



2022-2023

# Parent Handbook



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# Directory

## FACULTY

### STRINGS

Bagus Wiswakarma, violin & viola .....bwiswakarma@opuscms.org  
Nathania Munoz, violin & viola .....nathania.munoz@opuscms.org  
Anna Bross, viola & violin .....annabross@opuscms.org  
Zack Branch, cello .....zachbranch@opuscms.org  
William Kass, cello .....wkass@opuscms.org  
Aileen Wiswakarma, cello (student teacher) .....awiswakarma@opuscms.org

### PIANO

Dr. Lisa Weiss .....lisa.weiss@opuscms.org  
Tim Pinelli .....timpinelli@opuscms.org  
Pamela Wiswakarma .....pwiswakarma@opuscms.org

### WOODWINDS

Dr. Grace Ju-Yeon Wang, flute .....gracewang@opuscms.org  
Barbara Anastasion, clarinet .....banastasion@opuscms.org  
Dr. Mark Runkles, oboe & saxophone .....markrunkles@opuscms.org

### VOICE

Virginia Douglas .....viriniadouglas@cms.org

## STAFF

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pamela Wiswakarma .....pwiswakarma@opuscms.org

### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Mark Runkles .....markrunkles@opuscms.org

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Rebecca Borger .....billing@opuscms.org

### STUDENT COORDINATOR

Barbara Anastasion .....banastasion@opuscms.org

# Faculty Faces

## Barbara Anastasion, Clarinet

✓ In-person ✓ Virtual



Barbara Anastasion teaches clarinet at OPUS (as well as occasional other instruments). She is a 21 year veteran instrumental music teacher in Carroll County, MD. She currently teaches 4th grade band, 5th grade band, 4th grade orchestra, and 5th grade orchestra. She has also taught Kindergarten vocal/general music and 3rd-5th grade vocal/general music. She has taught private lessons since 2000 in Harford, Baltimore, and Carroll Counties.

Barbara began playing the clarinet in 4th grade. She received a BA in Music from Towson University, having studied under Ed Palanker, Dan Silver, and Chris Wolfe. She received her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2008. Barbara is also a National Board Certified music educator. She is an alumni member of Kappa Kappa Psi, National Honorary Band Fraternity. Barbara is actively involved in the state level of music education, specifically with the MBDA (Maryland Band Directors Association), and is also highly involved at the county level. She also adjudicates for the State Solo and Ensemble Festival each spring.

Barbara directs the handbell choir and children's choir at her church. Barbara has a middle school age daughter who takes violin lessons at OPUS and a primary age son who takes piano lessons at OPUS.

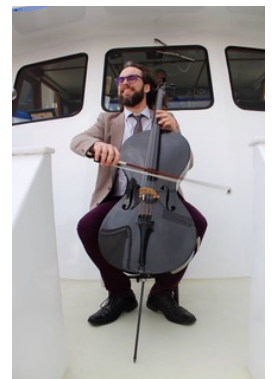
Barbara Anastasion is also Opus' Student Coordinator.

✓ In-person ✓ Virtual

## Zack Branch, Cello

Zack Branch is a bassist, cellist, arranger, and teacher based in Baltimore, MD. He has worked as a musical director and orchestra member with Center Stage Baltimore, the Baltimore Rock Opera Society, and Royal Caribbean International, while building a reputation as an in-demand recording artist for his playing and arranging skills.

Zack has been teaching music for more than ten years, specializing in beginner cello instruction, audition preparation, and ensemble skills. Since joining OPUS, he has thoroughly enjoyed bringing his classical and professional background into private lessons and is thankful for such a supportive school environment that prioritizes student achievement and quality instruction.



## Anna Bross, Violin & Viola

✗ In-person ✓ Virtual



Inspired by Disney's Fantasia to play violin at age 4, Anna Bross hasn't been able to stop performing ever since. She has gone from playing in Grandma's living room to pursuing her dream in Symphony Orchestras and Chamber Groups all across America. She has performed in Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan Washington, and in the Washington DC/Baltimore area, where she currently resides.

Ms. Bross has formerly served as principal of the Illinois Valley Symphony, The Kishwaukee Symphony, the NIU Philharmonic and the Peabody Concert Orchestra, and has also performed with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. An avid chamber musician, she has traveled to study with artists such as The Avalon String Quartet, Anthony Elliott, Richard Wolfe, Mathias Tacke, Drew Irvin and Michael Gurt. Always eager to bring new music to life, Anna enjoys working closely with contemporary composers to premiere new chamber and solo works.

Anna has a tremendous passion for teaching, and has maintained a private violin and viola studio since 2008. She aims to help guide her students' unique musical voice to form lasting and meaningful connections with their audiences and the people around them. In addition to her own studio, Anna is currently on the violin/viola faculty at Opus.

Ms. Bross received her Bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University in 2011 and her Master's Degree from the Peabody Conservatory in 2013. Her primary teachers include Anthony Devroye, Li-Kuo Chang and Maria Lambros.



## Virginia Douglas, Voice

✓ In-person ✓ Virtual



Virginia Douglas is a soprano hailing from Maryland. She loves exploring music with students and guiding them through their own musical journey. She graduated from Ithaca College in 2019 with a degree in Vocal Performance. While in attendance she studied vocal pedagogy and breathing pedagogy from master teachers, Carol McAmis and Dr. David Earll. As an emerging artist, she has placed in numerous competitions and Auditions, including the Central New York Finger Lakes National Association of Teachers of Singing Auditions. She also received honors in the Sue Goetz Ross Memorial Student Competition in 2019.

