

Annual Report 2013–2014



**pasadena
conservatory
of music**





Annual Report 2013–2014



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FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, PCM HAS LOOKED FORWARD TO THE LAUNCH OF A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT THAT WILL ELEVATE THE SCHOOL'S POSITION BY ENABLING IT TO BETTER SERVE THE MUSICAL INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY.

To support this venture, in 2011, we embarked on a \$7.5 million capital campaign. The adjacent property was also acquired that year, allowing for more students to receive music instruction and for the introduction of a Jazz Studies department and the multi-cultural concert series Songs About Place. Throughout these last two years, PCM has continued to develop and refine a long-range campus master plan that positions PCM as a center for music — both deepening and broadening its community impact through music education.

In December 2013, PCM opened a brand new music library wing — complete with music stacks, a classroom, a listening room, and two lounges. Now, less than one year later, two additional components of the plan are on the verge of completion: a signature performance space that incorporates the latest in acoustical and technological advancements, and site work that improves campus safety, upgrades critical infrastructure systems, and aesthetically integrates the two adjacent, yet visually disparate, properties.

With these projects nearing completion and our successful capital campaign coming to a close, PCM is well situated to sustain and enhance its commitment to music education and better serve its constituents — students, their families, and the community at large.

This annual report provides a glimpse into the musical life of our school for the past year. With this report, it is our privilege to acknowledge and thank our donors whose extraordinary generosity makes the work and success of the Conservatory possible. We are deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen McCurry". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Stephen McCurry

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



IN THIS ERA OF MASS MEDIA AND INSTANT COMMUNICATION, IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO KEEP MATTERS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

We endure a daily barrage of screaming headlines, most of which are disconcerting if not downright depressing. All around us there is noise... constant, discordant, irritating noise. And so it is that many Southern Californians share a deep gratitude for this tranquil oasis, for this remarkable creation — the Pasadena Conservatory of Music.

The story is widely known, but bears repeating. PCM sprang from modest circumstances — forty students taking music lessons in the basement of a church some thirty years ago. Today, we serve over 1,000 students on our beautiful new campus, and our reach extends beyond the campus walls as we provide the gift of music to the students of Jefferson Elementary, many of whom endure challenging and difficult circumstances every day. Such efforts would be impossible without the extraordinary support of the Southern California community at large.

To the numerous foundations that recognized our potential in the early days, and support us still, PCM is grateful indeed.

We are equally grateful to all of the individuals whose generosity has carried us through recent times, times challenging for non-profits everywhere. PCM has a resilient business model, relying on tuition to fund much of the operating budget. However, the remarkable support we receive from individuals, from people who recognize and care deeply for what we do here, is the primary reason that we operate without budget deficits and why



today we stand on the verge of completing a seven and a half million dollar campaign to improve our campus. These caring and generous individuals and foundations enable us to carry out our vital mission. We are truly blessed.

So, then, what a year this was! PCM thrives on all levels, as the immensely gratifying accreditation report of last spring made crystal clear. Congratulations are in order for all responsible, from our diligent staff to our talented and dedicated faculty. I must also thank my fellow board members for their enthusiastic and steadfast support. Finally, hats off to our Executive Director, Stephen McCurry, whose long term vision now emerges as reality.

Today we move forward. As I write, the finishing touches are being applied to Barrett Hall, the new performing space. It is beautiful. The Conservatory at last has a venue worthy of the performances we bring to the community, a showplace to showcase the talent that resides at 100 North Hill Avenue.

Brace yourself, Southern California! The best is yet to come.

Sincerely,

Henry O. Eversole
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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AN EYE ON THE FUTURE

WE BELIEVE THAT OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW CAMPUS AND THE OPENING OF THE OLIN AND ANN BARRETT RECITAL HALL ARE JUST THE BEGINNING OF AN EXCITING ERA. Through these milestones, the Conservatory is creating a vibrant center for music — a resource for the community to enjoy for decades to come.

We look forward to the many student recitals, faculty performances, guest artist recitals, master classes, and multi-disciplinary events that will take place in Barrett Hall, and to the increased opportunities for Pasadena to share in the joys of music making on our campus.

