



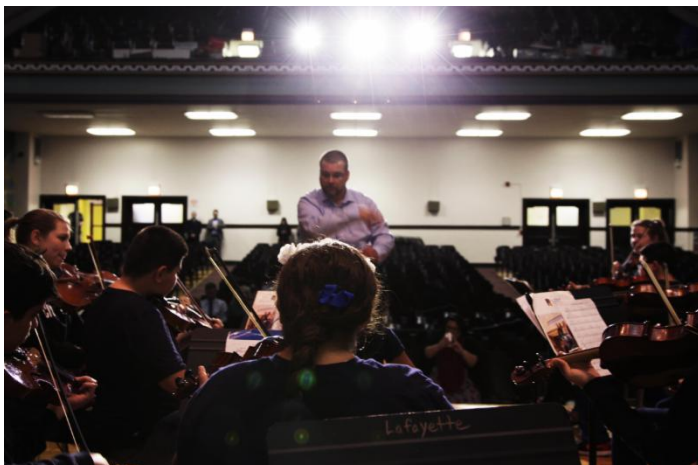
# 2017-2018 Program Newsletter

December 7, 2017

## BACH MARATHON PARTNERSHIP WITH CSO AND CIVIC



On Thursday, November 30, Merit partnered with the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** and **Civic Orchestra of Chicago** for its fourth citywide Bach Marathon celebration, featuring contributions from world-class cellist and music icon Yo-Yo Ma.



Students at six of our partner schools in the *Merit Music in Communities* program were given the opportunity to listen to, ask questions of, and even

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## Conservatory Winter Concerts



### Friday, December 15

7:00 pm (Merit Lobby)

Tuba Christmas

7:30 pm (Gottlieb Hall)

Trombone Choir

Junior Band

Symphonic Band

Wind Symphony

### Saturday, December 16

9:00 am - Jazz Concert (Gottlieb Hall)

Junior Jazz Band

Combo D

Combo C

Concert Jazz Band

Combo B

Honors Jazz Combo

Jazz Ensemble

11:00 am - Instrumental  
Ensembles (Gottlieb Hall)

Percussion

Clarinet

Trumpet

Guitar

play alongside Civic Orchestra pre-professional musicians and learn about Bach's historic, relevant, and beautiful compositions, and a group of lucky young artists at Chopin Elementary in West Town experienced a once-in-a-lifetime rehearsal including Mr. Ma in their ensemble.



The cherry on top of this extraordinary day was the opportunity for ten of Merit's outstanding *Alice S. Pfaelzer Tuition-free Conservatory* string students to perform the entirety of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 to a packed house in the gorgeous sanctuary of Fourth Presbyterian Church, alongside Civic members and Mr. Ma's warmth, encouragement, and talent.



Merit was thrilled to be included in this special day, and we hope to be back next year! For more photos from the marathon, visit the photo album on Merit's [Facebook page](#).

## THE JUJU EXCHANGE BENEFIT CONCERT AT CITY WINERY

Thank you to everyone who joined us at City Winery for The JuJu Exchange Benefit Concert for Merit School of Music on Giving Tuesday, November 28.

Brass Ensemble  
 1:00 pm - Orchestra Concert (Gottlieb Hall)  
 String Orchestra  
 Merit Philharmonic  
 3:30 pm - Voice Ensemble Concert (Gottlieb Hall)  
 Conservatory Choir  
 Vocal Jazz & Contemporary Ensemble  
 Opera & Musical Theater Ensemble

## FREE Fulcrum Point Concert for Merit Families

The 19th Annual Concert for Peace, Centennial Celebration of Lou Harrison

*in partnership with Chicago Balinese Gamelan*



Wednesday, December 20  
 7:00 pm

Merit School of Music  
[Free for ALL Merit Students, Teachers & Parents, click here to RSVP via email](#)

In celebration of the holiday season, Fulcrum Point New Music Project will partner with Chicago Balinese Gamelan to honor American iconoclast composer, Lou Harrison and perform his most beloved works. Composer, environmentalist and gay activist, Lou Harrison (1917 - 2003) is best known for blazing new paths in music by invigorating the Western canon with musical influences from all over the world.