Virginia has performed at young artist programs in both the United States and Germany, including the Mostly Modern Festival (2022), Wintergreen Music Festival (2021), International Performing Arts Institute: Global Artist Program (2020), International Performing Arts Institute: Kiefersfelden, Germany (2019), Anne Baltz's OperaWorks (2018), and Miami Music Festival (2017). She attended Young Artists of America: Classical Voice inaugural season in 2020-2021. She has a passion for New Music and American Art Song, but enjoys expanding her repertoire in any way she can. Virginia has studied under the tutelage of Jennifer Kay, Arianna Zukerman, and, currently, Gustavo Ahualli. While performing in the Maryland/ DC area, she is committed to finding new ways to better enrich her students. When she is not teaching or

practicing, she enjoys baking, reading, and hiking.

✗ In-person ✓ Virtual

## William Kass, Cello

William Kass is a cellist and educator originally from St. Louis, Missouri. William studied cello performance at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University under the tutelage of Amit Peled. While there, William was also mentored in pedagogy by Bai-Chi Chen. He then pursued further studies with Troy Stuart in Baltimore and then with Alison Wells at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where he was awarded a Master's Degree in Cello Performance. William also received a Diploma (with distinction) in Instrumental Music Teaching from the ABRSM.

He has appeared in masterclasses for Ronald Leonard, Hans Jørgen Jensen, Colin Carr, and Timothy Eddy. As a chamber musician, William received instruction from members of the Takács, Juilliard, Brentano, Miró, and Borromeo Quartets, as well as from the pianists Robert McDonald and Benjamin Pasternack. William has been featured as a soloist with the Alton Symphony (IL) and the St. Louis Civic Orchestra. He has collaborated with artists such as Nicola Benedetti, Johannes Moser, and members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony.



## Nathania Munoz, Violin & Viola

✓ In-person ✓ Virtual



Nathania Munoz has had a versatile career in teaching and performing music. Originally from the beautiful Dutch-Caribbean tropical island of Curaçao, Nathania began studying music at the age of 9, shortly after her family moved to the US. Nathania received her Bachelor's in Violin Performance and her Master's in Music Education at Pensacola Christian College. In the Summer of 2013, Nathania attended the Starling-Delay Violin Symposium at the Juilliard School of Music where she studied pedagogy and performance with several notable violinists, including Itzhak Perlman. Throughout the years, her passion for music, along with her 22 years of experience on the violin, has led her to travel, perform, and teach internationally and at a professional level. She has experience directing and teaching at international music camps, as well as conducting choirs, string ensembles and teaching strings at elementary, high school and college levels in Florida, Texas, Maryland, Curacao and Peru. Her passion for music has also allowed her to perform as a solo, chamber and orchestral musician throughout the States, six European countries, Peru and Curacao.

Nathania currently resides in Westminster, MD, where she is the proud mother of a beautiful newborn girl. She also performs as associate concert mistress in the Frederick Symphony Orchestra. Her love for teaching and working with her students while seeing them develop has her teaching at several studios in the region. Nathania greatly incorporates technique and musicality in her teaching and she hopes to pass her passion of music to her students.

## Tim Pinelli, Piano

✓ In-person ✕ Virtual



As a member of our piano faculty, pianist Tim Pinelli brings over three decades of experience to Opus. His advanced pursuit of both piano performance and pedagogy began under the tutorship of Karen England of the Howard County Music Teachers Association in 1991. Later, he studied with Dr. Michael Adcock of the Washington and Peabody Conservatories at UMBC with Dr. Audrey Andrist, and with Dr. Hsiu-Hui Wang of Goucher and Howard Community Colleges. Along the way, he was voted Most Musical in senior yearbook and was the recipient of multiple music scholarships. Currently, Mr. Pinelli is pursuing a graduate performance diploma through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and is the recipient of the Bravo Award, which provided a grant to pursue his diploma. He also studied and still performs in jazz settings, recently serving as the consulting editor of the John Bresnik Jazz Piano method.

As a teacher, Mr. Pinelli has been an efficient and successful mentor for all ages and levels with a philosophy that emphasizes a strong foundation in both music history and theory in addition to technique. Recently, he has acted as an adjudicator in many of the area's major competitions. Among

his students have been future piano majors, competition prizewinners, scholarship recipients, and many who have succeeded in piano and theory exams. Formerly an instructor with Mike's Music in Ellicott City as well as his own private studio, he joined Opus in 2016, where he led the effort to establish the school's piano curriculum.

In addition to his music education, Mr. Pinelli holds a Masters of Science in Applied Mathematics from the Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering, and works as a cybersecurity analyst on the National Vulnerability Database project at NIST. He resides in Sykesville, MD.

✓ In-person ✓ Virtual

## Dr. Mark Runkles, Saxophone & Oboe

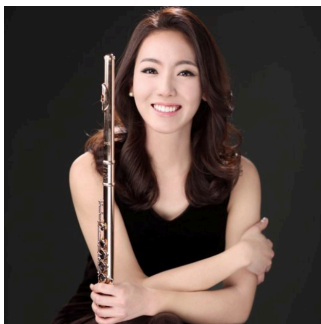
Appointed in 2015 as an Instructor of Oboe and Saxophone with Opus Community Music School and a Faculty Clinician with Academy of St. Cecilia Youth Orchestra in Damascus, Mark Runkles completed his Doctor of Musical Arts in Oboe Performance at UNLV. Dr. Runkles earned his Master of Fine Arts in Oboe Performance and Master of Arts in Jazz Studies from the University of Iowa and his Bachelor of Arts in Oboe Performance from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

He formed the Twin Arch Duo, which plays a mixture of standards and his own contemporary jazz compositions with guitarist Charlie Trapp in 2013. In 2008, Dr. Runkles performed a series of Jazz Vespers services in Scotland. He served as the Assistant Principal Oboe with the Chesapeake Orchestra from 1999-2004 and performed on 2nd Oboe with the Las Vegas Philharmonic from the winter of 2009 through 2012. Dr. Runkles is an oboe student of Stephen Caplan, Mark Weiger, and Vladimir Lande and a saxophone student of John Rapson and Don Stapleson.



