



2016-2017 Program Newsletter

November 17, 2016

GIVING TUESDAY



SAVE THE DATE!
November 29, 2016
#GIVINGTUESDAY™

- BLACK FRIDAY**
- SHOP LOCAL SATURDAY**
- CYBER MONDAY**
- GIVING TUESDAY- 11/29**
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Merit Closed for Thanksgiving Break



Please note the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center will be closed on Thursday, November 24, Friday, November 25 and Saturday, November 26 for the Thanksgiving weekend.

Normal building hours will be in affect (8:00 am - 9:00 pm) for Monday - Wednesday (Nov. 21, 22 & 23). Standard hours will also be in effect for Sunday, November 27 (9:00 am - 1:00 pm).

Student Accomplishments

Congratulations to vocal jazz student, **Kopano Muhammad**. Kopano, a student of Jade

MERIT APPOINTS STEVEN BERRY AS DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

This week Merit announced the hiring of Steven Berry to the position of Director of Development. Steven will join Merit on January 23 after serving as Senior Director for Development at The Green Music Center (GMC) in Sonoma County, California for the past two years. At GMC he served as the



Center's first chief development officer, and oversaw a rebuilding of the organization's fundraising systems and staff. Before his time in California, Steven held important roles across Chicago's philanthropic community, including as owner and director of his own development consulting firm, as well as through leadership positions with The Art Institute of Chicago, The University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Special thanks to Rita McLennon for her five years of dedicated service to Merit as Director of Development, and for her continued commitment to our mission, students and families during this transition period.

[To read the complete announcement and learn more about Steven click here.](#)

MERIT'S ANNUAL WINTER DONATION DRIVE!

This year Merit is collecting new or gently used books, CDs, DVDs and E-readers for [Open Books](#), a nonprofit social venture based in our West Loop neighborhood that provides literacy experiences for thousands of Chicago readers each year through inspiring programs!



The drive will be held from **December 1- December 22** and all items can be dropped off in the **Main Lobby of Merit School of Music**.

MERIT PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

Saturday, November 19 | 10:00 am

The Merit Parent Association will hold its next meeting on Saturday, November 19 at 10:00 am. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at Merit's Joy Faith Knapp Music Center. We encourage all parents to attend.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Winter Session Registration is Open!

Maze, has been named a 2017 National YoungArts Foundation Merit winner in Jazz Voice.

This year's YoungArts winners include 691 of the nation's most promising young artists in the literary, visual, design and performing arts. Selected from the largest pool of applicants to date, and representing artists from 40 states, YoungArts Winners receive cash awards of up to \$10,000, mentorship and training from acclaimed artists, opportunities to participate in YoungArts programs, and guidance in taking important steps toward achieving their artistic goals.



Congratulations to flute student, **Natasha Kozintseva**, who won first place in the Chicago Flute Club Junior Division Flute Competition on November 6, 2016. She is a private lesson student of Susan Crandall.

Merit Faculty Selected for WFMT In Residence Program

Merit faculty members **Ben Weber** and **Hope Shepherd** along with their respective performance ensembles who have been named Artists in Residence for [WFMT 98.7 fm](#). The two local ensembles, the KAIA String Quartet and the Kontras Quartet, were selected out of 65 groups and individuals for WFMT's new In Residence program. Each group will have a three-month residency in 2017 during which they'll perform, curate, and

Visit our [website](#) or Student Services to enroll in your next class. Winter Session classes begin the week of January 9th.

Monday, November 21 - Sunday, November 27

- No Classes during Merit's Thanksgiving Break
- Classes will resume Monday, November 28

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL MUSIC

General questions about the Instrumental & Vocal Music program? [Click here to view the Instrumental & Vocal Music Prezi](#), which includes information about expectations for students and parents, concert dress requirements, and important dates.

Monday, November 21 - Sunday, November 27

- No Classes during Merit's Thanksgiving Break
- Classes will resume Monday, November 28

PRIVATE LESSONS

Thursday, November 24 - Sunday, November 27

- No Classes during Merit's Thanksgiving Break
- Classes will resume Monday, November 28

ALICE S. PFAELZER TUITION-FREE CONSERVATORY

General questions about the Conservatory? [Click here to view the Conservatory Prezi](#), which includes information about expectations for students and parents, concert dress requirements, and important dates.

Saturday, November 19

11:50 am = Live from Gottlieb (Anne & Howard Gottlieb Hall)
Guests: Sinfonietta PIE

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Auditions

- Patrick Neuman, the representative from Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, will be at Merit to hear students audition for Blue Lake scholarships.
- Students who signed up for these auditions on November 12 received a confirmation email with their audition time on November 15.

Saturday, November 26

- No Classes due to Merit's Thanksgiving Break
- Conservatory classes resume Saturday, December 3

expose audiences to new ways of thinking about classical music on all of WFMT's platforms, including WFMT.com, 98.7FM, and social media. At Merit Ben is a violin and viola teacher and is the violaist with Kontras Quartet while Hope teaches cello for Merit and is the cellist with KAIA String Quartet.

Library Notes

We are excited to welcome **Annaeka Johnson** as our new Librarian! You may have already met her previously as our Library Assistant, but if you have not, feel free to stop by the Library to introduce yourself! Annaeka is available during open Library hours for any of your instrument rental and resource needs, but she is also available by appointment as needed. Feel free to contact her at ajohnson@meritmusic.org or at 312-676-3694 to set up an appointment or if you have any questions or concerns. Welcome to the team, Annaeka!

Hours

Monday
Closed
Tuesday - Thursday
4:00 - 7:00 pm
Friday
By appointment only
Saturday
9:00 am - Noon
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Sunday
Closed

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