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Welcome

I am thrilled to share with you the incredible success of our IMPACT Music Program in 2022. Through the dedication and hard work of our team of teaching artists and administrators, we were able to reach almost 500 students and make a meaningful impact in their lives.

This year, we have had 25 unique partnerships throughout the state of Colorado. We are grateful for the positive feedback and testimonials from students, parents, and teachers who have seen firsthand the transformative power of modern music education in their lives. We are excited to continue our mission to provide access to inclusive, modern music education, mentorship, professional development, and creative content for diverse youth in 2023.

Sincerely,

Co-Executive Director



When we started Colorado Music Bridge, before the pandemic, so many things were different—in my life, in schools, in the world. And yet, the reasons that motivated our mission didn't change at all over the past three years, they only amplified. I am proud and grateful to be part of a team dedicated to supporting diverse musicians with meaningful employment and resources, fostering curious creativity and caring community for youth, and intentionally addressing systemic barriers to access in modern music education.

Because of our expanding programming and donor support, I am now able to spend a majority of my working hours on CMB, including teaching in our programs! Thanks to people like *you*, the future is bright for Music Bridge.

With great gratitude,

Poter Softman
Co-Executive Director

A Year of Growth

Leadership

At the beginning of 2022, we fulfilled our goal and expanded the Board of Directors to include Greg Brueggeman and Derek Sorkin (now Board President). They have helped CMB move strategically forward, generating revenue, hiring staff, and implementing administrative technology.

CMB leadership also took a bold step forward, promoting Aaron Marfizo to Co-Executive Director—a well-deserved recognition of Aaron's crucial and constant contributions to the implementation and evolution of the CMB mission and vision.

Staff

In May, CMB hired Sarah Parrish as Grants
Manager—one of our best moves to date!
In the summer, we partnered with CSU
Extension and 4H to bring on two interns,
Mason and Lane, who helped us develop our
IMPACT curriculum, and taught in Greely and
Denver. We also employed 7 new teachers and
12 musicians to perform at events.

Curricula

The Piano Atlas is a methodology that offers learners a visual reference and a modular learning experience. With this method, learners are freed from the barriers of too much reading text, traditional music notation, and theory prerequisites. Creating becomes childlike again–figuring out music while playing with the tools.

Aaron and Peter have spent hundreds of hours refining the book, which will be published in early 2023, to integrate more specific visuals, and targeted structure and sequence to create a holistic and inclusive curriculum that offers learners the most efficient route toward making music on the piano.

Partners

Last year included partnerships with Aurora Central High School, Aurora Sister Cities, The Spirituals Project and inter-disciplinary faculty and grad students at DU, Boys & Girls Club of Larimer County, Rodarte Center in Greely, Blast 'n' Scrap in Ft. Collins, CSU Extension, 4H, and the Harvey Park Denver Rec Center. We began an in-kind partnership with Youth Resiliency, receiving training in trauma-informed teaching and therapeutic approaches to states of dysregulation. In the Fall, we began teaching 5 days/week at both Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy and Denver Center for 21st Century Learning, and concluded with us beginning a new partnership with Gilliam Youth Services Center, where we are bringing modern keyboard, songwriting, and production instruction to youth facing incarceration.



Stories of teachers & students



Elysse Midgyett was one of CMB's first teachers, in 2020 before the pandemic. In the Fall of 2022, we were so happy to hire her again, this time for a rent-paying teaching position for the whole school year. She fulfilled a bucket-list dream and performed beautifully at Dazzle at our fundraising concert. Elysse has now been hired as a vocal teacher at Swallow Hill as well, and is on the path to making music her full-time job!



Click here to watch Elysse sing



In our partnership program with Aurora Sister Cities and The Spirituals Project at DU, we worked with many great kids who, inspired by African American Spirituals, created songs that reflected their own stories and passions. Amira shocked the room with her rapping, after she and grad student Sarah created an infectious Hip Hop track with the hook, "Hold up! And fight for your rights!" While recording, Amira looked at us and asked, "So, could someone like me go to a school like this?" "YES!!" was our emphatic answer. In that moment, this brilliant daughter of refugee immigrants realized that her dreams are not out of reach.



Click here to watch video of the day



As part of our partnership with Aurora Central High School, we led a Community Songwriting event. Three separate classes attended over the afternoon, and got the opportunity to guide the spontaneous creation of songs with Bharat Bhargava on keys, Ryan Bannigan on drums, Elias Garcia on guitar, Aaron on bass, and Kid Astronaut on vocals. Starstruck students came on stage to get a hands on experience of live audio and recording technology, and play instruments themselves.



Click here to watch the highlights

IMPACT Music Program

INCLUSIVE, MODERN, PROSOCIAL, ACCESSIBLE, CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE, THERAPEUTIC.

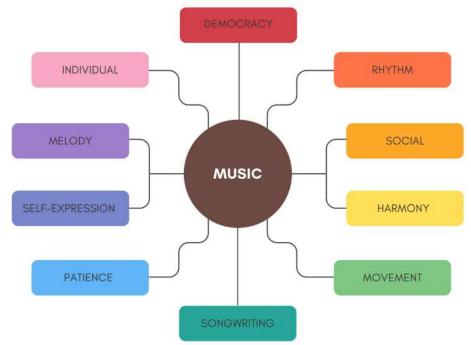
Our Vision

We have committed to a truly inclusive pedagogy, working to dismantle the barriers to access by partnering with schools and organizations to reach students where they already are, and then meeting them with trauma-informed teaching, so that music can be a healing, grounding, and connecting experience in their day.