## Dr. Grace Ju-Yeon Wang, Flute

✕ In-person ✓ Virtual



Praised by the Journal of Music as "remarkably elegant...sensitive and brilliant" flutist Grace Ju -Yeon Wang enjoys a versatile career as a soloist, chamber musician and educator. Having performed worldwide across Asia, Europe, Africa and North America, she has performed on stages including Seoul Arts Center, Sejong Center for the Performing Arts, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Carnegie Hall and multiple appearances at the Kennedy Center.

Grace is a prize winner of the American Protégé International Flute Competition, Rochester Flute Association Competition, Baltimore Music Club Competition, South Carolina Flute Society Young Artist Competition and was selected as a semi-finalist for Astral Artists National Auditions and the Concert Artist Guild Victor Elmaleh Competitions.

As founder and flutist of Daraja Ensemble, she has made appearances at the Riverdale Mansion, Washington Arts Club, Amadeus Concert Series, and many more. The Quintet held the Fellowship Quintet Residency at the University of Maryland from 2015-2017 and were finalist for the International Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition. In 2016, the quintet traveled to Tanzania, Africa to start a new music education program for the schools in the sugar plantation area.

As a chamber musician she has performed nationwide as a member of the TIMF Ensemble and Lunar Ensemble and was invited to premiere Daniel Thomas Davis's piece "Book of the Lake" commissioned by the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.

She has studied with Marina Piccinini for her Master's and Graduate Performance Degree at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and holds a Bachelor's Degree from Seoul National University. Currently she is pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Maryland under the tutelage of Sarah Frisof.

As a passionate educator of solo and chamber music, Grace has given masterclasses throughout the US and Asia, and serves as faculty member at DeMatha Catholic High School, Honors College Prep and Woodbridge Music Institute.

## Dr. Lisa Weiss, Piano

✓ In-person ✓ Virtual



Pianist Lisa Weiss, a native of Quincy, MA, began playing at age three and made her debut with the Boston Pops at age seven, performing Haydn's concerto on D under the direction of Arthur Fiedler. She is a Professor of Music Emeritus at Goucher College where she taught private piano, directed the Chamber Music program and co-directed the Musical Theater and Opera program. In 2013 she was awarded the Todd Professorship, a funded position given one faculty member every five years to support their personal creative projects and pursuits.

Lisa holds a B.A. from Harvard University, an M.M. from The Yale School of Music, and a D.M.A. from The Peabody Conservatory, where she studied with Leon Fleisher. Her other principal teachers are Leo Litwin, Leon Kirchner, Claude Frank and Richard Goode. She also holds an M.F.A. in creative writing from Lesley University and has published in the fiction and non-fiction genres.

Of her New York debut at Merkin Hall, New Times critic Wil Crutchfield called her "a musician worthy of attention and able to hold it." For that recital, she performed Bach's third Partita, the Liszt Sonata and the

Copland Sonata. Ms. Weiss concertizes frequently as a soloist, chamber musician, and vocal accompanist. Recent performances include concerts at An Die Musik and Creative Alliance in Baltimore and at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York City.

An advocate of new music, Ms. Weiss' CD, "Millenium Crossings," consists of contemporary works for piano solo by contemporary Italian composers. At Yale, she was a member of the Yale Contemporary Ensemble. She premiered a work for piano and computer composed for her by Baltimore composer Samuel Burt at Baltimore's Artscape.

Lisa lives in Lutherville, MD with her husband, artist and MICA professor Howie Lee Weiss.

✓ In-person ✓ Virtual

## Bagus Wiswakarma, Violin

A native of Indonesia, Bagus Wiswakarma studied violin at the Hochschule fuer Musik und Theater Hamburg, Germany (Prof. Winfried Ruessmann). Additional pedagogical studies include the Amadeus Quartet, Brandis Quartet, Schleswig Holstein Music Festival in Europe and Asean Youth Music Workshop.

Mr. Wiswakarma is a concert soloist and Founder/Director of the Chamber Music Series (Jakarta, Indonesia 1999 - 2006). He also served as the Director of the International Music School (Jakarta, 2000 - 2006) and Music Director of the Jakarta Philharmonia 2003 - 2005.

He has been a teacher at Opus for over 13 years and served as Opus Artistic Director from 20??-??.



## Pamela (Ela) Wiswakarma, Piano

✓ In-person ✓ Virtual



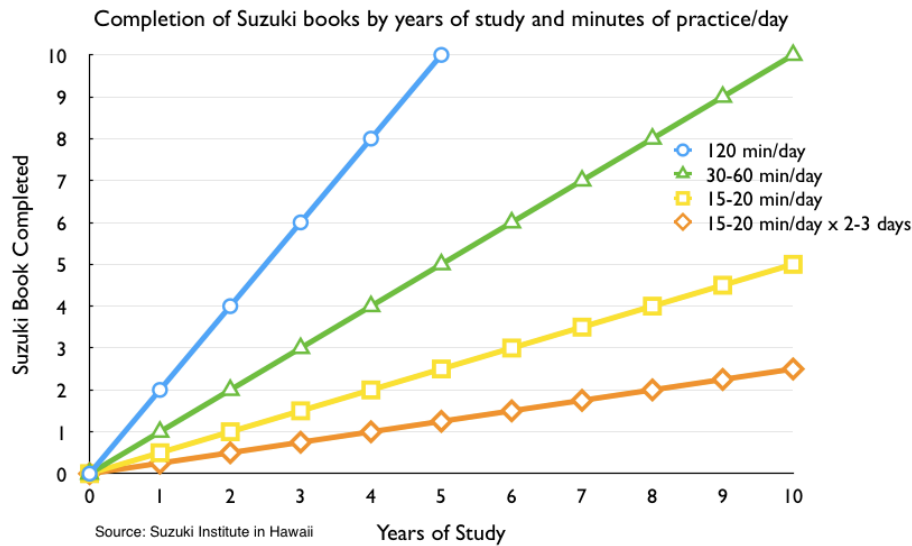
Pamela (Ela) Wiswakarma's professional degrees include Vordiplom-Dirigieren (Conducting) and Diplom-Rhythmik (Music and Movement Pedagogy) from the Hochschule fuer Musik und Theater in Hamburg, Germany; and a Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary's College, MD.

