roster in any given year may also be included in this directory. For one thing, if you arrange a concert directly with these artists, it would not be free, like Class Notes Concerts. But- 100% of the concert fee goes straight to the artist, no middleman, no overhead. If you want to book one of these folks, please contact them directly, arrange logistics and fees, and enjoy their great work.

Thank you for your partnership in bringing music to the lives of students across the state.

Katie Condon

Education Manager, Class Notes

Class Notes is grateful for several generous sources of funding, including:

- The Minnesota Legacy Amendment's Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund
- Mahle Family Foundation
- Margaret H. & James E. Kelley Foundation
- Anna M. Heilmaier Foundation
- Shari Boehnen
- The Peter O. Stahl Classically Training Endowed Fund
- Lily Weinshilbourn Classical Music Endowed Fund
- The Members of Minnesota Public Radio



4 Low Pitches

4 Low Pitches Bass Clarinet Quartet performs an energetic and interactive program for students of all ages. Their program includes pieces from many genres of music including classical, jazz, and folk which inspire and allow for creative input from their audience. Highlights include arrangements of Molly on the Shore (Floor), Clarinet Polka, and Blue Skies. Students will participate in elements of music and a “compose a piece with us” format to help instill a sense of curiosity and accomplishment for all aspects of music. Have them out to your school for an exciting event featuring the unusual combination of four bass clarinets.

Biography:

The Twin Cities-based 4 Low Pitches Bass Clarinet Quartet has two missions: bringing music of diverse composers and arrangers into the spotlight and highlighting the beauty and flexibility of the bass clarinet. Julia Heinen, Melissa Morales, Stacie Traill, and Colleen White formed this unique and exciting ensemble in 2024. These four virtuoso women clarinetists perform as soloists, chamber musicians and orchestral players globally and strive to make the world of music accessible to all. Their programming includes music from many genres presented in entertaining and captivating experiences leaving their listeners smiling throughout their performances. Their enthusiasm for pursuing new ways to explore the vast collaborative ways clarinetists can connect with each other and the community is infectious. Come and join them for any of their events!

**For more information or to book a concert, contact Julia Heinen |
Julia.heinen@csun.edu | (818) 613-4305**



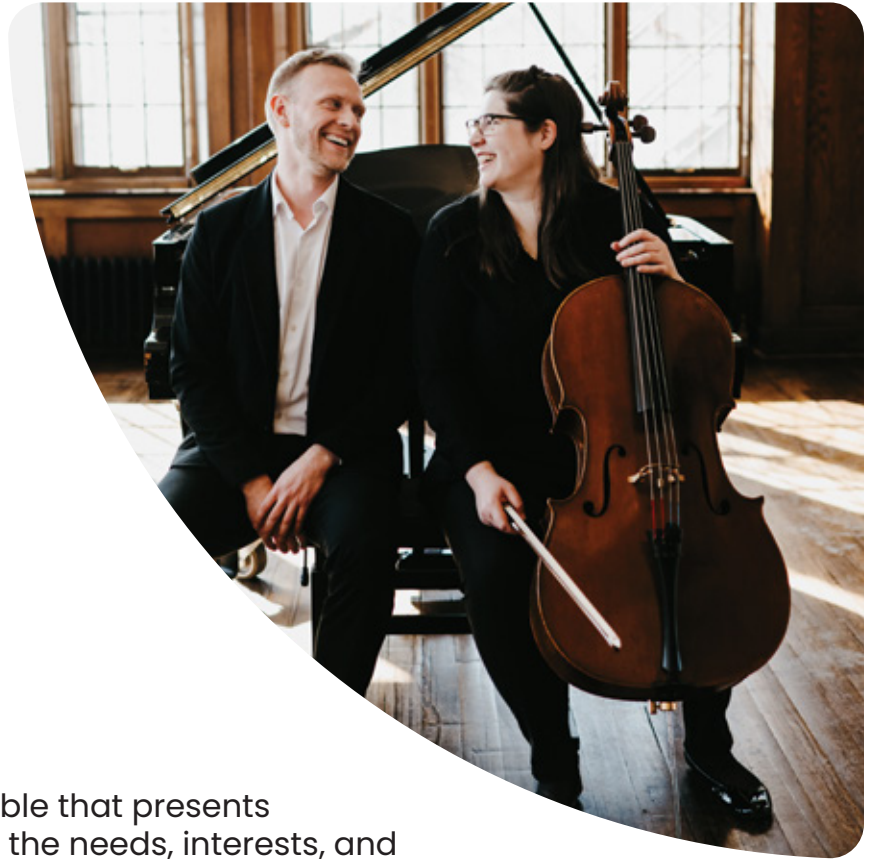
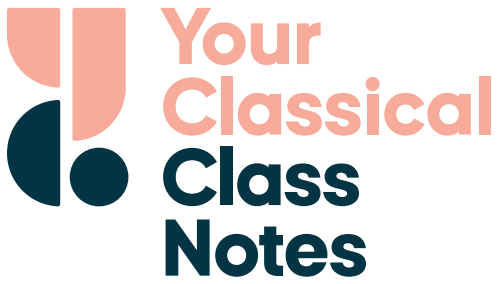
Alma Brasileira

Alma Brasileira is formed by recorder virtuoso Clea Galhano from Brazil and guitarist/composer/arranger Joan Griffith, a Brazilian music specialist.

