

Where we are and where we’re going

In 2010, CMW’s board of directors approved a five-year strategic plan to help us refine our vision for building a better world, starting with our own neighborhood, through music performance and education. Each initiative in the plan is designed to help us deepen our impact as teachers and performers. Just to mention a few examples, last season, during Year One of the plan, we:

- Performed free concerts in neighborhood venues ranging from the West End Community Center to the Knight Memorial Library in South Providence;
- Added Friday “All-Play Days” featuring studio classes and ensembles, ensuring that students are engaged in CMW’s programming at least twice weekly;
- Gave all resident musicians opportunities to develop and co-teach a general music skills class in addition to instrument lessons;
- Developed new Media Lab classes and began to implement a system of tracking student learning in electronic portfolios;
- Led Institutes for Musicianship and Public Service, teaching young professional musicians about the CMW model and helping to incubate new ideas; and
- Hired a family engagement coordinator, as a liaison between families and staff.

We are now hard at work pursuing the initiatives scheduled for Year Two. If you would like to read our five-year strategic plan, it is available on our website.

Alumni report: Nelson String Quartet

CMW’s first alumni quartet, featuring Sidney Argueta, Luis Ortiz, Josh Rodriguez, and Kirby Vasquez, was such a smash hit on the summer house concert scene that fans want to book them for next summer. Wisely, they are holding off on advance bookings for now. As Kirby explained, “We’re all college students. Who knows what exciting opportunities might come up for any of us? But if it works out, we’ll be psyched to do this again.” The foursome debuted in July at the home of friend and music lover Nelson Fausto, whose zest for life inspired the quartet to adopt his name.

By the close of their final summer concert, the Nelson String Quartet members were old hands at taking a bow. But even they looked surprised by the claps, stomps, hoots, and whistles of their friends, families, teachers and neighbors. More than a few had tears in their eyes. It was hard not to be moved by this quintessential CMW celebration of community and music.

Choose your own adventure, CMW style!

by Linda Daniels

When my boys were younger, they inherited a paperback series called Choose Your Own Adventure. Every story began with a *WARNING: As you read along, you will be able to make choices. Your choices will determine what happens to you next. Think carefully before you make a choice. Good luck!*

For me, Community MusicWorks is a real-time, real-life Choose Your Own Adventure. The basic story, summarized in CMW’s mission statement, has already been written. You, the hero, get to help “create a cohesive urban community through music education and performance that transforms the lives of children, families and musicians.”

In the spirit of our family’s tattered Choose Your Own Adventure books, I’ve assembled some emblematic CMW narratives for you to consider. Earn extra credit for answering bonus questions!

CMW Adventure #1

You are a Puerto Rican immigrant raising your children alone, in a neighborhood that could use more trees and fewer liquor stores. You just learned that your son, a CMW student, was harassed by police while walking home from middle school. He is still bitterly angry days later. Do you:

- A) complain about biases cops have against young men of color;
- B) feel hopeless about your son’s future in such a hostile world;
- C) make an official complaint and continue to bring your son to his violin lessons?

Bonus questions: What if you choose all three? Will your experiences at CMW allow you to acknowledge injustice and keep your eyes on the prize? Will your son draw enough strength from CMW to transcend his anger and nurture his inner spirit?



CMW Adventure #2

You are eight years old and have been waiting two years to get a violin and a spot in CMW. Five years later, you can play a lot more than “Twinkle” but you’re not sure you want to anymore. Learning the violin is way harder than you thought. Plus your friends don’t think it’s cool. Do you:

- A) tell your parents you want to quit CMW;
- B) tell your violin teacher classical music is boring and you don’t have time to practice;
- C) continue with lessons because your parents aren’t going to let you quit anyway?



Bonus questions: What if you choose all three? Can you be a reluctant violinist at age 13 and morph into a Phase II (CMW’s teen leadership program) enthusiast a year or two later? Can you learn something important about yourself just by sticking with an instrument over many years? Will you come to love Beethoven’s Violin Sonata No.7 enough to put it on your iPod?



CMW Adventure #3

You are a white, middle-aged woman walking down Westminster Street loaded with bags and instruments. Are you:

- A) a college-educated arts supporter making a donation to support CMW before picking up Whole Foods organic produce;
- B) a neighborhood mom bringing snacks and instruments to your kids at the CMW office;
- C) an amateur cellist and CMW parent about to join your children and their friends in the weekly Fiddle Lab?

Bonus questions: Can you be all three? Who will you confound and why as you jump in and out of class/race/social status boxes? Is it possible to hang with the classical concert crowd and feel at home at the West End Community Center? Should it be possible?

CMW Adventure #4

You are a 25-year-old violist with a performing arts degree from a prestigious conservatory. Poised to begin your career, do you:

- A) audition for orchestra jobs, even though you’re not sure you’ll enjoy playing for a faceless, aging crowd season after season;
- B) try to survive as a freelance musician, with all the uncertainties and stresses of running your own barely-profitable business;
- C) look for new opportunities to make music, have fun, change the world and be changed yourself?