While studying and working in Germany, Ela conducted the Harburger Maenner Chor, Harburger Frauen Chor, and Phoenix Orchestra in the Friedrich-Ebert Halle; the DESY Orchestra; The Hamburg Bach Society Orchestra; and she served as Guest Conductor for orchestral ensembles and choirs in both Europe and America. In 1998, Ela moved to Indonesia, where she lived for a decade. There she expanded her teaching and conducting experience at the Australian International School Kemang Kampus, Sekolah Ichthus South, Sekolah Mentari, Bambino Kindergarten, Sekolah Cita Buana, PPIA International Choir, and Yayasan Musik International.

Ela is now at Opus Community Music School, teaching private piano lessons ever since she returned to the U.S. in 2008. She has also taught Early Childhood Music at Opus, served as Financial & Administrative Director from 2012-17, and finally assumed the title of Executive Director in 2017.

With a studio of over 40 students, Ela is an energetic, creative educator and musician. When she isn't practicing or teaching, she's doing yoga and spending time with her family,

# Inspiration



"Music is a therapy. It is a communication far more powerful than words, far more immediate, far more efficient."

Yehudi Menuhin, Violinist

"Those who have achieved all their aims must probably set them too low."

Herbert von Karajan, Conductor

"I know that most joy in my life has come to me through my violin."

Albert Einstein, Physicist

"So long as the human spirit thrives on this planet, music in some living form will accompany and sustain it."

Aaron Copland, Composer

"Music, being identical with heaven, isn't a thing of momentary thrills, or even hourly ones. It's a condition of eternity."

Gustav Holst, Composer

"Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music."

Sergei Rachmaninov, Composer

"If we are to hope for a society of culturally literate people, music must be a vital part of our children's education."

Yo-Yo Ma, Cellist

"Without stopping, without haste, carefully taking a step at a time forward will surely get you there."

Shinichi Suzuki, Music Educator

# Our Parents + US = OPUS

Dear Parents,

Our dream is for Opus to become a vibrant community whose presence inspires others far beyond the walls of the studio. As you may already know, OPUS is more than a place to take private lessons. It is a place to gain a well-rounded musical education that fosters technical, creative, individual, and social skills. These skills are developed through training with your instrument and with others. One of the most rewarding and exciting aspects of music is experiencing the joy of playing with and for others and building relationships through the common bond of music.

Research has shown again and again that students' great success is influenced by parental involvement. Our teachers and parents share a common goal. We want to nurture the musical development of every student and affect the people around us in a meaningful way.

With this in mind, we hope you will help us lay great foundations for our students and our school. Join us and become involved in enhancing the OPUS community with activities and events for our families.

Sincerely,

Ela Wiswakarma

Executive Director

## Our Parents help the studio by...

- Organizing/contributing to recital receptions
- Organizing/contributing to events such as Opus Family Picnics, Movie Nights, Performance Field Trips, and Concert Trips like Hershey Park
- Maintaining studio facilities (weeding, vacuuming, dusting)
- Fundraising for studio growth and fun activities
- Building our community, sharing ideas, and having fun!



# Studio Lessons Policy

## Studio Behavior

- Please arrive at least 5 minutes early. This gives you time to hang your coats, use the bathroom, file fingernails, have supplies ready, and WASH HANDS.
- One parent or adult caregiver is asked to attend lessons of children ages 11 and under. Parents or adult caregivers are asked to be responsible for their children at all times.
- Observers are welcome in the teaching areas. Please be respectful of the focus and concentration necessary for a good lesson.
- Family members and friends are welcome to sit in the reception area, where coloring books, magazines, games and toys are available. Please leave facilities in the same tidiness they were found.

## Missed Lessons

- 24 hour notice is required to qualify as an excused absence. In the case of fever, exceptions can be made at teacher discretion.
- No portion of tuition, paid or outstanding, will be refunded or cancelled due to absence, withdrawal, or dismissal of student unless written notice of withdrawal is requested, received, and approved by the Executive Director.
- If the Carroll County Public Schools and/or the Carroll County Snow Emergency Plan is in effect, all Opus activities are cancelled, unless you and your teacher agree to conduct a virtual lesson. Decisions about cancellations will also be communicated via email and My Music Staff. When in doubt, contact your teacher.

## Make-up lessons will be provided for...

- Lessons missed by the teacher for any reason
- Up to TWO lesson missed due to weather cancellation per school year, unless satisfied online at teacher & student discretion
- Up to ONE excused student absence per semester (provided during end of semester make-up week)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Instruments

*What violin/viola/cello will my child need?*

String instruments come in various smaller sizes made especially for children, and the size of the instrument is determined by the size of the child. Consult with your instructor to find out what size your student needs.

*Does Opus rent instruments?*

No. We have an instrument bank through which instruments can be loaned in special circumstances (such as waiting for instrument repairs), but it is not a rental program. Ask your teacher for their recommended vendors.

## Scheduling

*What day and time will my lesson be?*

Lesson day and time will be arranged directly between you and your teacher. Often, your teacher will let you know what time slots they have available, and you may indicate which one fits your schedule. Please be aware that as new semesters may bring in new students, it is not guaranteed that you will have the same time slot.

*How do I know who my teacher will be?*

This is up to mutual preference and our teacher availability. If you do not already have a teacher at Opus, we can recommend one that we think will suit your needs. To help you make a decision, you can schedule one FREE trial lesson with an Opus teacher of your choice. Please note that some teachers are either available exclusively online or in-person.

*What lesson length should I sign up for?*

We generally recommend 30-minute lessons for beginners, 45-minutes/1-hour lessons for older students, and 1 hour lessons for advanced students.