This work is ongoing, drawing on emerging fields of research such as polyvagal theory, and integrating therapeutic practices into our expertise in modern music and education. We strive to infuse our teachers with a mission-orientation—teaching can be both a good—paying job, and a way of actually changing the world, one moment of creativity at a time.

For anyone who has taught youth, we know this is easier said than done. Our IMPACT Music Program is a flag-planting declaration: we are humbly working toward delivering curricular resources, classroom pedagogy, and teacher training, that is responsive to and respectful of the needs of youth in our communities. We see the stress and dysregulation, and we will meet it with compassion and meaningful musical learning opportunities.

Music is a method for human unification; it is a proposition to advance into the future and create, collaborate, and change as a collective.



2023 Goals

1

Optimize our impact in the classroom

We are excited to create at least 2 new paid Teaching Artist Internship positions this year. This will enable us to put 2 teachers in more of our classrooms, and in turn empower teachers to both scaffold and individualize instruction, while taking time to connect with students and facilitate appropriately targeted regulating activities.

3

Spread the Piano Atlas and our IMPACT pedagogy far and wide

The completed Piano Atlas, Book 1, will be published early in 2023. This is the flagship of our Music Atlas curriculum development. We plan to market the book to teachers around the country, and build out a forum on our website for sharing and discussing our evolving curricular resources as they are created.

We are also developing presentations and professional development workshops, not only for our CMB teachers, but for in-service music teachers everywhere. We believe deeply in the significance of our IMPACT pedagogy—it is crucial for all of us to integrate therapeutic and pro-social frameworks into a truly holistic modern music education.

2

Grow our organizational capacity

After successfully bringing on 2 new board members and a Grants Manager in '22, we plan to hire a Marketing Manager and Outreach Manager early in '23. We are also planning to bring on 2 new board members, to diversify representation on the board to better reflect and connect with the communities of youth that we primarily serve.

As our growth continues, our target operating budget is 250k in order to support these new positions long-term.

4

"Break ground" on our second arm

Since our inception, the Music Bridge vision has been two-fold: educational access for youth, and career development for musicians. To fulfill any creative project vision, musicians and educators need a team of complimentary-skilled members. We are building that team within CMB, with the intention of extending it to full-blown professional-level projects, including recording, producing, marketing, and more-disrupting a cutthroat music industry by building a generous community and supporting musicians' entrepreneurship.

Special Events



Americans for the Arts Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.

Little Kids Rock/Music Will Modern Band Symposium in Fort Collins, CO

Aaron attended two major conferences in the summer of 2022, connecting with mission-aligned organizations and leaders in the field. An outgrowth of those connections—in 2023,, Aaron has been named an "artist—changemaker" for Music to Life.

LYNX Music Industry Camp © CU Denver

In June, both Peter and Aaron taught at the LYNX Music Industry Camp, leading Pop-Rock and R&B ensembles. Eric Yang attended the camp as our first scholarship receipient.



Owntown Denver Partnership Openver Parade of Lights

In December, CMB hired DJ Two Scoops to perform at the Parade of Lights.



© Dazzle Jazz Club, Denver

In October, we brought together a diverse lineup of acts led by Music Bridge teachers, who delighted the audience with R&B, Electronic Future Bass, Modern Jazz and Spoken Word.













This is Music Bridge!





Finances

Support & Revenue

Donations \$39,884.83

Grants \$60,000.

Program Income \$60,069.02

Total Income \$159,953.85

Expenses

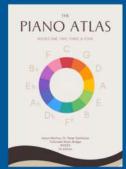
Teachers/Instruction \$92,119.
Contractors \$7,400.
Facilities \$4,500.
Music equipment \$5,380.96

Operations \$4,210.51 & Insurance

Scholarship award \$1,100. Meals \$155.24

Total Expenses \$114,865.71

We developed hundreds of pages of curricular materials!







We purchased over \$5,300 of instruments and equipment!









We paid diverse music teachers over \$90,000!









Board of Directors

Derek Sorkin, President

Gregg Brueggman

Erik Gunderson, Treasurer

Peter Stoltzman & Aaron Marfizo, Co-Executive Directors

Thanks to our donors!

IMPACT

\$5.000+

Sorkin Foundation Terri Pederson

The Kendeda Fund

Atlas

\$500+

Gregg Brueggman Matthew Hingst Chuck Jackson Clark Kulig Steven Gallant

Mark Huggins

Patron

\$100+

Owen Kortz

Bob Rice

Lucy Chapman

Robert Rostermundt

Kitty Coyne

Peter & Aimee Svenneby

Joe McCabe

Christopher Law

Cliff Siegel

Jerome Gilmer

Mike Marlier

Frank Salomon

Friend

\$10+

Connie Grady

Jonny Sterling

Ryan Lawrence

Lia Davis

Greg Sutherland

Simon Rucker

Sara Leib

Stafford Hunter

Bill Douglas

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Riley Merino

Elli Goeke

Debra Taylor Santiago Barrie Steinberg

Thanks to our 2022 Program Partners!





























Thanks to our local grant funders!





