



2016-2017 Program Newsletter

Sept. 1, 2016

MERIT FACULTY & STAFF PREPARE FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR



On Tuesday, August 23, Merit faculty and staff met for the annual Faculty Meeting in preparation of the new school year. Everyone is excited to welcome the students back in a few short weeks!

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Good luck to Conservatory Vocal Jazz student, **Kopano Muhammad**, who will perform the National Anthem at Pritzker Pavillion in Millenium Park for the Chicago Jazz Festival on Friday, September 2 at 5:00 pm.

Congratulations to **Sheila Esquivel**, violin, who was offered a seat in the El Sistema Take a Stand seminario at Bard College in New York. She will work in an orchestra conducted by Phill Bravo in association with L.A. Philharmonic. Sheila is a student of Monica Lugo and a member of the Alice S. Pfaelzer Tuition-free Conservatory.



In This Issue

[Early Childhood](#)

[Instrumental Music](#)

[Private Lessons](#)

[Conservatory](#)

Building Closed Dates

Merit will be closed on **Monday, September 5** in observance of Labor Day.

On **Friday, September 16** Merit will be closed **until 4:00 pm** for the replacement of an HVAC unit. During this time the parking lot and building will be closed and no-one will be allowed into the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center. Private lessons are welcome to resume once the building re-opens at 4:00 pm. Please check directly with your private lesson teacher to confirm your schedule for the day.

Fall Registration

There is still time to register for classes at Merit!

Registration Deadline
September 17

MANDATORY FAMILY MEETINGS

Parents are required to attend the orientation meeting for the program their student is enrolled in.

Conservatory Family Orientation

Saturday, September 10

Noon

Attendees: Parents and students

[More Info.](#)

Conservatory Competitive Chamber Music Family Meeting

Saturday, September 10

1:00 - 1:45 pm

Attendees: Parents and students

[More Info.](#)

New Suzuki-Alegre Strings Parent Training

New Suzuki parents are required to attend two training sessions on their respective scheduled class date during the 2 weeks before classes begin. See below for exact training dates and times:

Monday Classes

Monday, September 12 & 19 = 5:15 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Classes

Wednesday, September 14 & 21 = 5:15 - 6:00 pm

Thursday Classes

Thursday, September 15 & 22 = 5:15 - 6:00 pm

Children should not attend the training session, but a fun musical activity will be available to those who have parents attending. Children are not required to attend this activity. **Parent attendance is required for both dates listed per class;** please contact Strings Program Manager Hilary Butler (312.267.4472 or hbutler@meritmusic.org) to RSVP or for questions.

Instrumental Music Family Meeting

Thursday, September 22

6:00 pm

Attendees: Parents only (*students are welcome to attend if needed but are not required*)

[More info.](#)

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Note: For Conservatory High School Juniors & Seniors only

Saturday, September 17

9:00 am - 2:10 pm

Hosted by Merit's Associate Board, this event will help prepare Conservatory juniors and seniors to continue their musical and personal goals through college and beyond into their careers. Associate Board members have crafted a day of engaging workshops, team building exercises, and opportunities to meet with colleges. Juniors and seniors will select their session preferences through a survey distributed on September 2 via email.

College Fair Attendees:

DePaul University

DePauw University

Lawrence University

Northwestern University

Wheaton College

Financial Aid Deadline

September 30

If documents are submitted after this date, financial aid may be limited.

For questions please contact Student Services by phone at 312.786.9428 or [email](#).

A vertical graphic for Fall Registration. At the top is the Merit School of Music logo. Below it, a calendar-style layout shows dates for August and September. August 8 is marked as 'Priority Registration for continuing students' and August 22 as 'Open Registration for new students'. September 17 is marked as 'Registration deadline' and September 26 as 'Classes and Lessons begin this week'. The text 'Register online at www.meritmusic.org' is at the bottom. A large vertical text 'FALL REGISTRATION' is on the right side. At the bottom, it says 'FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE' and 'meritmusic.org' with social media icons.

Faculty Performances

Merit Faculty member, **Kathleen Carter**, will be performing with pianist Louise Chan on the Dame Myra Hess series on Wednesday, September 7 from 12:15 - 1:00 pm, at the Chicago Cultural Center. It will also be broadcast live on [WFMT 98.7 FM](#). They will perform sonatas by Ravel and Bolcom. [For more information click here.](#)

Shop AmazonSmile & Support Merit

A graphic for AmazonSmile. It features a blue backpack with white polka dots and a small AmazonSmile logo. Text reads: 'Getting ready for Back to School? Support us by shopping at smile.amazon.com. You shop. Amazon gives.' The AmazonSmile logo is at the bottom.