As this annual report demonstrates, 2013–2014 was a remarkable year — one of growth and accomplishments laying the groundwork for our exciting future.





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Jazz Day

PCM's Jazz Studies department presented its second annual Jazz Day on Friday, May 16, for the general public to attend at no cost. In the morning, Dr. Ray Briggs led a discussion with Los Angeles-based Jazz vocalist Sara Gazarek. That afternoon, Gazarek taught a master class for PCM jazz student ensembles, who later performed premieres of their original compositions ("Mojo Dojo" and "Raspberry Smoothie"). Additionally, Gazarek gave an intimate performance alongside PCM faculty members Gary Fukushima (piano), Steve Cotter (guitar), Sherry Luchette (bass), and Roy McCurdy (drums).



LAYGO

This year, PCM introduced a cultural exchange program that brought twenty-one guitar students from the Stuttgarter Musikschule to Pasadena in October, and took the thirteen members of PCM's Los Angeles Youth Guitar Orchestra (LAYGO) to Stuttgart, Germany in June. Students stayed with host families, rehearsed and performed with one another, and participated in master classes. In Germany, LAYGO traveled to the centuries-old village of Weikersheim for a weekend retreat, exploring the castle and countryside. The students broadened their horizons as they developed new relationships, experienced a different culture, and gained valuable performance opportunities in front of international audiences.



Jazz trumpet student, Andrew Olivo; Jazz piano student, Daniel Fleischner; PCM Jazz faculty perform with Sarah Gazarek

LAYGO performs in Bergkirche Laudenbach, a 15th century church in Germany; PCM guitar faculty, Felix Bullock, conducts LAYGO

Master Classes

Master classes are valuable opportunities for students to learn new techniques and interpretations, as both participants and as attendees. Over a dozen master classes were held last year. Coaches included cellist Andrew Shulman of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, violist Jonathan Moerschel of the Calder Quartet, clarinetist Michele Zukovsky of the LA Philharmonic (and new PCM Artist-Teacher), and violinist, Aimee Kreston (also a new PCM Artist-Teacher).



Andrew Shulman coaches Atticus Mellor-Goldman; Dylana Jenson coaches Cameron Mittleman; Thomas Schultz coaches Katelyn Vahala; Gilead Mishory coaches George Daghljan

Songs About Place

Songs About Place, a new concert series centered on music about landscapes and geographies, had its inaugural performance in September when Vin Fiz Flyer presented "Songs of the San Gabriel Valley." Since then, audiences gathered at PCM for "The Roots of Latin Music" with David Goodwin, Perico Hernandez, Alberto Lopez, Bruno Coon, and Justo Almario, and for "Armenia, Then and Now: Music from the Ararat Valley and Beyond" with PCM faculty members Vatché Mankerian (piano) and Mariné Ter-Kazaryan (soprano). The final concert of the season, "Anthony Wilson and The Curators," was held at a private residence in South Pasadena and featured an artfully-planned jam session with wine pairings. Over 600 people attended these four performances, which represented music and cultures from around the world.



Anthony Wilson & The Curators; Vin Fiz Flyer; Petra Haden performs with Anthony Wilson & The Curators; Christian Moraga and Justo Almario warm up backstage

MANSIONS & MUSIC

MANSIONS & MUSIC IS PCM'S OLDEST CONCERT SERIES, CELEBRATED FOR PRESENTING IMAGINATIVE PROGRAMS IN DISTINCTIVE PRIVATE SETTINGS IN AND AROUND PASADENA. THE SERIES SHOWCASES OUR TALENTED FACULTY AND HAS BECOME ONE OF THE AREA'S MOST ANTICIPATED MUSICAL EVENTS.

Out of Words

PCM celebrated the series' twentieth season in 2013–2014, dedicating it to our first development director, Barbara Martin, who passed away in August 2013. Her idea to start this small concert series in private homes has contributed enormously to the growth and success of our school.



Out of Words

OCTOBER 20, 2013

Andrew Cook, cello
Melanie Emelio, soprano
Shari Raynor, piano

In this poetry-inspired program, Cook, Emelio, and Raynor explored the overlap of musical and verbal language. They presented a haunting version of Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise* for voice and piano transcribed for cello; Fauré's *Elegy*; three love songs by Beech, Tosti, and Massenet; four songs by André Previn based on texts by Toni Morrison; and Schumann's *Fantasy Pieces*.