They will perform and teach folk traditions of Brazilian music, showcasing different styles with beautiful melodies and danceable rhythms from Africa.

Their repertoire includes works from classic Brazilian songwriters, Waldir Azevedo, Ary Baroso, Pixinguinha, and Minnesota's own Joan Griffith.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Clea Galhano | cleagalhano@gmail.com | (651) 7557682
Joan Griffith | joanegriffith@icloud.com | (612) 810-2228



Artu Duo

Artu Duo is a cello and piano ensemble that presents educational concerts customized to the needs, interests, and developmental stages of students across Minnesota. We work closely with teachers to align with the learning goals in their classrooms. Past programs have focused on musical form, celebrating Beethoven, how music tells a story, and the music of Black composers.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Ruth Marshall | ruth.marshall@gmail.com | (206) 898-5110)





Bach Society of MN

A Monarch's Journey

Created by Gabby Doran. Presented and performed by the Bach Society of Minnesota.

Follow the adventures of a monarch butterfly as she undertakes the journey of her lifetime: migration from Minnesota to Mexico – and back again! This innovative show weaves story and song to showcase the scientific wonder of butterfly migration, set within a tale of friendship, love, and determination. Audiences will experience music from a diverse range of genres and eras, from Mozart and Mendelssohn (all sung in English) to Jack White and Kate Bush. This is a classroom version of a full-length theatrical work that premiered in Minneapolis in July of 2025.

Topics from science, nature, and ecology are presented in ways suitable for students of all ages, especially elementary and middle school. Musical elements are fun and accessible to all but also sophisticated enough for high schoolers exploring music history and composers from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and modern eras.

**For more information or to book a concert, contact
Yunyue Liu | yunyue.liu2@bachsocietymn.org | (612) 440-6219**



Early Childhood Music with Amanda Breininger

I create one-time musical events and short-term teaching residencies for early childhood, Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade students, including ECSE, ASD, and DCD classrooms. The goal of these sessions is to create engaging musical activities that support specific learning goals, including: Literacy, SEL, community development, brain development and executive function skills, and strategies for calm classrooms. I can custom create curriculum for your needs.

Sessions include live music (guitar, ukulele, dulcimer, percussion), classroom percussion instruments for students to play, musical stories, and a variety of movement activities.

I have 18 years of experience at MacPhail Center for Music working with infants through early elementary students and have partnered with many organizations including: Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools, multiple private schools, Way to Grow, The Jeremiah Program, among others. I also host and teach for the Minnesota Orchestra's Kinder Konzerts program.

**For more information or to book a concert, contact
akbreininger@gmail.com | (612) 670-2418**



Nyttu Chongo

Nyttu Chongo's classroom workshops introduce young musicians to the diverse world of traditional Sub-Saharan African instruments, their sounds, and histories. His repertoire may include any of the following instruments: the Inanga (Rwanda and Burundi), Mbira (Zimbabwe and Mozambique), Chopi Timbila, Xitende, Xipendane, Xigovinya, Xizambe, and/or Pwangué (Mozambique). Specific instruments may be featured upon request. Chongo provides a hands-on, tactile experience of African rhythm, sound, and tone that includes a performance and age-appropriate explanation of the origins and fabrication of the instruments shared. His workshops aim to:

- Expose youth to the unique sounds of instruments from sub-Saharan Africa
- Expand student interest in learning about other cultures and languages
- Energize and excite students to explore their own creativity and ability to create sound and explore movement

The learning objectives and specific musical concepts featured in Chongo's workshops include:

- Improvisation and musical composition approaches based in call-and-response
- Learning the names, characteristics, and origins of each instrument presented