## Registration

*How do I register for lessons?*

Registration is done online by visiting [www.opuscms.org/registration-and-documents](http://www.opuscms.org/registration-and-documents) and clicking "Opus Fall/Spring/Summer Registration." This will open the registration form, which you may fill out and submit. It is important that new students also make a My Music Staff account.

*I am already a student at Opus and want to keep taking lessons next semester. Do I need to register again?*

If you are already registered in the fall, your enrollment is automatically carried into the spring semester. In all other cases, enrollment is not automatic. Students must register for every new summer and fall semester.

## Events Outside Opus

*Do you offer lessons to help prepare for Solo & Ensemble Festival or other auditions?*

Yes, just contact us! Group and/or private lessons can be arranged to help you prepare for auditions of every kind.

*I need a piano accompanist for an event outside of Opus. Can I ask Opus?*

Yes, Opus has accompanists who can both coach and accompany you. A typical charge for repertoire in Suzuki books 1-4 may be \$40 for every 30-minute rehearsal, \$50 for every 45-minute rehearsal, \$60 for every 1-hour rehearsal, and \$50 for every performance. However, pricing is ultimately up to the discretion of the accompanist. Typically, 1-2 rehearsals are recommended for every performance, depending on difficulty. For events outside of Carroll County, a destination surcharge of up to \$100 may be charged.

## Pricing

*How does pricing work?*

You can find our prices listed on the website. These are posted per semester unless otherwise noted.

*How do I pay for lessons?*

Once you register, you will automatically receive a bill via email. We accept cash or check. Checks can be deposited in our Payment Box located beside the office on the main floor of the studio. You may also mail your check to

Opus Community Music School  
6217 Sykesville Road  
Eldersburg, MD 21784

*Do I have to pay the full amount up front?*

You can, but we have other payment options. Our installment plans feature payments in two or four equal payments for a small additional charge. We also have an Early Bird discount which is available by request for payment in full.

*How does the Sibling Discount work?*

This payment option is only available by request. The first student you register pays the full tuition, and every additional student you register gets a 10% discount. This is how we both keep lessons affordable and thank our most involved families!

*How do scholarships work?*

Scholarship amounts are dependent on the funds available in the Opus Scholarship Fund and the number of students who apply for financial assistance. Scholarships must be applied for each new semester and are not automatically granted for continuing students.

## Accessibility

*My child needs an auxiliary aid or service. What do I do?*

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities, which includes Opus. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact Madeline M. Morey, the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinate, at one of the following no later than 72 hours before the event:

410-386-3600

(+1) 888-302-8979

MD Relay 7-1-1

(+1) 800-735-2258

[mmorey@ccg.carr.org](mailto:mmorey@ccg.carr.org)

# Student & Parent Guide

## Login

To log in, visit [www.opuscms.org/login](http://www.opuscms.org/login) and enter your login credentials, or you can find the same login portal by visiting our website and navigating to the Registration and Documents page and/or the Current Student Login page.

If you forget your login credentials, select "Forgot your password," enter your email address, and you will receive a password reset email. Alternatively, contact us at [info@opuscms.org](mailto:info@opuscms.org) and we will send you a password reset email.

## Home Screen

The Home Screen will display your next scheduled event, the practice hours you've logged for the week, and your attendance record over the past 90 days. You can also see recent notes, borrowed items, make-up credits, and assigned repertoire that your teacher has put into MMS for you, along with available downloads.

## Calendar

The calendar allows you to view your scheduled lessons, cancel lessons if necessary, and (on occasion) register for Opus events. To cancel a lesson through MMS, click on the lesson and select "Cancel Attendance," and your teacher will be notified immediately. Note that the lesson must be cancelled at least 24 hours in advance in order to qualify for that semester's make-up lesson.

## Attendance & Notes

Here you can view your attendance over the course of your lessons, as well as access any notes your teacher may have given you through MMS. You can see when and why make-up credits are issued, and when they were used. You can also print an attendance report should you need to.

## Accounts & Invoices

Here you can view any charges, payments, and invoices sent to your Opus account, as well as your current balance. For questions regarding billing, contact our Financial Assistant, Rebecca Borger, at [billing@opuscms.org](mailto:billing@opuscms.org)



## Studio Info

Here you can find Opus & faculty contact information, as well as your current make-up lesson total.

## Studio News

Here you can access important studio announcements. It is a good place to check for information regarding registration, recitals, volunteering, etc.. This information is also dispersed in studio-wide emails.

## Library & Downloads

A record and due date of your borrowed books or instruments will be displayed here. You can also access important documents, such as the studio calendar, instrumental rental contract, and the 100 Days of Practice form.

## Practice Log

This is a useful tool for you and your teacher to track the frequency and quality of practice time. Your teacher can view the logs you make, as well as any accompanying questions or notes you write in the log entry for the day. \*Scholarship students are required to use this tool.\*

## Repertoire

Here, you and your teacher have the option to track your progress on specific pieces of repertoire. Each piece you add can have its status set to Requested, Recommended, In Progress, or Completed. Your teacher may even upload sheet music here in case you have lost your copy.

## Email History

Here you can see the history of any emails sent to you via My Music Staff, including the text, senders, recipients, the subject, and the date of the email.

## Settings

Should you need to change any of your personal information or login credentials, you can do so here, located in the top right corner of the My Music Staff page.

# Student Recitals

Registration for any of the following events is done on a first come, first serve basis by filling out online forms that parents/students will receive via email.

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## Master Classes


 2 weeks before Recital, number varies

**WHAT THEY ARE >** Master classes are a relaxed, fun way for a student to get used to playing with their accompanist and/or playing for a slightly larger audience. Students will play their recital piece(s) for their Recital Prep Teacher(s) and fellow Opus students, and will in turn receive helpful comments from their audience members. Getting tips from a faculty member other than their own teacher is especially valuable, as it makes for more diverse and comprehensive instruction. This also gives students the opportunity to hear other Opus students play and share comments of their own.