Fugitive Pieces

MARCH 9, 2014

Jane Kaczmarek, narrator
Susan Svrček, piano

Canadian poet Anne Michael's novel, *Fugitive Pieces*, tells the story of a young Holocaust survivor haunted by the loss of family, particularly, at times, the memory of his sister's piano playing. Israeli composer and pianist Gilead Mishory's work of the same name evokes scenes from the novel, with fragmentary references to the remembered pieces. Svrček performed Beethoven's Sonata Op. 27, No. 2 in C-sharp Minor (Moonlight); Brahms's Intermezzo Op. 117, No. 2 in B-flat Minor; and Mishory's *Fugitive Pieces*, with narration.

From the Eastern Edge

MAY 18, 2014

Vatché Mankerian, piano

One thing that composers Babadjanyan, Khachaturian, Prokofiev, and Shostakovich all have in common is that they managed to maintain productive careers under Soviet rule. This program presented a number of piano works from the eastern edge of western classical music, Soviet Russia, and Armenia. Mankerian performed Prokofiev's Sonata No. 6, a prelude and fugue by Shostakovich, Khachaturian's *Sonatina*, and *Poem* by Babadjanyan.

2013–2014 MANSIONS & MUSIC SPONSORS

July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014

Thank you for your support as a 2013–2014 Mansions & Music sponsor! You have played a critical role in the series' enduring success, as well as in the growth of PCM's other community offerings.

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Special thanks to our 2013–2014

Mansions & Music hosts:

Carolyn and Craig Watson,
Caroline and Charles Norman,
and Gretchen and Graham Lewis.

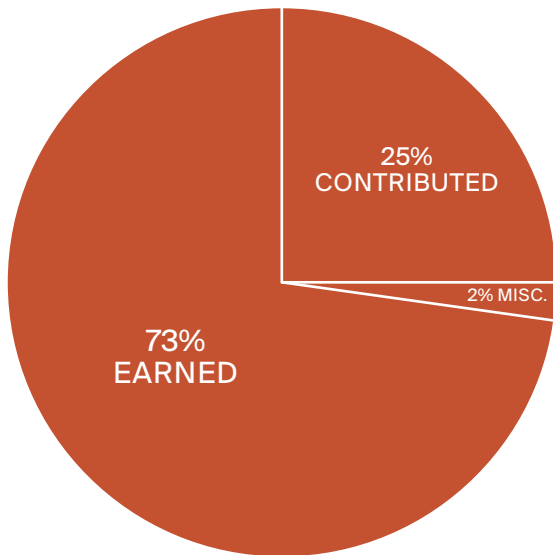


Left, top: Sandra Baik and Richard Martinez
Left, bottom: Guests at *Out of Words*

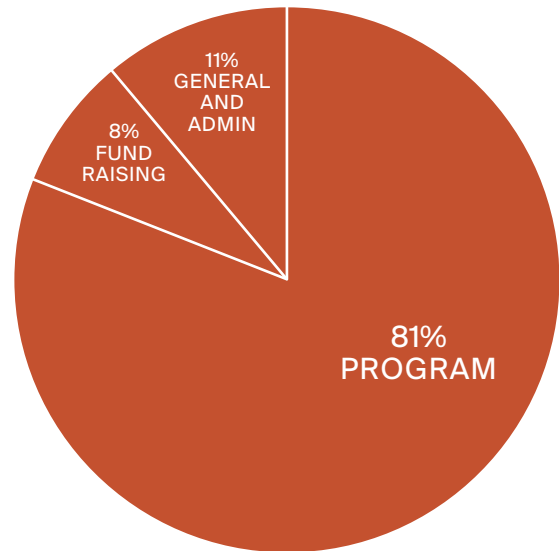
Right, top: Board Member and Narrator Jane Kaczmarek with pianist Susan Svrček (*Fugitive Pieces*)
Right, middle: Guests at *From the Eastern Edge*
Right, bottom: Pianist Susan Svrček (*Fugitive Pieces*)