**For more information or to book a concert, contact
nyttuc@gmail.com | (952) 240-9189**

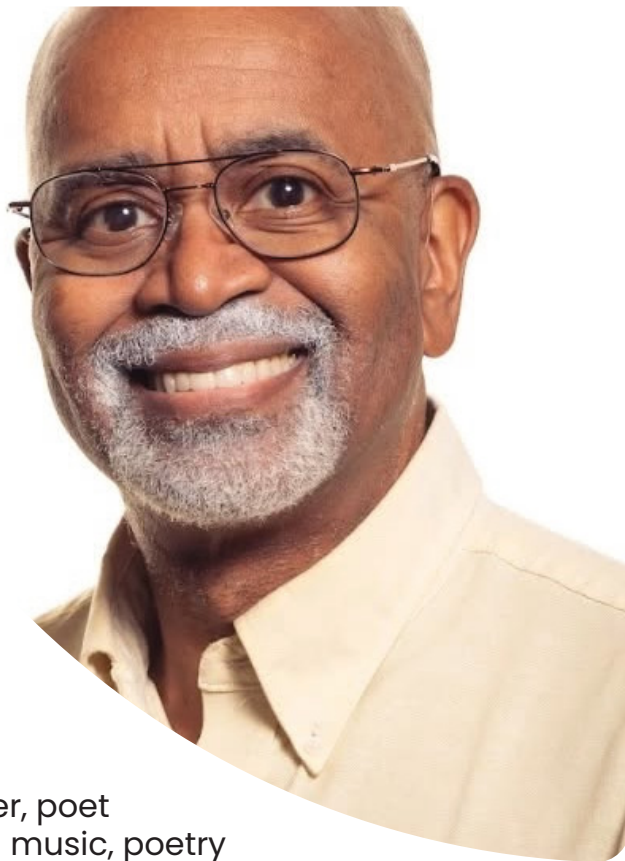


Copper Street Brass

The mission of the CSB is to represent the Evolution of the Brass Quintet. Through inventive concerts, engaging educational programs, and original musical arrangements, we bring a fresh perspective to instrumental music. To express our artistic voice, we use a dazzling fusion of brass, keyboard, guitar, percussion, and electronic instruments to appeal to a universal audience and go beyond ordinary.

We pride ourselves on making our programs fun and educational for every student in the room. We perform all of our music from memory, allowing us to move and interact with your students, whether it's five students in a practice room or 500 kids in a school gymnasium. Our setup needs are simple - often just a microphone to speak to large groups if we are in a gym or large auditorium - and we will work closely with you to align our educational focus with your current lesson plans. With over 450 educational presentations under our belt from kindergarten through college we have the experience to adapt to any classroom scenario and can assure you that we will be easy for you to work with.

**For more information or to book a concert, contact
Alex Wolff | alex@copperstreetbrass.org | (701) 426-0876**



Michael Davis

Michael Davis is an award-winning flutist, composer, poet and teacher in the Twin Cities. He performs original music, poetry and his own arrangements on various flutes (silver, cedar, and bamboo) as well as the electronic wind instrument (EWI).

His music includes classical style solo pieces and pieces accompanied by his own electronic tracks. The 30–60-minute interactive presentations explore the nature of music, the various ways it can be created, and what defines a musician. Topics can be structured to fit audiences of varying ages and diverse demographics. Smaller audiences (under 50 people) preferred.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
michael.davis@vcfa.edu | www.mikedflute.com | (651)283-9085



DYNO Woodwind Quintet

DYNO Woodwind Quintet is a Minnesota-based ensemble formed two years ago by graduate-level woodwind performers at the University of Minnesota who share a commitment to artistic excellence, chamber music collaboration, and music education. Since its formation, the ensemble has maintained a consistent rehearsal schedule, rehearsing twice weekly to develop ensemble cohesion, refine repertoire, and deepen artistic collaboration.

DYNO works regularly under the guidance of Sangyoon Kim, Principal Clarinet of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. His mentorship has helped shape the ensemble's communication, artistic refinement, and educational presentation approach.

The ensemble performs repertoire spanning traditional woodwind quintet literature, contemporary works, and culturally diverse compositions. In addition to formal performances, DYNO is deeply committed to educational outreach and community engagement, aiming to make classical music accessible, interactive, and inspiring audiences of all ages.

**For more information or to book a concert, contact
Xujing Yao | xujingyao98@gmail.com | (443) 301-6199**



The EQ Flutist

Enhancing Emotional Intelligence through Music™

Emotions are neither right nor wrong, neither good nor bad. They are a gauge and have a direct impact on our thoughts and subsequent actions and behaviors.

This project is designed to help audience members learn to name their emotions using the safety and context of music. The program is tailored to evoke an emotional response, using interactive and engaging techniques for audience members. Printouts are provided to help people name what they are experiencing. A multicolored pencil is provided as an additional resource for exploring emotions through color. Instructions are provided from the performer to aid and educate the audience in this immersive experience. The program concludes with a piece designed to fill the listeners with joy and peace.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
theEQflutist@gmail.com | Sandra Sheih | (763) 228-4702



Flipside Percussion

Flipside Percussion features Steve Roehm (vibraphone), and Erik Schee (marimba). Their musical backgrounds include orchestral percussion, jazz combos, and rock drum set.

