

EVALUATION IN PROCESS

Many of you participated last November in the CMW Family Night, part of CMW's 18-month evaluation program. Families gathered with CMW staff and Dr. Dennie Palmer Wolf to eat pizza, draw family trees focusing on each family member's artistic interests, and sketch out timelines of each family's involvement in CMW over a typical week.



Members of the Cruze-Talbott family (above) and the Monge family (below) sketch out diagrams demonstrating their families' involvement in music and the arts during CMW's Family Night.

Almost half of our students are also working with their teachers on audio diaries, talking about practicing, self-confidence, and their artistic and personal identities. Through this evaluation process we hope to better understand (and demonstrate) CMW's effect on our students, families, and community.



We're looking forward to sharing some results from the evaluation process with the community by the end of the summer. Thanks to all who are participating; you're helping us learn more about what we're doing—and how we can make CMW even better.

event spotlight:

THREE WORLD PREMIERES AT CMW!

Visit the CMW website to view photos and videos produced by staff and students about these events!



An *Anthem* rehearsal at the Met School.

The Paul Cuffee School cafeteria was crowded on Valentine's Day as CMW families and staff gathered for the year's third Performance Party - and while CMW staff love all Performance Parties equally, this one was especially memorable! From August and Kaine's beautiful tone on *Allegro* to the stirring rendition of the *Banana Boat Song* featuring Joshua, Ian, Nohely, and Liz, the student performances were truly outstanding. And, to close the program, the audience was treated to the world premiere of Jessie Montgomery's rousing *Anthem*, written to celebrate the election of the first African-American president of the United States.



The PSQ and the Phase III quartet wow the audience at the RISD Auditorium with the world premiere of the *Kompa Variations*.

Jessie's composition overlays the black national anthem, *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* with the U.S. national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*, and the result is lyrical, lilting music that powerfully conveys a sense of this historic moment. The Fellows performed the string quartet part, while the students comprised a rhythmic, upbeat orchestra. *Anthem* featured an enthusiastic singing debut by Jessie's younger Music Lab students, and Kirby's inspiring lyrics offered us hope for the future and a determination to move ahead with strength and courage. What a way to start the new year!

Jessie's piece is one of three premieres that CMW is featuring this year. Many of you will remember hip-hop violinist/composer Daniel Bernard Roumain's *Kompa Variations*, which was performed to great acclaim in October by the Providence String Quartet and CMW's Phase III Quartet. This string octet was commissioned by CMW with support from the Argosy Foundation to allow our teachers and students to perform alongside one another and the piece was built around typical master-apprentice interactions in the style of traditional Haitian Kompa.



Jessie leads the world premiere of *Anthem*, with Kirby speaking her original lyrics.

Next up, in May, the Providence String Quartet and the Fellows Quartet will be performing the premiere of a new work (another CMW commission sponsored by the Argosy Foundation) by Anthony Green, featuring themes of immigration and citizenship. The octet, entitled *Earned*, will be performed at the John Hope Settlement House in Providence's West End on May 15 and at the United South End Settlements in Boston on May 16. This mini settlement house tour pays tribute to two institutions that have long been central to the immigrant experience in America.

These three commissions — *Kompa Variations*, *Anthem*, and *Earned* — reflect our commitment to new music and specifically to new music that ties in to CMW's mission of transforming our community through music education and performance. We hope that these projects stimulate deep thinking about issues facing our community and the wider world and that they may even become a springboard to action.

CMW AWARDED GRANT TO SHARE MODEL

Great news! In December, CMW learned that we had received a three-year grant of \$300,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support our fellowship program as well as two new projects that will help us extend the impact of our work: a semi-annual Institute for Musicianship and Public Service and a collaboration with Brown University's Cogut Center for the Humanities.

The first Institute is scheduled for May 20-23, with members of the Sphinx Organization, a non-profit dedicated to furthering the careers of minorities in classical music. Participants will take part in CMW events, work with our students, and learn about the CMW model. Plans for our three-year partnership with the Cogut Center are being developed. Stay tuned for a performance later this year by the Providence String Quartet at the Cogut Center!