PCM AT A GLANCE

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



INCOME
\$2,434,103

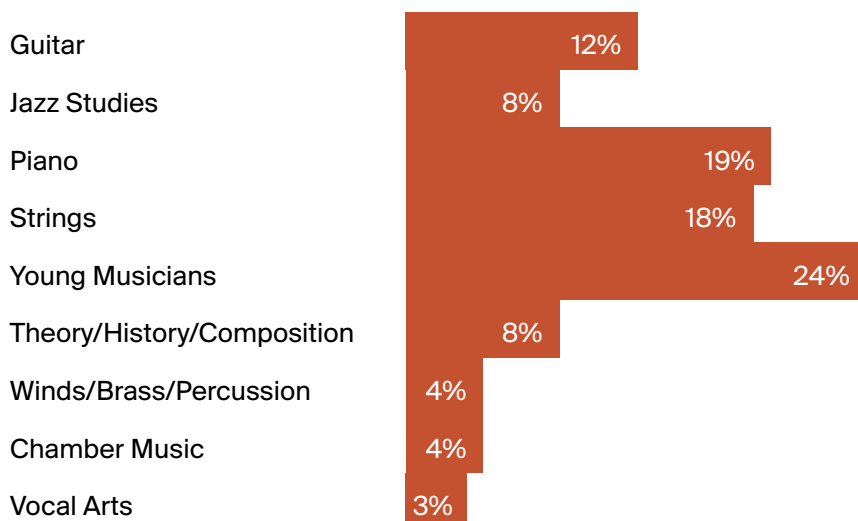


EXPENSE
\$2,432,849

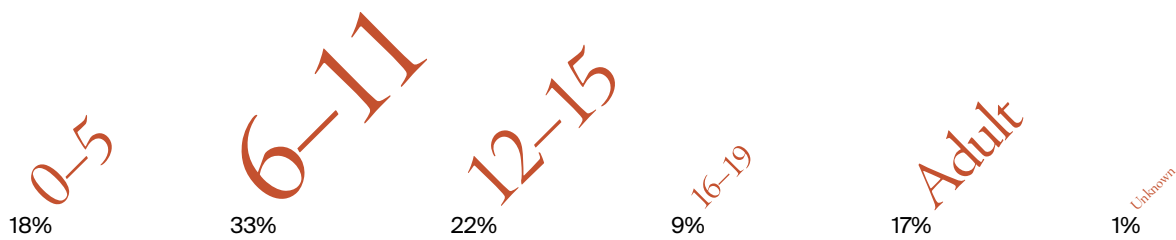
Both contributed and earned income support programs on and off campus, as well as PCM's efforts to:

- ensure high-quality programs by retaining exceptional faculty
- serve students from culturally and socio-economically diverse backgrounds
- broaden our impact by targeting underserved populations with our outreach programs
- introduce community members to exciting new programs and concerts

ENROLLMENT



STUDENT PROFILE



RESIDENCE

Altadena, Pasadena,
and Sierra Madre 47%

Other San Gabriel Valley Communities 13%

South Pasadena and San Marino 10%

La Canada, La Crescenta, Montrose, and Glendale 10%

Los Angeles 9%

San Fernando Valley 6%

Other 5%

FUN FACTS

YM Students Favorite Album 2013-2014:

Drum Crazy

YM Students Favorite Instrument:

The Gathering Drum

Guitar Students Favorite Composer: Tie—

Francisco Tarrega; Andrew York

Guitar Students Most Played Composition:

Sunburst (Andrew York)

OUTREACH

Children are born with musical aptitude, and research has shown that this aptitude is most effectively developed during childhood. With funding cuts to public arts education, thousands of children—particularly those from low-income communities—simply lack access to quality music instruction.

In response to this need, PCM has established three ongoing outreach programs that create opportunities for low-income students to explore their musical identity, creative expression, and problem-solving skills through music.



“The [Conservatory’s] advocacy efforts are clear, especially in a locale with an uncommonly wide socio-economic range. Time and again, visitors noted that the institution is able to bring its diverse community together through music education. While the performance level of its most musically mature students is exceptional, the institution’s commitment to access, through its outreach programs, is equally virtuosic.”