Flipside Percussion presents a wide range of musical styles with a focus and emphasis on improvisation. In their Class Notes Concert, Flipside Percussion will play original tunes and identify and explain their instruments. They will also introduce the concept of improvisation and explain how they work together to improvise.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Erik Schee | erikschee@gmail.com



Amanda Grace

I am a singer-songwriter, voice over talent and teaching artist based in Winona, Minnesota. I would like to offer my songwriting classes as an option to be considered in your classrooms. I have been teaching my songwriting class, "Titles That Tear It Up" for over a decade within the state, in both school and community programs.

My one-hour class includes students working as a team to create catchy song titles and then work as 'lyricists' to help me (I create the music) write a song based on the title. If all goes as it should, we are able to create a new song that can be then recorded on my device, bounced to a MP3 and then emailed to the students after the class is completed.

Some important literary devices we use include: alliteration, urgency/time crunch, internal rhymes, and believability. I enjoy working with students of ages 8 and up for this with typically less than 25 students per class.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Amandasakom@gmail.com | (507) 313-1990
<https://musicbyamandagrace.com>



Nate Hance

I'm a full-time pianist based in the Twin Cities. My school programs are built around making challenges fun.

I solve musical puzzles live, in front of students. Cramming every Encanto hit into a two-minute medley. Mashing Super Mario with Canon in D. Turning a video game theme into a ragtime piece. Playing a classical piece upside down and backwards.

Each one is a real challenge with a real solution, and watching it happen makes kids want to try something hard themselves.

Then they do. Students shout out an animal and an action, and we build an original song on the spot. Low rumbling notes for a stomping dinosaur, high fluttering ones for a buzzing bee. Years of piano lessons not required. They just made something.

Programs range from 45-minute performances to multi-day residencies, customized for elementary through high school. Video examples and testimonials at natehance.com/schools.

**For more information or to book a concert, contact
nate@natehance.com | (701) 240-2450**



Havana Quartet

Havana Quartet is a Cuban string quartet based in Minnesota that blends classical music with Cuban and Caribbean styles. Our performances are interactive and educational, introducing students to string instruments, rhythm, and cultural traditions through live music and audience participation. We combine classical repertoire with Cuban popular music and elements of improvisation to create an engaging and dynamic experience.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
contact@havanaquartet.com | (651) 273-5054,
<https://www.cayomusic.org/havana-quartet-epk-1>



Heartstrings

Julia & Joe Peterson are a multi-instrumental duet based in Milaca, MN. They play a wide variety of styles, including classical, jazz, blues, rock, country, world beat, reggae, folk, and more. As Heartstrings, they primarily play American folk music, also known as roots music. In their Class Notes Concert, Heartstrings will play several instruments, including cello, guitar, harmonica, mandolin, violin, and piano/keyboard.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
heartstringsmpls@gmail.com | (612) 205-3076



Julie Johnson

Julie Johnson performs original arrangements of folk songs from all over the world on amplified flute, bass flute, and live looping & effects pedals. Using extended techniques and incorporating technology typically associated with electric guitar, she performs arrangements that sound like an orchestra of instruments (percussion, electric guitar, bass, plucked strings, woodwinds). Repertoire includes Ukrainian dances, waltzes and tangos from South America, Irish airs and jigs, Metis fiddle tunes, Finnish folk tunes, and blues/folk tunes by Leadbelly, Willie Dixon, and Howlin' Wolf.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
flutemonster98@gmail.com | (612) 275-7335 | <https://julieflute.net/>



Known MPLS

Known MPLS is a dynamic youth and young-adult choir based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, powered by Voicez Inc. Founded and directed by Courtland Pickens, the group blends gospel, R&B, and contemporary artistry to create a sound that is powerful, energetic, and unforgettable on stage. More than a choir, Known MPLS is a creative family where young people find their voice, build confidence, and experience belonging through music and mentorship.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Shamari Morgan | Booking Manager | (763) 222-7273
booking@knownmpls.com



Nickolai Kolarov

Dr. Nickolai Kolarov has ample experience teaching students of all ages as he frequently goes to K-12 public schools teaching music bands and orchestras, working with small group ensembles, giving private lessons to students of string instruments. He is teaching a Balkan Folk Music Ensemble at Augsburg University. He offers students the experience of a classical instrument such as cello; of traditional Balkan folk music; and a comparison between the two. He can focus on the way the cello is applied, how it carries out melodic lines and technical passages in traditional folk and classical style. Depending on the students' needs, he can also teach about Balkan (Bulgarian, Turkish, Serbian, Romanian, Greek and Romani) traditional music.

Dr. Kolarov is a concert cellist and educator with extensive expertise in Balkan music. He is a founding member of two Balkan music ensembles and hosts a Balkan folk music radio show.

