

University of Chicago Department of Music Performance Program

2024-25 Community Engagement Impact Report

The goals of the Music Department's community engagement are the following:

- Eliminate pre-existing and pre-conceived barriers by cultivating trusting relationships among all stakeholders within the department, participating guest artists and the community
- Design, curate and implement meaningful performances and residencies based on the needs of the community space in which it is taking place; all activities seek to complement, not take away from the wonderful work that is already taking place in that specific community space
- Provide an impactful platform for music students and guest artists to engage in the practice of being a citizen artist
- Utilize often unexpected spaces for transformational musical experiences

Montgomery Place

Participants in the University of Chicago Chamber Music, Vocal Studies and Piano Program present 9 concerts annually at **Montgomery Place Engaged Living in Hyde Park**. These hour-long programs are presented to residents and their families on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and have become a favorite performance series for the Montgomery Place community to attend. The performances are always followed by a casual reception in which the performers mingle with the audience over refreshments. Performers enjoy getting to know the residents, as much as the residents enjoy getting to know them!

I love getting to perform here. I have not been able to see my grandmother since I started at UChicago. When I come here and get to share my music with the residents, I feel like it's the next best thing to actually visiting my grandmother.

– Evelyn Voss, UChicago student

Our residents look forward to these concerts more than any other event that we hold and I manage a very busy schedule of activities! We are so fortunate for this partnership.

– Marisol Fernandez, Resident Lifestyle Manager at Montgomery Place



Monica Lee, UChicago pianist performs at Montgomery Place

Montgomery Place – By The Numbers

9 Piano, Chamber and Vocal Studies Concerts	1 Visiting Artist-in- Residence Recital	32 Average audience size per concert	8 Average student participation per concert
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Visiting Artists-in-Residence

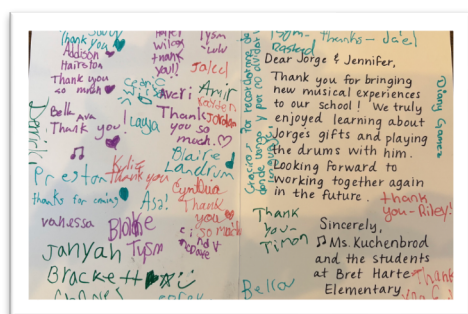
The Performance Program regularly hosts **Visiting Artists-in-Residence** to engage with our ensembles and programs. These residencies provide our musicians with the opportunity to engage repeatedly and meaningfully with accomplished professional artists. Artists workshop and perform with ensembles, visit music classes and engage with the surrounding Hyde Park community.

During the 2024-25 academic year, UChicago brought artists, Jorge Emmanuelli Náter to Hyde Park Neighborhood schools and violinist Will Hagen to present workshops at Kenwood Academy and the Chicago High School for the Arts.

The Performance Program also hosted four community music schools to bring their top string quartets to perform and receive feedback from Will Hagen in a masterclass setting in Fulton Recital Hall.

I just wanted to send a heartfelt thank you for inviting TPMS students to perform in Will Hagen's masterclass last night. It was such an inspiring experience for them, and we are so proud of how they rose to the occasion! Will was so warm and engaging, and had no hesitation in bringing out his Strad to inspire our students to embrace full soloist stage presence in their concertos! Thank you for your continued partnership in exposing our students to internationally acclaimed artists. We are so grateful! Looking forward to more collaborations ahead!

– David Sands, Senior Manager of Artistic Engagement, The People's Music School



Left: Handwritten thank you note from the music teacher and students at Bret Harte Elementary
Right: Will Hagen leads a masterclass with Kenwood Academy's Advanced Orchestra.



Left: Jorge Emmanuelli Náter with a classroom of 5th grade Social Studies students at Wadsworth STEM
 Right: Visiting Artists-in-Residence, Will Hagen and Albert Cano Smit perform a concert in the Sky Lobby of the Center for Care and Discovery.

Visiting Artists-in-Residence – By The Numbers

5 Neighborhood school classroom visits – Bret Harte Elementary, Wadsworth STEM	1 UChicago Healing Arts Performance	3 Workshops at Neighborhood schools – Kenwood
1 Workshop at Chicago High School for the Arts	1 Community Masterclass for The Peoples Music School and Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative	1 Masterclass for Segundo Ruiz Community Center

Don Michael Randel Ensemble-in-Residence

In 2013, the University of Chicago created a new program, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, that would provide a permanent home for world-class musicians at the University of Chicago. Named for University of Chicago President Emeritus Don Randel, the residency program enables deep engagement between exceptional visiting musical ensembles and UChicago faculty, students and staff, as well as the surrounding Hyde Park community.

In 2024-25, the music department hosted progressive Bharatanatyam dance company, inDANCE as their 2024-25 Don Michael Randel Ensemble-in Residence. inDANCE interacted with youth in three separate settings: the Logan Center for the Arts Matinee Series, The UChicago Lab School Early Childhood Campus and through a partnership with UChicago Hillel in a Movement and Identity Workshop with Bronzeville Youth Identity Collaborative.