- The Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools



“My favorite part of music class is when we play the melody with the xylophone. And when we create music with partners.”

- Fifth grade student at Jefferson Elementary

YOUNG MUSICIANS AT JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

Since 2002, PCM has provided general music classes to the students at our neighborhood school, Jefferson Elementary. Through weekly instruction, students learn how to read, write, and perform rhythm and pitch notation; sing using solfège; play percussion instruments; learn songs from various cultures; and communicate different ideas and moods through music.



Over the course of thirty-two weeks, 896 general music classes were provided to all 554 students. An additional 96 after-school classes (recorder, Music Meets Drama, and xylophone ensemble) were provided to participating third through fifth grade students.



PASADENA SHOWCASE HOUSE MUSIC MOBILE™

For thirteen years, PCM has co-presented the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts Music Mobile™. These assemblies introduce third graders to the concepts of classical music and to the instruments of the orchestra through a hands-on experience with each instrument.



Beginning in September 2013, PCM provided 68 Music Mobile assemblies to 2,165 third graders at 25 elementary schools located in the greater San Gabriel Valley.

FINANCIAL AID/ SCHOLARSHIP

PCM provides and sustains tuition assistance for students who demonstrate continued interest and commitment to music study, supporting their enrollment in a range of activities, including individual lessons and ensemble instruction.



In 2013-2014, a total of 74 scholarships were awarded to students studying piano, violin, guitar, cello, chamber music, jazz ensemble, clarinet, voice, and trombone, among other instruments.

**"I am excited to be able to continue my musical studies at PCM. I really enjoy music and I have decided to study it in college. I would like to become a Suzuki viola and violin teacher, like my teacher, Rachel Fabulich, who has really inspired me."
– Scholarship Student**



PCM's outreach programs were made possible thanks to the support of the following foundations and agencies:



Confidence Foundation, Julia Stearns Dockweiler Foundation, The Green Foundation, Jefferson Elementary PTA, Pasadena Arts League, Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts, Rose Hills Foundation, Target

PCM Supporters



Top row (L to R): Shannon and Pamela Clyne and Harry Eversole; Olin Barrett, Tom Leddy, Jay Lusche, and Joyce Leddy; Patricia Ketchum and Sara Lippincott

Second row (L to R): Ann and Olin Barrett; Ann Barrett, Elisa Callow, and Betsey Tyler; Barbara White-Thomson and Joyce Leddy

Third row (L to R): Sebastian Zacharia, Annette Sneider, and Jim Ballinger; Liz Burby and Betty Sandford; Jay and Penny Lusche

Bottom row (L to R): Janet Sporleder, Jane Dietrich, and Sara Lippincott; Linda Dickason and Georgianna Erskine

ANNUAL DONORS

July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014

Thank you for your generosity in 2013–2014!

PCM is deeply grateful to you and the hundreds of donors whose contributions bring high-quality music education and public performances to the community. Your support enriches the cultural fabric of our community by expanding musical offerings, sustaining high-quality instruction, and bringing music education to thousands of students on PCM's campus, and those in low-income neighborhoods. Your gifts are an investment in the future of PCM, as well as our thriving community.

**Annual donors who additionally supported Mansions & Music as 2013–2014 season sponsors are recognized on page 13.*

\$25,000 AND ABOVE

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Bottom: Marguerite and Robert Marsh and Mary Eversole

For In Memoriam/Honor gifts of \$250 or more, donors are additionally recognized on page 19.

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM/ HONOR

July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014

In memory of Kenneth C. Armistead
Mary Armistead

In memory of Barbara Martin
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K. Belle Conway
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Stephen McCurry
Walter Marsh
Louisa N. Miller
Gretl and Arnold Mulder
Maiya Penberthy
Betty Sandford
Christine Sisley and Ken Garen

In memory of Estelle Schlueter
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In memory of Wynne Stone
Suzie and Johnny Casper

**In honor of Gretl and
Arnold Mulder**
Debby and Martin Weiss

MILESTONES CAMPAIGN DONORS

The board, staff, and faculty at PCM thank the many individuals whose support has made the Milestones Campaign and the campus expansion project possible. With your help, we are now just \$350,000 from our \$7.5 million goal. Thank you for playing a critical role in this milestone in PCM's history!