**For more information or to book a concert, contact
nickk@bibach.org | (651) 592-1315**



Lake Minnetonka String Quintet

The Lake Minnetonka String Quintet presents interactive educational performances designed to inspire young audiences to embrace music-making. Comprised of two violins, a viola, a cello, and a bass, this dynamic ensemble of five lifelong friends demonstrates their shared passion for music through an engaging classical-to-pop crossover experience. The LMSQuintet can also provide sectional and coaching sessions for schools with existing string programs.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
David Block, violin | (216) 798-2634 | LMSQuintetMN@gmail.com,
<https://www.lakeminnetonkstringquartet.com/lake-minnetonka-string-quintet>



Charles Lazarus

Charles Lazarus will perform a variety of original music with electronic tracks inspired by dance rhythms from all around the world. This will be followed by an interactive jam session with students where they can participate in call and response and learn about improvisation. The event will include tips on musical fundamentals, how to practice, and the overall life benefits of being involved in music. Ensemble coaching and sectionals can also be included upon request.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
ChuckLazarus@mac.com | (612) 790-5020



Gaelynn Lea

Gaelynn Lea is a violinist, songwriter, and disability advocate who won NPR's Tiny Desk Contest in 2016. During her program, students will listen and respond to traditional fiddle tunes and her original music, including a sing-along! She will discuss adapting her style of playing the violin due to her disability, how traditional fiddle music was played at dances before recorded music existed, how fiddle tunes are passed down by ear, how live looping works, and how listening to music and songwriting help us to experience our emotions in a healthy way. Gaelynn believes anyone can become a songwriter if they just capture their creative ideas when they happen.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
management@gaelynnlea.com | (218) 461-1785
www.violinscratches.com



Soojin Lee

Soojin Lee introduces students to the gayageum, a traditional Korean string instrument, and the rich musical traditions of Korea. Through performance, storytelling, and audience participation, students will explore how music can express emotions, tell stories, and imitate sounds from nature. Students will be invited to sing a Korean folk song, keep a steady beat, and actively participate in guided listening activities.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
camelo77@me.com | (507) 722-5790



Lux String Quartet

Lux String Quartet was founded in 2013 and performs in a wide array of musical spheres, from concert halls and churches to coffee shops and podcasts. Lux performs classical music, but with a focus on 20th and 21st-century repertoire as well as works by living composers. Lux likes to create new experiences for their audiences by choosing composers and pieces that are not frequently played. Dedicated to music education and instilling a love for art in the next generation, Lux presents classroom performances for students of all ages that are interactive, exploratory, and fun.

The members of this creative quartet contribute a wide spectrum of musical perspectives and frequently collaborate with local and international artists such as dancer and choreographer Danielle Ricci. Lux has performed in several prestigious concert series including Schubert Club Courtroom Concerts. Lux is currently quartet-in-residence at the Colorado Chamber Music Institute. In 2025 Lux was awarded First Prize in the Charleston International Music Competition and appeared in the Netflix hit reality series "Love is Blind".

**For more information or to book a concert, contact
Stephanie Skor | skormo4@aol.com | (612) 237-1690**



Makam Baklava

Makam Baklava is a Minnesota-based Balkan band, playing truly sweet songs – like their namesake – from that region. With a rotating cast of musicians (bass, cello, clarinet, guitar, oud, percussion, saz, violin, and vocals) Makam Baklava performs Azeri, Bulgarian, Macedonian, and Turkish folk and art songs. The ensemble lives the values of poet Mevlana Celaleddin-i Rumi: "Come join us, whoever you are, you are always welcome here." True to their culture, Makam Baklava has an open-door policy for all musicians and music-lovers, and is on a mission to expose their fellow Minnesotans to the different instruments rhythms, and songs of the region.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Rada Kolarova | radakmusic@gmail.com | (612) 747-0741



The Mirandola Ensemble

The Mirandola [mih-RAN-doh-lah] Ensemble is an early music group, which means they perform music from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque eras. They also perform contemporary music, some written right here in Minnesota, as well as music from non-Western traditions. They usually perform a cappella, without instrumental accompaniment. They often include repertoire from around the world and often sing in many different languages.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Nick Chalmers | nick.c.chalmers@gmail.com | (612) 889-8960



Osip Nikiforov

Solo and Chamber music pianist

For more information or to book a concert, contact
nikif004@gmail.com | (612) 227-5934



Nordic Gael

Minnesota's folk duo celebrating traditional Scandinavian and Scottish music heritage. With nyckelharpa, wooden flutes, säckpipa, smallpipes, and song, Nordic Gael brings together two northern musical traditions both rooted in history yet distinctly regional.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Renee Vaughan | renee.vaughan@gmail.com | (651) 295-4200
Laura Mackenzie | laura@lauramackenzie.com | (651) 398-5055