Harrison was heavily influenced by gamelan music; The orchestra of gongs, metallophones, drums and bamboo flutes that make up gamelan music is used in Bali,

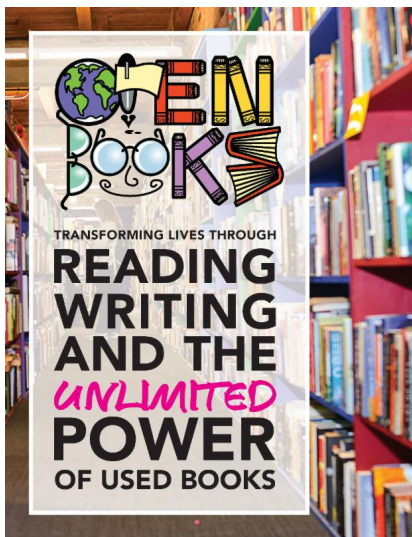




What an amazing evening and performance! It was a pleasure to welcome our 300 attendees and give them the opportunity to hear and enjoy our amazingly talented Merit alums - trumpeter Nico Segal, pianist Julian Reid, drummer Everett Reid, and bassist Lane Beckstrom.

Generosity from the concert attendees and other Merit supporters helped us raise **\$38,000** on Giving Tuesday to remove barriers to music education and transform lives through music. Thank you to our Merit alums for coming back and performing in this special concert!

## HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE AT MERIT



Merit School of Music's annual holiday drive will be a used book drive in partnership with OPEN BOOKS to promote transformative literacy programs for children across Chicago.

Bring your gently used fiction, non-fiction, craftbooks, cookbooks, and more to the lobby of the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center and deposit

them in our drive box during regular building hours.

Merit will be participating until Friday, December 22. We would love your support!

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

**Saturday, December 9**

Ms. Brigid and Ms. Clementina's Saturday Shake, Rattle &

Indonesia as a method of religious worship, celebration and offering to the many Balinese Hindu gods and goddesses. In addition to the gamelan music, the concert will include a performance of traditional Balinese dance.

To open the concert Merit faculty members **Paul Lowry** and **John Corkill** with their students **Kerry Thomas** and **Justin Petrovych** will join Fulcrum Point in playing Harrison's "Majestic Fanfare".

## Winter Break Building Hours

Merit's Winter Break will be in effect from **Saturday, December 23 through Monday, January 1**. The Joy Faith Knapp Music Center will be closed during that time and resume normal hours at 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 2.

## Merit Parent Association

If you are interested in volunteering for Merit events, including **Holiday Decorating on December 9** and **Conservatory Winter Concerts on December 15 and 16**, sign up [here!](#)

## Student Services Updates

Student Services will be closed for Winter Break beginning Monday, December 18 and will resume regular office hours on Monday, January 8.

### Regular Office Hours

*Monday - Thursday*

2:30 - 6:30 pm

*Friday*

Closed

*Saturday*

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

*Sunday*

Closed

*Additional appointments*

Roll; Movers & Shakers; and Music Masters 1 classes end.

Music Masters 2 Families: It's glockenspiel day!

### Monday, December 11

11:00 am = December Storytime (Gottlieb Hall)

- Join us for a free musical storytime for all ages. No pre-registration is required. Bring your friends! Ms. Jan will be hosting class in December.

### Tuesday, December 12

Ms. Amy's Tuesday morning fall session classes end.

5:15 pm = Join us for holiday music and games at Merit before the Menorah Lighting Ceremony at Mary Bartelme Park!

### Thursday, December 14

Ms. Amy's Thursday morning fall session classes end.

### Friday, December 15

Ms. Kristen's Friday mornings fall session classes end.

### Saturday, December 16

Winter Session registration deadline. Visit Merit's [website](#) to enroll.

Regular class day for Music Masters 2 students.

### Wednesday, December 20

Ms. Brigid's Wednesday afternoon Music Masters 1 fall session classes end.

### Saturday, December 23 - Sunday, January 7

Winter Break - No classes

#### Notes from your teachers:

Don't forget about Merit's Early Childhood [Spotify playlist!](#) Listen along at home to your favorite songs from class.

## INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL MUSIC

### Saturday, December 23 - Sunday, January 7

Winter Break - No classes

## PRIVATE LESSONS

Private Lesson Registration has now re-opened! Applications and more information can be found [here](#).

## MERIT MUSIC IN COMMUNITIES

### Wednesday, December 13

5:00 pm = Chicago Youth Centers - South Shores Winter Performance (Gymnasium)

### Thursday, December 14

6:30 pm = Books, Brushes, and Bands for Education Winter Concert (Morton High School)

*available by request.*

## Tuition Statements

Families will now be receiving monthly tuition statements via email as well as paper statements in the mail. Stop by Student Services to ensure we have the correct email address on file. If you would like to opt out of paper statements, please contact us at [studentservices@meritmusic.org](mailto:studentservices@meritmusic.org).