Bonus questions: Would you like to Choose Your Own Adventure? Have you heard of Community MusicWorks?

*CMW board member and parent Linda Daniels lives in Providence with her sons Cormac, Liam (violin), and Malachy (cello), her husband, and a ridiculous amount of yarn.*



New and familiar faces



David Bourns is the new president of CMW’s board of directors, following Liz Hollander, who is now leading an effort to make arts education accessible to all Providence children. David recently retired from his post as Paul Cuffee School’s founding Head of School. We warmly welcome David to this leadership position!



EmmaLee Holmes-Hicks, violinist, is a new Fellow. Emmy received her doctoral degree from SUNY Stony Brook and did her undergraduate work at the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has played with the Rusty Pickup String Band since she was ten years old, and won the Illinois State Fair fiddle championship as a teenager.



Ealaín McMullin, violinist, is our other new Fellow. She was first introduced to chamber music though concerts by the Apple Hill Chamber Players near her home in Donegal, Ireland. This began a long connection with the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music in New Hampshire. Ealain (pronounced AH-leen) is a graduate of Trinity College and the Boston Conservatory.



Akina Ramos is CMW’s first-ever Family Engagement Coordinator. Akina grew up in the West End, and is a proud graduate of William D’Abate Elementary School. As a mother of five, Akina has first-hand knowledge of the many demands on parents as well as the importance of volunteering!



Adrienne Taylor, cellist, was a Fellow from 2008-2010. Last year, as a member of the Abreu Fellows program at the New England Conservatory, she studied El Sistema, Venezuela’s world-renowned community music education philosophy. Adrienne is thrilled to return to CMW as a Third-Year Fellow, and to incorporate what she has learned from El Sistema into her work with CMW students.



## Summer camp: Growing, together

*Violas play that C! Say what?  
Cellos, cellos, take it low. Cellos take it to the flo'  
Violins play that Eee!  
Together we are C-M-W! Whooo!*

The much-awaited summer camp week arrived with children scurrying around the CMW office before boarding a bus headed for Wickford. This is how every day began. Fiddle tunes, lessons, orchestra, and chamber music were planted in each student's brain, germinated, and then bloomed later on that week. A lobster boat ride, a hiking adventure, and petting farm animals brought all of us together. And by Friday afternoon, we had a list of songs ready for performance.

As the camp counselors, Luis, Kirby, Josh and I performed a piece for string quartet by Paganini to start off the Friday afternoon concert. This made me think about my early years at CMW, when the Providence String Quartet began every Performance Party. I always dreamed of maybe, just maybe, being able to do something similar. This camp showed me that maybe's are just not part of dreams when you put your mind to making something happen. It did happen, and I am so grateful that we were given that opportunity.

As each group performed, my amazement kept growing. In five days, we had learned, laughed, and even cried together at the end. Togetherness. This word comes up in quartet rehearsals, in life and, most importantly, in CMW. Togetherness is what CMW offers to a community of youth, ready to dive into the world of music.

—Sidney Argueta, CMW '09, Brown University '13



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Want to know  
more about the events  
where these photos  
were taken? Check out  
CMW's website, blog,  
and Flickr site!

### CMW on the web:

communitymusicworks.org  
communitymusicworks.typepad.com  
flickr.com/communitymusicworks/collections

## CMW by the numbers

CMW's fiscal year ended on June 30, 2011. We enjoyed another successful season, and we are grateful for the generosity of so many people. During our 14th season, CMW received donations from close to 500 individual and intuitional supporters! If you are interested in reviewing our financial information in more detail, please contact Heath Marlow, CMW's Managing Director.

### Year-end Financial Statement (unaudited results)

Total Income	771,165
Total Expense	767,362

Net Income	4,403
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Total liabilities and assets (60,801 permanently restricted)	764,200
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community music works  
1392 Westminster Street • Providence, RI 02909

15 years of performance,  
education, and community

## Welcome to The Works Volume 6, Fall 2011

With considerable ambitions for its future, CMW enters its fifteenth year as dedicated as ever to its mission of creating a “cohesive urban community through music education and performance that transforms the lives of children, families, and musicians.” A number of core groups—local and national—receive direct and indirect services from CMW as we seek to realize our mission. These services include:

- Free after-school music education programming for more than 100 children who live in Providence's South and West Side neighborhoods
- Free and easily accessible musical events of high quality to all Providence residents, especially residents of the neighborhoods we serve
- Free resources for the families of the neighborhood children enrolled
- Training opportunities for young professional musicians from across the North America who are inspired by our model
- Advocacy for increased access to arts education for all Providence youth

In this issue of The Works, we take the opportunity to illuminate some of the ways that this process of transformation enriches the lives of all of us connected to this active and vital organization. Through the voices of students, parents, and staff, we experience the transformation that makes... music... work(s)!



*Adrienne, Akina, Ariana, Chloe, Ealain,  
Emmalee, Heath, Jesse, Jori, Laura, Liz,  
Minna, Robin, Sara, & Sebastian*