**HOW THEY WORK >** Opus holds 1-2 Master Class day(s) per semester approximately 2 weeks before the recital date. They are 1-hour, group-style sessions, and the cost of 1 Master Class is included in your semester tuition. Multiple sessions per day are available for sign up. If you cannot make the Dress Rehearsal, you MUST attend a Master Class.

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## Dress Rehearsals


 1 week before Recital, 2 per year

**WHAT THEY ARE >** Dress Rehearsals are designed to help performers feel comfortable in the recital space and with the venue's piano. We do a practice run through the entire concert, during which students are guided through the recital process: when to get onstage, when/how to bow, and other reminders about the recital day. Concert attire is not required for this event.

**HOW THEY WORK >** Opus holds a Dress Rehearsal approximately 1 week in advance of each of the end-of-semester Recitals. Each student will play in ONE of the Dress Rehearsals, usually corresponding to the Recital of that same time. If you cannot make a Master Class, you MUST attend a Dress Rehearsal.

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## Recitals

 End of Fall/Spring Semester, 2 per year

**WHAT THEY ARE >** Recitals are formal concerts where students have the opportunity to showcase their semester-long work! Students arrive 15-20 minutes early to unpack, tune, and warm up. Concert attire is required for this event (black & white or all-black formal clothing, with color exceptions for our youngest players). A reception is held afterwards, for which we need volunteers to bring snacks and drinks. More detailed information about reception volunteering will be provided as we approach the Recital date.

**HOW THEY WORK >** Opus holds Recitals at the end of each Fall and Spring semester. Each student performs in ONE of the Recitals. Students must participate in either a Master Class or Dress Rehearsal in order to qualify for an end-of-semester Recital.

# Solo Recitals

To give a Solo Recital, a student prepares and presents multiple pieces in a concert all their own. Students of any age/ability can decide to give a Solo Recital; however, it is helpful to consider a student's discipline and performance maturity when assessing when/whether to do so.

## STEP 1: Tell your teacher

Your teacher will be your primary guide through this experience, so you first want to let your teacher know that you'd like to give a solo recital. The two of you will choose and prepare your repertoire and go over any questions you may have.

## STEP 2: Decide on a date, time, and place

We recommend at least 1 semester's worth of lessons with your teacher to adequately prepare. The ensemble room at the Opus studio is available for use as your recital venue as long as you reserve it at least 60 days in advance. Your teacher can help you reserve this room using MMS. Alternatively, you may reserve a venue outside of Opus to the agreement of you and your teacher.

## STEP 3: Find an accompanist if needed

It is important that you do this step EARLY. We have talented pianists in our faculty who would love to play with you. Please request accompanists at least 60 days in advance and consult with them about their price for hire. Talk to an accompanist directly or contact them using the information found in the Faculty Directory under Piano (page 3). There is no guarantee that a specific accompanist will be available, but it is more likely the earlier you ask. Or you may ask an accompanist outside of Opus.

> *You must have at least 2 rehearsals with your accompanist.* Your teacher may have recommendations about when rehearsals should take place, but rehearsals are ultimately scheduled between you and your accompanist, NOT your teacher. Rehearsals will be added to the MMS calendar by your accompanist if they are taking place at the studio.

## STEP 4: Invite friends and family

You are doing this to showcase your hard work and talent, so get an audience! Tell your family, your friends, your math teacher, your neighbor – anyone who might like to hear you play. Putting together a flyer with all the basic information will allow you to share it efficiently.

## STEP 5: Organize a reception (optional)

The Opus downstairs lobby is available as a reception hall. Opus is happy to provide tables, tableware (if available), and tablecloths for your use. Please wash all tablecloths before returning them to us and clean the area once the event is over: remove all trash/recycling and vacuum the area before you leave.

# Supporting Opus

Opus is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that relies on community volunteers and support. Here's how you can help!

## Volunteering

Opus needs volunteers of all ages in a variety of categories. Students are invited to earn service hours!

CONCERTS & RECEPTIONS > Help set up and take down receptions. Provide food, drinks, or other supplies. Receptions typically take place 6-8 times per year and information about volunteer opportunities is shared with the Opus community through studio-wide emails.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE > Help clean the studio, weed/prune in the summer/spring, snow shoveling/plowing in the winter, and occasional special projects, such as painting signs or moving pianos. Volunteers are requested via studio-wide emails and usually have days of notice (garden work) or hours of notice (snow).

BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS > Opus relies on an active board and committee members. Volunteers are invited to help with the Development Committee, the Scholarship Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Board. For more information, contact [info@opuscms.org](mailto:info@opuscms.org)

OPUS LIBRARY > Opus has a growing library in the top floor of the studio filled with music books and sheet music that needs organizing and categorizing. For more information, contact [info@opuscms.org](mailto:info@opuscms.org)

## Donations

MONETARY > We accept donations through PayPal and check (especially if your donation exceeds \$100). Checks can be delivered by mail to the Opus address or dropped off in person. If your place of work has an Employer Match Charitable Donations program or a Charitable Foundation, you can nominate Opus and your donation will have even greater impact! \*All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.\*

INSTRUMENTS > If you have an instrument that is in playing condition but isn't being used, consider donating it to Opus! Coupled with scholarship funds, we hope our instrumental library will ensure that anyone can learn to play an instrument regardless of their financial situation. We are looking for string, woodwind, and brass instruments.

FURNITURE > As we renovate our studio, we seek to replace and update furniture. We are especially looking to replace our fluorescent lighting with LED and ink for our printers.

## Additional Ways to Support: Quick & Easy

SCRIP CARDS > This is a FREE program that allows you to donate to Opus while you shop! Purchase gift cards through Opus OR the Raise Right App, and Opus automatically will get a percentage of the sale on any of your purchases.