The OK Factor

Harald and His Headphones

"Harald and His Headphones" is an original story written by Olivia Diercks and Karla Peters of new-classical crossover duo, The OK Factor. The story follows a young boy named Harald, as he listens to various pieces of music through his headphones (performed live by The OK Factor), and processes the way the music makes him feel. The story engages students in an exciting social-emotional learning adventure, inviting them to explore how music and their emotions might affect one another, and includes original artwork and active listening exercises. Ideal audience: TK - 4th grade

For more information or to book a concert, contact
theokfactor@gmail.com | O: (319) 830-9220 | K: (678) 591-9019



An Opera Theatre

An Opera Theatre's "Opera Immersion" believes in uplifting the next generation through confidence in authentic self-expression, empathy in storytelling, and collaboration through art-making.

In our weeklong residencies, we use storytelling and the creative process to showcase professional collaboration and uplift emotional self-expression to youth ages 14-18.

Our current Education Partners include Gordon Parks High School, South High School, and Lions Gate Academy.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Kelly Turpin | kelly@anoperatheatre.org



The Paper Clips

The Paper Clips are a trombone quartet based in Minneapolis, MN, dedicated to connecting the threads of classical and contemporary music in fun, engaging, and informative performances for audiences of all ages. Their current program highlights exciting new music for trombone quartet from a diverse selection of modern composers. Out now – stream the debut album “Motown Trombone Sound” on all platforms!

The Paper Clips are available for 30–90 minute performances

Geographic Range – Greater Twin Cities Metro Area (90 minute radius) – Upper Midwest (support required)

Recommended Audience – all ages – educational programming available for all ages

Suggested Venue – indoor 50–350, seated – outdoor any size with sound support, weather permitting

Booking Contact – Ben Bussey – paperclipstrombonequartet@gmail.com – (612) 209–2908

Media

- Motown Trombone Sound – Spotify – Apple Music – Youtube – Amazon
- Live video – Ain’t Too Proud to Beg – Please Mr Postman/Feel it Still – Ory’s Creole Trombone – Washington Post – Crespo “Bruckner Etude” – Raum “Diversions” – Stephenson “Fanfare for an Angel”
- Print Promotion – hi res photo – group resume – member bios
- Website – <https://paperclipstrombonequartet.com/>
- Instagram – @the_paper_clips
- Facebook – @paperclipstrombonequartet



Siama's Congo Roots

Join us on an uplifting and engaging musical journey to Siama's hometown in rural DR Congo. Siama plays guitar, balafon (marimba) & thumb piano as Dallas plays hand percussion & encourages everyone to sing along to catchy songs with African vocal styles like layering, repeating, yodeling & call-and-response. Students learn a lot while experiencing another culture, and the program ends with a celebratory dance party.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
www.SiamaMusic.com | dallasjohnsonmusic@gmail.com



Skyspiders and the Imperceptible Web

Skyspiders and the Imperceptible Web is an imaginative folk/hip hop duo that weave together haunting harmonies and monster beats through live production and looping. Local hip hop artist SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE and folk songwriter Kat Parent draw on legacies of protest songs, surrealist play and spooky folklore to create performances that inspire catharsis and creativity.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Contact Kat at skyspidersfly@gmail.com | (763) 498-2878