Left: InDANCE and UChicago LabSchool students create hand gestures to represent different animals
 Right: InDANCE teaches traditional Bharatanatyam hand gestures to high school students in an interactive workshop on storytelling through the Logan Center for the Arts Matinee Series.

Don Michael Randel Ensemble-in-Residence – By The Numbers

1 Logan Center for the Arts interactive Matinee Performance	1 Lab School interactive Matinee Performance	1 Movement and Identity Workshop with Bronzeville Youth Identity Collaborative
540 K-3rd grade students in attendance at UChicago Lab School performances	84 High school students from the South Side in attendance at the Logan Center Matinee Workshop	

Performance Program Ensemble Community Partnerships

In Spring 2025, the University of Chicago Chamber Orchestra invited students from the Chicago Arts and Music Project (an afterschool El Sistema program in Garfield Park) to participate in a side-by-side rehearsal and informal performance for parents and caregivers. The university students and the musicians from CAMP enjoyed making music together and connecting over pizza and soda in between the rehearsal and performance.



Students of the University of Chicago Chamber Orchestra rehearse alongside students from the Chicago Arts and Music Project under the direction of Matthew Sheppard

Dear Jennifer and Matt,

I just wanted to send my sincere thanks for working with CAMP this spring! It was so much fun bringing our students to the University of Chicago to play with your students. I was deeply impressed with how open and fun the U of C students were. We had a few kids who were very nervous and they made it a great experience for them. Matthew, your rehearsal style was fantastic and perfect for this group! They learned a TON and were able to put it into practice again this past Saturday at the Chicago Youth in Music Festival, where they played the same two pieces with Civic.

Thank you so much for all the work you both did to make this side by side possible. I know there were a lot of logistics involved and I am so grateful for you prioritizing this project!

Thank you,

Lindsay Fredrickson, CAMP Executive Director

Lullaby and Songs of Comfort Concerts

Each year, the University of Chicago Women's Ensemble transforms university performances spaces into restorative sanctuaries, surrounding audience members from the community of all ages with lullabies and songs of comfort from around the world. Audience members are also encouraged to bring pillows, stuffed animals and blankets so they can fully immerse themselves in the experience.

In 2024-25, we partnered with parents, caregivers and staff from Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in Back of the Yards.



Lullaby concert in Fulton Recital Hall at the University of Chicago



Left: Songs of Comfort in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel at the University of Chicago

Right: Mollie Stone, Director of Women's Ensemble and Jennifer Woodrum, Director of Artistic and Community Engagement with the wonderful women of Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation

"If Music Be the Food..."

"If Music Be the Food..." is a series of benefit concerts which raise awareness and support for our neighbors in the local community who are experiencing food insecurity. Our mission also includes teaching music students about the importance of utilizing their artistic talents for the good of the community. Each concert is a fully grass-roots community event involving professionals, students, and local volunteers in joyful collaboration. We are striving to address nourishment in all its forms; our bodies require nourishment from food and our souls from music and community!

Founded in 2009 by violist Carol Rodland in Rochester, NY, IMBTF has become a national musicians' movement, with wonderful artists across the country creating projects based upon this idea in their own communities. The complete Shakespeare quote from Twelfth Night captures fully the IMBTF ethos: "If music be the food of love, play on!" Music, food, love...it is all here in what we are doing together with every "If Music Be the Food..." concert.

In April 2024, the University of Chicago Chamber Music Program partnered with the UIC Chamber Music Program to present a concert with this format at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago in Hyde Park. 15 University of Chicago students, 10 University of Illinois at Chicago students, 3 directors from both institutions and 1 staff member from the University of Chicago presented a beautiful program with all proceeds benefiting the Greater Chicago Food Depository.



By The Numbers

1 Side by side event with the University Chamber Orchestra and the Chicago Arts and Music Project	1 Community partnership between the Women's Ensemble's Annual Songs of Comfort and Lullaby Concerts and the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation	1 If Music Be The Food concert featuring 29 performers from two different institutions
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Making Waves After-School Program

During the 2024-25 academic year the Music Department at the University of Chicago launched partnerships with two Hyde Park neighborhood schools: Bret Harte Elementary and Wadsworth STEM. UChicago Percussion Ensemble Director, John Corkill, facilitated weekly after school sessions over the period of eight weeks, culminating in a final informal performance for families and caregivers.

In each session of Making Waves, students engage with principles drawn from grade-level standards in engineering, math, and science, as well as best practices in music education. Students design, build, and analyze custom musical instruments and then compose and perform original works using those instruments.



Left: A Making Waves student begins building their xylophone.

Right: UChicago Percussion Ensemble Director John Corkill creates musical shakers with Making Waves students from cups, rice, paper and rubber bands. In this photo they are analyzing how the quantity of the rice added impacts the tone quality and volume of the shaker.

Making Waves – By The Numbers

1 Once per week 8-week session at Bret Harte Elementary School	2 Once per week 8-week sessions at Wadsworth STEM Elementary School	4-6 Elementary or middle school students were enrolled in each session
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