1. Find the Raise Right App in your app store or visit [www.ShopwithScrip.com](http://www.ShopwithScrip.com) and create an account using the Opus Enrollment Code: 7334B83E4L185
2. Purchase Scrip Cards from the huge selection of retailers (grocery stores, restaurants, department stores, etc.). No additional fees applied.
3. Use your Scrip Card in place of cash, check, or credit cards. Opus gets an instant rebate!

AMAZON SMILE > This is a FREE program that allows you to support your favorite charitable organizations, including Opus, while still enjoying the same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping you find on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) in your web browser. If you wish, you may use any existing [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) account in your name, and it will automatically sync your shopping cart, wish list, and other features, or you may create a new account.
2. You will be asked to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases.
3. As you shop, products marked "Eligible for Amazon Smile Purchase" will qualify for a donation.

### The Opus Giving Tree >

When we get a donation, the donor's name is put on a leaf of corresponding size and added to the mural in the studio's foyer.

Every year, we hope to make our giving tree colorful!

Extra Small Leaf: \$10 - \$59.99

Small Leaf: \$60 - \$119.99

Medium Leaf: \$120 - \$299.99

Large Leaf: \$300 - \$599.99

Extra Large Leaf\*: \$600+





## What Opus Values

One of the things that makes Opus different from other private music schools is (1) our commitment to a holistic musical education, and (2) our dedication to enriching the wider community. We don't simply provide private music lessons – we present workshops, ensemble & performance options, faculty concerts, and innovative educational programs. Make sure to take advantage of the opportunities mentioned below during your time with us! Watch for EMAILS and NEWSLETTERS from Opus for more information.

### Performances & Workshops

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In addition to semester Recitals, students have the opportunity to perform in various venues. We feature formal and informal settings, soloists and ensembles, and occasionally provide workshop opportunities. Past or annual events include

**OPUS POCUS >** One of the annual events that takes place every Halloween season is Opus Pocus. Participants are invited to perform in costume, often starring a spooky (minor) rendition of one of the pieces they're working on. As this event doubles as a fundraiser, participants and audience members can purchase "Applause Tokens" to vote for their favorite performer, and the winner is given the Spooktacular Award. Other fun, thematically relevant awards are passed out to each performer at the end of the program.

**FESTIVAL OF TREES >** During the holiday season, Opus has been invited to provide live music during the annual Festival of Trees organized by the Shepherds Staff in Carroll County, MD. In 2021, we also offered a day-long workshop during which students learned holiday ensemble music to perform at the event.

**LIBRARY CONCERTS >** A relaxed way to explore performance, Opus periodically appears at public libraries throughout Carroll County, showcasing

students at Opus. Sometimes, faculty and students play together.

**ADULT SOIRÉE >** Part of Opus' mission is to provide music instruction to students of any age – including adults! Near the end of the spring semester, adult students get together at the Opus studio for an evening of casual music performance, light refreshments & beverages, and socializing.

**BEATS & BLOOMS >** In July of 2021, this bustling outdoor event at Homestead Products granted students their first opportunity to perform for an in-person audience since the start of the pandemic.

**NEW! ADVANCED STUDENTS' CONCERT >** The Carroll County Arts Center has offered to highlight particularly advanced and talented Opus students at our new Advanced Students' Concert. Qualifying students are nominated by their teacher and approved by the Board of Directors.

### Faculty Musicians

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Hearing live, high-quality music is so important to the development of a well-rounded musician! Luckily, our talented faculty performs throughout the year. Among others, be on the lookout for

**FACULTY CONCERT >** Opus faculty will perform at the Carroll Arts Center on November 19, 2022 and May 6, 2023.

# Opus Concert Club

Attending concerts and listening to live music is INTEGRAL to your growth as a musician. Opus wants to encourage you to go to as many concerts as possible! To further this goal, we hold a rewards program called Opus Concert Club. A Concert Club Card (CCC) is provided to students by order. If you fill up your card with punches, you become a member of the club and will qualify for certain special Rewards.

## Rules

1. Order a CCC by request from your teacher or the Executive Director. There is no deadline.
2. For every concert you attend, you receive a punch on your CCC.
  - You must be attending, not performing. If your name is on the program, it will not count.
  - Concerts of ALL kinds count, not just classical music performances. School concerts, festivals, even rock shows!
3. Bring a copy of your ticket, program, or a picture of you at the concert to your teacher to get a punch.
  - BONUS: If an Opus faculty member is performing at the concert or it's an Opus event that you are not playing in, you will get TWO punches!
4. You will have 2 semesters to complete your CCC (10 punches total). Bring your full CCC to us before OR at our Concert Club Movie Night to receive your Concert Club Button.

## Rewards

- Everyone who fills their CCC will become an official member of the Opus Concert Club and receive a Concert Club Button proclaiming their membership. Wear it on Recital day along with your 100 Days medal & pin(s) to show your accomplishment!
- Members' names and pictures will be added to a place of honor in the studio.
- Members are invited to our Concert Club Movie Night held in the summer.

**NEW!** Your CCC now works as a ticket/discount card. If you bring your CCC to an Opus Faculty Concert or any other concert held at the Carroll Arts Center, you get...

- 1 FREE ticket to the concert (applies to the student)
- Family discount code
- Sibling discount code

## Opus Treasure Quest Challenge

This extracurricular activity hones musical skills that may or may not be taught in the classroom or even in private lessons. The musical tasks are framed as “quests” to be completed among five themed islands, and are specifically designed to suit an individual student’s needs. The simple, step-by-step nature of these tasks makes this challenge both fun and achievable. You’ll be amazed by what you can accomplish!