*Contributions made through
September 2014*

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Adele Lun
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Maiya Penberthy
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Community Foundation
Fine Arts Club of Pasadena
Cecilia Gutierrez
Sharon L. Harman, in honor of
Ward and May Harman
Stephen and Anne Nowlin
Peggy C. Spear
Janet Sporleder
Timothy B. Still
Brian Wernicke and Joann Stock

GIFTS OF \$250–\$499

Anonymous, in memory of
Charlotte Zelka and
Christine Glazier
Michele and Bret Hardy
Beverly Lafontaine



Top: Rosa Cumare and Felix Cumare

Middle: Supporters at PCM's year-end celebration

Bottom (L to R): Maiya Penberthy and Tim Still; Stephen Nowlin and Peggy Spear



Top Row: PCM teacher Elizabeth Babor with Student Steve Wallace; Chamber Music student Joshua Kave

2nd Row: Celia Liu performs at PCM's Guitar Nights Concert; Chamber music students perform in January; PCM teacher Elizabeth Babor with Wee Ling Wong

3rd Row: Cello student Eric Chadwick; Felix Bullock conducts a LAYGO rehearsal; Sarah Gazarek performs with PCM jazz faculty

4th Row: Ryan Ayers performs at PCM's Guitar Nights; PCM teacher Nick Gerpe with student Patrick Babajanian

FACULTY

CHAMBER MUSIC

Andrew Cook, department chair,
artist-teacher, and cello
Rachel Fabulich, viola and violin
Sharon Harman, viola and violin
Aimee Kreston, artist-teacher, violin
Rebecca Merblum, cello

GUITAR

Felix Bullock, department chair
Brian Barany
David Margolis
Adam Pettit
Connie Sheu
Scott Tennant, artist-teacher

JAZZ

Ray Briggs, department chair
Michael Birnbryer, saxophone
Steve Cotter, guitar
Madeleine Eaton, violin
Gary Fukushima, piano
Toby Holmes, low brass
Sherry Luchette, bass
Roy McCurdy, percussion
Damon Zick, saxophone

PIANO

Stephen Cook, department chair
Elizabeth Babor
Annie Chen
Wendy Chen
Nicolas Gerpe
Renee Gilormini
Hsin-Tai Liu
Vatché Mankerian
Kay Min
Kathryn Norring
Elizabeth Sawitzke
Bobbie Sender
Susan Svrček, artist-teacher, chamber
music coach
Mariné Ter-Kazaryan
Cindy Williams

STRINGS

Rebecca Merblum, department chair,
cello
Mary Kelly, violin and viola coordinator
Niklas Bertani, cello
Andrew Cook, artist-teacher, cello
Madeleine Eaton, violin
Rachel Fabulich, violin and viola
Cynthia R. Fogg, violin and viola
Sharon Harman, violin
Tami Iskenderian, violin
Aimee Kreston, artist-teacher, violin
Dorothy Kwon, violin and viola
Jim Lee, cello
Sherry Luchette, bass
Richard Mooney, artist-teacher, cello
Elizabeth Pattengale, cello
Patrick Rosalez, violin and viola
Erika Walczak, violin and viola

THEORY, HISTORY, & COMPOSITION

Ray Briggs
Matthew Brown
Stephen Cook
Kimberlea Daggy
Priscilla Pawlicki

VOCAL ARTS

Tamara Bevard
Michele Hemmings
Mariné Ter-Kazaryan
Steven Kronauer, choral director

WOODWINDS, BRASS, & PERCUSSION

Heather Millette, department chair,
clarinet
Michael Birnbryer, saxophone
Melissa Frey, bassoon
Melanie Hoffman, trumpet
Toby Holmes, low brass
Jennifer Johnson, oboe
Barbara Mullens-Geier, flute
Danielle Ondarza, horn
T.J. Troy, percussion
Damon Zick, saxophone
Michele Zukovsky, artist-teacher,
clarinet

YOUNG MUSICIANS

Rachael Doudrick, department chair
Kimberly Berry
Erin Buschiazio
Sherry Luchette
Elizabeth Sawitzke
Sharon Weed

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