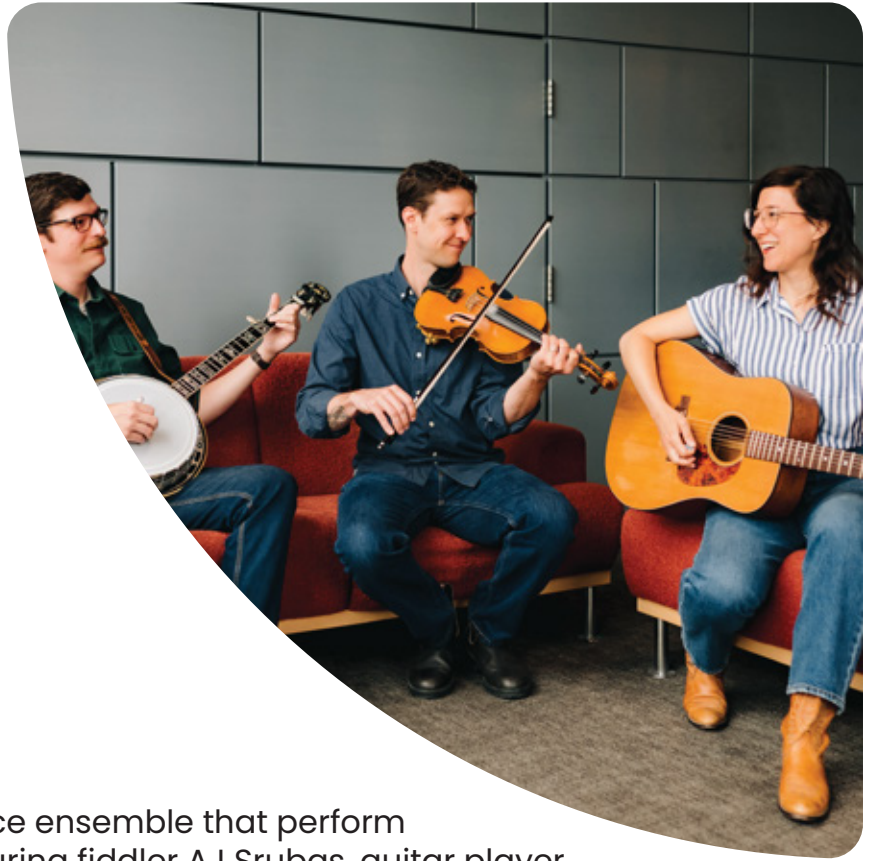
Son de Cuerdas

Son de Cuerdas are a flute, cello, harp and piano ensemble, presenting classical and popular music from Latin American. Established in 2023, the Latin American ensemble Son de Cuerdas engages multicultural communities through performances, workshops, and collaborations in Minnesota. They partner with organizations such as the Great Twin Cities Youth Symphony, Laurel School of Music, and YourClassical MPR's Class Notes, bringing bilingual programming to schools and community centers across the state.

Son de Cuerdas' repertoire spans work by both established and underrepresented Latin American composers. Their audiences include students, educators, families, and community elders, with a particular emphasis on communities that see their cultural identity reflected in the ensemble's work.

Program description: The ensemble's repertoire explores different musical traditions of various countries in Latin America, especially selecting songs and/or pieces that are well known. Audiences will learn how the sound of each instrument is produced and what musical role it plays in the ensemble. Son de Cuerdas will also demonstrate musical concepts such as rhythm, dynamics, and the relationship between music and emotions. The ensemble is available to give bilingual concerts in Spanish and English.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
son.de.cuerdas@laurelschoolofmusic.org | phone of Amos Lucidi
(pianist of the ensemble) (651) 757-6940



Steam Machine

Steam Machine is a music and dance ensemble that perform old-time and bluegrass music, featuring fiddler AJ Srubas, guitar player Rina Rossi, and banjo player David Robinson. Their focus is primarily instrumental old-time music from the midwestern United States.

Steam Machine will describe cultural uses of music from different time periods and places. They will also teach fundamental music concepts like steady beat, pattern identification, and noticing/defining expressive elements in a musical performance. Steam Machine will help students generate musical ideas using a limited set of rhythms or pitches. Students will have opportunities for movement while listening to and interacting with a variety of music.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
steammachinebooking@gmail.com | (651) 261-0728



Ken Takata Ensemble

We have four different lesson plans.

Musical Settings for Shakespeare.

This program uses music to address practical staging problems that productions of Shakespeare's plays need to solve. One major staging problem concerns increasing gender parity in staging the plays. This project also addresses ways to read the plays in an interdisciplinary way.

Polyrhythms & Hemiola.

We have several lesson plans illustrating polyrhythms, hemiolas, and their relation to counterpoint. Lessons include identification of these and instruction on how to produce them.

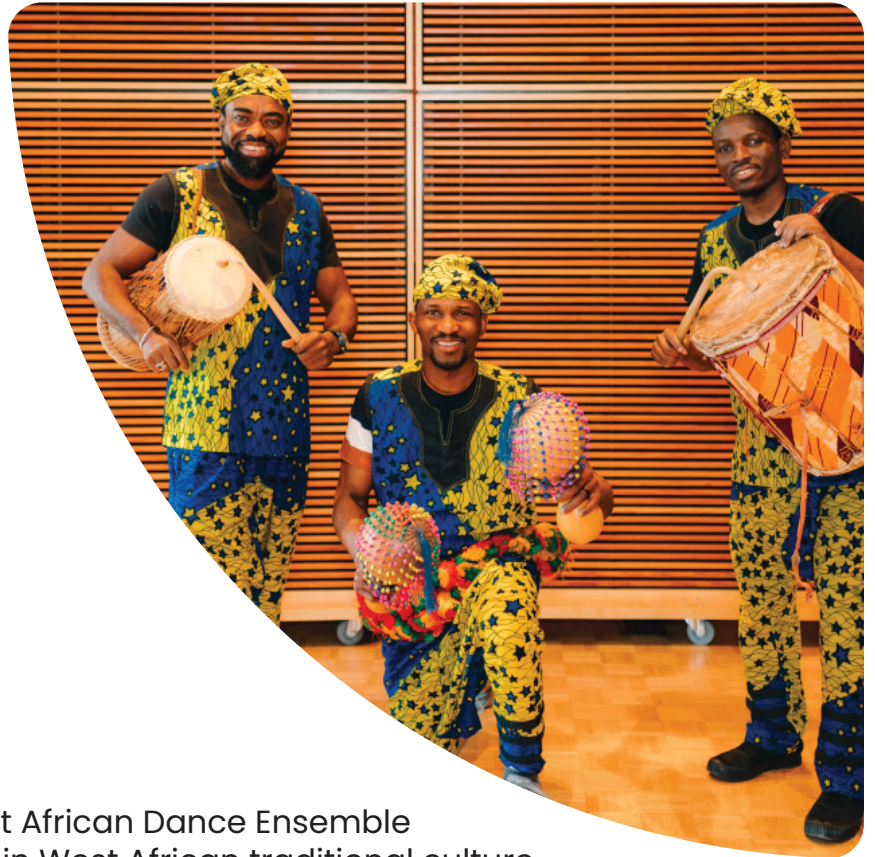
The Great American Songbook.