## Library Notes

### Library Open Hours

*Monday*

Closed

*Tuesday - Thursday*

4-7 pm

*Friday*

By appointment only

*Saturday*

9 am - Noon, 12:30 pm - 3 pm

*Sunday*

Closed

### Instrument Rentals

All Library payments must be paid in full at the time of instrument rental, renewal, or pickup. No payment plans will be applied to accounts.

For appointments, instrument or rental questions, please contact [Annaeka Johnson via email](#).

## Community Safety Reminder

Merit School of Music is located in a busy, densely populated, urban neighborhood. Because the safety of all guests of the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center is important to Merit, please read and follow these guidelines when commuting to and from Merit in the West Loop.

- Be alert, look around.
- Avoid dark or isolated places.
- When you are alone, avoid wearing headphones or talking on your cell phone.
- Keep at least one hand free.
- When traveling, tell family or friends when to expect you.
- On public transportation, try

**Friday, December 15**

9:00 am = Perez Elementary Holiday Assembly (Cafeteria)

**Wednesday, December 20**

9:00 am = Talcott Elementary Winter Concert (Auditorium)

3:00 pm = Chopin Elementary Winter Performance (Auditorium)

**Thursday, December 21**

8:00 am = Carson Elementary Winter Assembly (Primary Gym)

8:00 am, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm = Nixon Elementary Winter Assemblies (Auditorium)

8:30 am, 10:30 am, 1:00 pm = Burley Elementary Holiday Hoopla (Gym)

9:00 am & 1:00 pm = Whittier Elementary Winter Performance

1:30 pm = Pershing Elementary Winter Assembly (Auditorium)

**Friday, December 22**

9:15 am & 1:00 pm = Wildwood Elementary Winter Assembly (Gym)

1:15 pm & 2:05 pm = Chicago Academy Winter Performance (Auditorium)

9:15 am, 2:00 pm = Burr Elementary Winter Assemblies (Cafe)

**ALICE S. PFALEZER TUITION-FREE CONSERVATORY****Saturday, December 9**

11:50 am = Live from Gottlieb (Composers Forum)

**Tuesday, December 12**

6:30 pm = Wind Symphony Dress Rehearsal (Gottlieb Hall)

**Wednesday, December 13**

6:30 pm = Symphonic Band Dress Rehearsal (Gottlieb Hall)

**Thursday, December 14**

6:15 pm = Merit Philharmonic Dress Rehearsal (Gottlieb Hall)

**Friday, December 15**

7:00 pm = Tuba Christmas (Merit Lobby)

7:30 pm = Winter Band Concert

Trombone Choir - Call time: TBD, Polk Hall

Junior Band - Call time: 5:30pm, Gottlieb Hall

Symphonic Band - Call time: 6:15pm, Gottlieb Hall

Wind Symphony - Call time: 6:45pm, Gottlieb Hall

**Saturday, December 16**

*to use the busiest, best lit stop to get on and off the bus or train.*

*- Follow your instincts - if you feel threatened go to the nearest open store or business. Call 911 immediately.*

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9:00 am = Jazz Winter Concert

All Jazz Ensembles - Call time: 8am, Rooms TBD

11:00 am = Instrumental Ensembles Winter Concert

Percussion Ensemble - Call time: 10am, Room 127

Clarinet Ensemble - Call time: 9:30am, Foreman Hall

Trumpet Ensemble - Call time: 10am, Room 229

Guitar Ensemble - Call time: 10am, Room 200

Brass Ensemble - Call time: 10am, Polk

1:00 pm = Orchestra Winter Concerts

Merit Philharmonic - Call time: 11:30am, Foreman Hall

String Orchestra - Call time: 12pm, Gottlieb Hall

3:30 pm = Vocal Ensembles Winter Concerts

Conservatory Choir - Call time: 1pm, Polk Hall

Concert Choir - Call time: 1:30 pm, Polk Hall

**Saturday, December 23 - Sunday, January 7**

Winter Break - No classes

Merit School of Music | Joy Faith Knapp Music Center  
38 S. Peoria St., Chicago, IL 60607 | 312.786.9428 | [www.meritmusic.org](http://www.meritmusic.org)