### Quests

1. PRACTICE QUEST | Garden Growth Island > *Grow good habits.* Students practice for 6 days per week for 6 weeks.
2. PERFORMANCE QUEST | Siren Song Island > *Share music through performance.* Students create a program, hold 3 dress rehearsals, and stage a (private) performance.
3. LISTENING QUEST | Treasure Island > *Discover the rich musical world.* Students watch a faculty concert, a student recital, and a concert/YouTube video of their choice, and record their reflections.
4. SKILLS QUEST | Skills Mountain Island > *Dare to test yourself.* Students identify 2 skills they want to improve, practice them, apply them, and reflect on them.
5. INTERVIEW QUEST | Mysterious Muse Island > *Learn from others.* Students choose someone who inspires them and plays/used to play an instrument and interviews them.

### Materials

All of the following materials can be found by visiting [www.opuscms.org/registration-and-documents](http://www.opuscms.org/registration-and-documents)

- Opus Treasure Quest Instruction Manual: Read comprehensive directions that describe how to complete the treasure quest challenge.
- Travel Journal: Record and keep track of your progress.
- Treasure Quest Instructional Video: Get a crash course overview of the quests.
- Program Template & Example: Generate a program for your Performance Quest.

### Prizes

At the successful completion of this challenge, students receive ALL of the following:

- Music-note-shaped soap
- Music-medallion-shaped chocolate
- Earphones
- Opus pencil
- Opus pen
- Completed map of the archipelago
- Island quest passport
- Opus wallet to hold your passport

# Busy Bees Practice-A-Thon

Every spring, Opus hosts the Busy Bees Practice-A-Thon and fundraiser. Students gain sponsors and are encouraged to practice-a-TON! At the end of the Busy Bee season, ALL participants receive a magnetic practice bee, and at the Spring Recital, we hand out special Bees.

## Gaining Sponsors & Getting Busy

1. TELL PEOPLE you are participating in a practice challenge and need sponsors. Share the [Sponsor Request Letter](#) to explain the Practice-A-Thon and invite potential sponsors to pledge.
2. FILL OUT the [Busy Bees Pledge Form](#).
3. PRACTICE as much as possible over the 4-week period. Use the [Busy Bees Practice Log](#) to keep track.
4. TELL YOUR SPONSORS how many minutes you have practiced and collect their pledge money.
5. THANK YOUR SPONSORS for their support!

## Materials

All of the following materials can be found by visiting [www.opuscms.org/registration-and-documents](http://www.opuscms.org/registration-and-documents) and is all compiled into a single PDF document.

- Participant Information (page 1): Relays all essential information about the Busy Bee Practice-A-Thon.
- Final Form (page 2): Fill out and turn in this form to qualify for the special prizes.
- Pledge Form (page 3): Includes your sponsor information, total minutes, and pledge amounts.
- Practice Log (page 4): Helps you keep track of your practice minutes.
- Sponsor Request Letter (page 5): Explains the Busy Bee Practice-A-Thon to potential sponsors.

## Bees

- Personal Practice Bee: All students who gain sponsors and practice during the fundraiser period
- Medium Bee: Students who gain sponsors and practice for all 29 days
- The Worker Bee: The student who practices the most minutes
- The Queen Bee: The student who earns the most money

## 100 Days in a Row

Students are challenged to practice for 100 days straight – no skips! To complete this challenge, fill out a 100 Days Practice Sheet found on the website at [www.opuscms.org/registration-and-documents](http://www.opuscms.org/registration-and-documents) or ask your teacher for a copy.

For your first 100 days completed, you receive a 100 Days Medal that you can wear to every Opus recital, concert, or other event. For every subsequent 100 days completed, you receive a 100 Days Pin that you can add to your medal's lanyard. Each group of 100 days do not have to be consecutive.

## Certificates of Achievement

After each Recital, we hold a brief rewards ceremony. Students are recognized for book promotions, all-county and all-state accomplishments, and other achievements we want to celebrate.

## Opus Soloists

Students who have given a solo recital become part of the Opus Soloists and will receive a composer bust as a congratulatory gift. Solo Recital Club members include:

Micah Mulhern, violin  
Aileen Wiswakarma, cello  
Viola He, violin  
Nathaniel Borger, cello  
Amelia Falconi, violin

Jonah Borger, viola  
Abi Borger, violin  
Ian Hingley, cello  
Micah Borger, piano  
Leilani Wiswakarma, viola



# Board of Directors

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Tracey Kennedy

Stacy Latchaw

Alice Shank

Margaret Motter Ward,  
Founding Director



## 2022-2023 Calendar

### SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### NOVEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

### MARCH 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# 2022-2023 Calendar

## JUNE 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### Important Dates:

Fall Semester: SEP 4th-DEC 19th  
 Labor Day: No Lessons SEP 5th  
 Fall Break: NOV 22nd-NOV 27th  
 Winter Break: DEC 20th- JAN 2nd

Spring Semester: JAN 8th-APR 29th  
 Spring Break: APR 5th- APR 11th

CCPS All County Orchestra  
 Concert: JAN 21st (Snow Date: JAN 28th)  
 CCPS All County Band Concert:  
 FEB 11th (Snow Date: FEB 18th)  
 CCPS County Solo and Ensemble  
 Festival: APR 1st  
 Vocal and Strings, Maryland State  
 Solo and Ensemble Festival: MAY  
 13th  
 Winds and Percussion Maryland  
 State Solo and Ensemble Festival:  
 MAY 20th

### Studio Events:

Fall:  
 Master Classes: DEC 3rd  
 Dress Rehearsals: DEC 11th  
 Makeup Week: JAN 3rd-7th

Spring:  
 Master Classes: APR 15th  
 Dress Rehearsal: APR 23rd  
 Makeup Week: APR 30th-MAY 6th  
 Adult Soirée: MAY 14th

### Performance Calendar:

Fall:  
 OPUS POCUS: OCT 30th  
 Faculty Concert at CCAC: NOV  
 19th  
 Festival of Trees: NOV 26th  
 End of Semester Recital: DEC 17th

Spring:  
 End of Semester Recital: APR 29TH  
 Faculty Concert at CCAC: MAY 6th  
 OPUS Advanced Students' Concert  
 at CCAC: MAY 23