There is a lesson on the Great American Songbook and the AABA form with examples from the Songbook as well as newer compositions that show how one may need to bend the lyrics to fit the AABA form.

Jazz Improvisation.

We have several lesson plans on Barry Harris' harmonic systems for improvising jazz.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Jazzstandards2@gmail.com | (708) 305-4182 | <https://kentakata.com>



Titambe

Titambe are a powerful, vibrant West African Dance Ensemble based in Minnesota. They specialize in West African traditional culture and aesthetic, educational and professional presentation of dance, music, instruments, and folklore.

For more information or to book a concert, contact
www.titambewestafricandance.com | (651) 558-8964
titambedanceensemble@gmail.com



U Can Jug or Nots

The band's core belief is that music should be accessible to anyone regardless of their skill level or financial means. U CAN make music and have fun! We are passionate about the preservation of the genre, and knowledge that inexpensive instruments, toys and household objects can make wonderful music. Ensemble members have vast experience as teachers, facilitators, parents/grandparents.

The U Cans can design an event for your needs: participatory, historical, holiday & environment themes to name a few.

Jug Band music is uniquely American and originated in the southern United States in the 1920s and 30s (earliest recording credits to Louisville and Birmingham). Jug band music had a revival in the 1960s that continues to sputter along. The original musicians were typically urban, poor African Americans – having very limited means. The combination of cheap and homemade instruments is a salute to the creativity and resourcefulness of those early musicians and falls into today's themes of environmental concerns, encouraging the fun of re-using and re-purposing whatever is on hand. The historical component is significant in our presentations, and patter is often drawn from "this day in history..." The U Cans generally stay true to the era, play authentic jug band songs, some original songs as well as a few "newer" songs that sound like they could be from that era, all played in "jug style." Jug band music is often credited for the earliest roots of blues, jazz, and even rock and roll.

Awards & Performances: the U Cans formed in late 2013, and won the Duluth Battle of the Jug Bands in 2014. Since then, they've won the Duluth Battle two more times, and were awarded first runner up twice. The U Cans have also been first runner up twice at the Minneapolis Battle of the Jug Bands. The U Cans have presented workshops and performed at ukulele music festivals in Minnesota, as well as many performances at senior communities, farmers/vintage markets, churches, in addition to a wide variety of venues and occasions. We'd love to hear your ideas!

**For more information or to book a concert, contact
Cid Skaalrud | cskaalrud@ymail.com | (612) 559-5727 (texts accepted)
Please Note: Our fees are very flexible and affordable.**



Wood n' Wind

Our program for young children focuses on three main areas:

- **Instrument Education:** Teaching how the flute and bass produce sound, their respective ranges, various techniques, and how the two instruments blend.
- **Imagination & Listening:** Prompting students to visualize stories or emotions while listening. We lead group discussions following pieces, progressing from accessible to more abstract works.
- **Communication:** Demonstrating the importance of non-verbal communication, specifically how chamber musicians watch and listen to one another to play in unison.

For older or more advanced students, we cover complex topics including:

- Distinctive musical styles and the roles of the flute and bass within them.
- Insights into professional careers in music (tailored for advanced high school students).

Repertoire Examples:

- Classical: *Romanian Dances* by Bartók (arr. Higgins); *Rhumboid* by Timothy Goperlund, *Suite for Flute and Bass* by Yusef Lateef, "The Elephant" from *Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saëns
- Jazz: *Autumn Leaves*, *My Funny Valentine*, *Body and Soul*, *Beautiful Love*

For more information or to book a concert, contact
Jason Wells: Jason.L.Wells.Music@gmail.com | (248) 420-7700
Karen Baumgartner: krbaum93@gmail.com | (651) 366-7484