We're excited to get to work on these new initiatives, which we hope will both deepen the work we do in Providence, and influence the national dialogue about the role of musicians and artists in building and transforming communities. Thank you, Mellon Foundation!

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE

The Mellon Foundation's grant (see above) is especially good news given the current financial picture across the U.S., and especially in Rhode Island. This grant, exciting as it is, is specifically aimed at this new effort to get the word out about CMW. Support for our core programs still comes from individual contributions.

We're incredibly grateful that our December donor appeal raised more than \$30,000 and we thank everyone who participated. Special thanks to the Carter Family Charitable Trust, which has provided nearly \$50,000 in matching funds for contributions to CMW from individual donors during our 12th season. And they're ready to match all gifts from individuals received by June 30 (up to a total of \$10,000).

1st Edition!
May 2009

SAVINGS PLAN FOR FAMILIES NEW!

Through a new relationship with Washington Trust Bank, CMW families will now be eligible for no-fee, no-minimum balance savings accounts. These accounts are designed to help families save money to purchase an instrument after their child graduates from CMW. Contact Liz at 401-861-5650 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you a CMW parent who values what this program has to offer and wants to give back to our community? We need your help! The parent committee is looking for volunteers to help with sign-in/sign-out, phone calls, and numerous other fun tasks! Contact Jessie at 401-861-5650 if you think you can help out.

We're also always on the lookout for practice mentors. Are you a skilled musician who would like to spend an hour every week (or every two weeks) helping a CMW student practice their instrument? Call Sara at 401-861-5650 if you'd like to get involved.

Whatever time you have to offer, we can use your help. Please let us know if you are interested, in whatever capacity works for your schedule. And thanks!

PRACTICE TIPS FROM FIDDLE LAB

STUDENT
CORNER!

In March, roving CMW reporter Kirby Vasquez asked her fellow members of Fiddle Lab to share with us their favorite practice tips, either when learning a new fiddle tune, or when practicing for their lessons.

Here's what they came up with:

I like to play a piece slowly until I learn it. David

I listen to the music, and then try to imitate it. Angie

When I'm learning a new fiddle tune, I listen to it first to try to figure out what the notes are. Linda

I like to practice section by section to try to get strong with one section and then move on to the next one. Ruby

We like to play the piece over and over until we get it.
Liam and Aiden

My favorite way to practice is to play in a room where I can hear my violin echo. Rosangel

When I don't understand a rhythm, I You Tube the piece and listen to it until I have the rhythm in my ear. Kirby



CMW on the web:

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

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

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WELCOME TO THE NEW CMW NEWSLETTER!

Longtime friends of CMW may remember past "newsy" letters that shared information about events and important program updates. This new periodic effort, THE WORKS!, builds upon that tradition, with the addition of fun photos and a "behind-the-scenes" look at our program events.

In this issue, you can read about three world premieres at CMW, our new Mellon Foundation grant to share our model, our year-long evaluation project designed by Dr. Dennie Palmer Wolf, and a few new ways you can get involved in what we do.

THE WORKS! is aimed at both our immediate community of program families and our wider community of friends and supporters in Providence and beyond. Send us your feedback at info@communitymusicworks.org, especially if there's something you'd like to learn more about.

Happy spring! We hope to see you soon at a CMW event.

Sebastian, Minna, Sara, Jesse, Jessie, Rachel,
Arlyn, Jason, Adrienne, Chloe, Liz, Jori, and Heath

CMW SUMMER PROGRAM! NEW!

Second year Fellows Rachel Panitch and Arlyn Valencia will be leading CMW's first ever summer program this July. Every Friday, CMW students will meet for a full day of fun musical activities including orchestra, fiddling, improvisation, choir, group lessons, and rhythm games. The program will culminate with public performances around Providence.

Kompa Variations composer and hip-hop violin virtuoso Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) will be joining the summer program as an artist-in-residence.

Spaces are filling up fast! Call Rachel at 401-861-5650 if you're interested in signing up.