Shopping on Amazon for the Back-To-School

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Monday, September 12

Merit Storytime, 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. (Gottlieb Hall)

- Free and open to the public, bring your friends!
- No registration is required- drop-ins are welcome!
- Open to students 2 years old and up - parent/caregiver attendance required
- Ms. Jan will be hosting in September. Come join her for stories, games and networking!

Saturday, September 17

Fall registration deadline

Week of September 26

Early Childhood classes begin

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Saturday, September 17

Fall registration deadline

Thursday, September 22

6:00 pm = Mandatory Instrumental Music Family Meeting (Gottlieb Hall)

Week of September 26

Instrumental Music classes begin

- Students should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early in order to complete the check-in process and receive their class schedule and room assignment.

New Suzuki Parent Training

New Suzuki parents are required to attend two training sessions on their respective scheduled class date during the 2 weeks before classes begin. See below for exact training dates and times:

Monday Classes

Monday, September 12 & 19 = 5:15 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Classes

Wednesday, September 14 & 21 = 5:15 - 6:00 pm

Thursday Classes

Thursday, September 15 & 22 = 5:15 - 6:00 pm

Children should not attend the training session, but a fun musical activity will be available to those who have parents attending.

Children are not required to attend this activity. **Parent attendance is required for both dates listed per class;** please contact Strings Program Manager Hilary Butler (312.267.4472 or hbutler@meritmusic.org) to RSVP or for questions.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Sunday, September 10

Summer Private Lessons conclude

Monday, September 11 - Sunday, September 25

Summer Private Lesson make-up week

Week of September 26

Season? Don't forget to shop [AmazonSmile](#) and support Merit School of Music! [Click here to shop and support Merit.](#)

Joy Faith Knapp Music Center Hours

Merit's Joy Faith Knapp Music Center summer hours will end on Sunday, September 4. Regular, academic year business hours will begin on Tuesday, September 6 (see below):

Building Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 9:00 pm

Saturday

8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Sunday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Student Services Hours

Summer Hours

Monday - Thursday

Noon - 6:00 pm

Friday

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday

Closed

Fall Hours

(beginning September 26)

Monday - Friday

1:30 - 7:00 pm

Friday

Closed

Saturday

9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Library Hours

Beginning Monday, September 26, the Library will resume normal hours. Please note Saturday hours will resume on September 24 when Conservatory classes begin.

ALICE S. PFAELZER TUITION-FREE CONSERVATORY

Students should receive their 2016-2017 Conservatory schedules via email by the end of the day on September 1. If you have questions or concerns about your schedule please contact the appropriate Program Director.

Brian Beach, Strings & Orchestra Program Director
(bbeach@meritmusic.org)

Melanie Lunardi, Voice & Guitar Program Director
(mlunardi@meritmusic.org)

Logan Massey, Band Program Director
(lmasssey@meritmusic.org)

Amy Riske, Piano Program Director (ariske@meritmusic.org)

Saturday, September 10

Large ensemble rehearsals begin, please check your email for rehearsal schedules

Noon = Conservatory Family Orientation Meeting (Gottlieb Hall)
- Mandatory attendance for all Conservatory students and their parent/guardian

1:00 - 1:45 pm = Conservatory Competitive Chamber Music Family Meeting (Community Room)

3:00 - 4:30 pm = Instrumental Jazz Majors Jam Session (Polk Hall)
- Instrumental jazz majors are required to attend the fall jam session. This jam session is not for students taking jazz ensemble as an elective.

Saturday, September 17

Large ensemble rehearsals continue

9:00 am - 2:10 pm = Leadership Institute
- Open to high school juniors and seniors
- Please check your email for more information and to RSVP

Tuesday, September 20

6:15 - 9:00 pm = Wind Symphony Rehearsals (Gottlieb Hall)
- Weekly rehearsals begin

Saturday, September 24

All Conservatory classes begin

Hours

Tuesday - Thursday
4:00 - 7:00 pm

Friday

By appointment only

Saturday

9:00 am - Noon

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Sunday & Monday

Closed

(open the 1st

Monday of

Instrumental Music
classes from 4:00 -

7:00 pm)

[Merit School of Music](#)

[Make A Payment](#)

[Register For Classes](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Make A Donation](#)