

MacPhail

CENTER FOR MUSIC

MacPhail Center for Music is the nation's largest community music school with 6 locations serving 15,000 students. We deliver programming for students ages 6 weeks to 104 years old, through program areas of Sing Play Learn with MacPhail®, Suzuki Talent Education, School Partnerships, Individual Instruction, Group Instruction, Summer Music Programs, MacPhail Music for Life™, and Music Therapy.

In early 2014 members of the Hormel Foundation Board of Directors initiated conversations with MacPhail Center for Music senior leadership regarding a presence for MacPhail in the community of Austin. The conversations quickly moved into action as the community reception to the possibility was incredibly positive. A cornerstone partnership throughout has been the relationship with the Austin Public Schools. As student enrollment grew to 1500 students for MacPhail Austin, a plan was developed in 2016 for new space to be developed and renovated to support both the Austin High School music programs and space for MacPhail Austin. The result is a state-of-the-art facility shared by both. It is a one-of-a-kind facility, unique in the country, housing both a community music school and a public high school music program. (Please see attached timeline for details.)



MacPhail Austin Programming

I. 6 weeks through Kindergarten

Sing Play Learn with MacPhail® is MacPhail's award-winning early childhood music education program. The Sing Play Learn curriculum is designed for a child's specific stage of development and encourages children to explore musical concepts and to experiment with new instruments.

Sing Play Learn Partnerships in Austin:

- Community Learning Center 9 classes
- Woodson 17 classes
- Apple Lane 6 classes
- Pacelli 4 classes
- Wee Learning Center 2 classes
- YMCA 3 classes
- Serving: 780 students

II. Grades 1 through 4

In-School Residency - Korean Folk Songs study with Dr. Soojin Lee.

- Dr. Lee has 20 years of teaching experience from individual instruction to large group teaching, including serving as a high school general music teacher in Korea, a private instructor of gayageum (a traditional Korean stringed instrument) and piano, and a school residency of Korean music and drumming in U.S. schools.
- Dr. Lee rehearsed the prepared songs in 54 elementary classrooms in Austin. In advance of the visit, Dr. Lee presented teachers at Bandfield, Sumner, and Southgate and Banfield a curriculum for them to teach the lessons and replicate in the future. Soojin also taught students to greet each other in Korean, performed on Gayageum then returned to accompany their recorded spring concerts.
- Serving: 1225 Students

Funding for this initiative provided by M. A. Cargill Foundation to support BIPOC teaching artists in schools and retention of BIPOC students

Sumner Intersession enrichment

- October – Korean drumming Dr. Soojin Lee
- March – MacPhail faculty taught Sumner students Flute, Brass, Percussion, and Strings.
- Serving: 65 students

Community Children's Choir

- Formed in 2015, this choir is open to all 3rd and 4th graders in the Austin Area. The goal is to join young voices together to begin techniques that support goals of older choir groups. Students from all elementary schools form new social experiences, then come together at

IJ Holton Intermediate school. The MacPhail Austin Children's Choir has been successful in breaking down the barriers of language, financial need, and transportation to form a choir that represents the face of Austin. Performances include collaboration with Austin Symphony Orchestra, Northwestern Singers, MacPhail Music Matters Luncheon and more.

- Serving: 90-140 students per season

Pacelli Catholic School

- In 2015 MacPhail Center for Music and Pacelli Catholic schools developed a band and orchestra program that would serve Pacelli students in grades 4-8th. Pacelli students are equipped with techniques that will allow them to continue performing in high school where they can participate in Austin High School programming. Prior to the in-house program at Pacelli, there were 3 students participating in music. We currently serve 40 students per year selecting music carefully for the small ensemble at times our director composes for the unique instrumentation.
- Serving: 40 students per year

III. Grades 5 through 12

- **MacPhail Center Orchestra/Choir/Band**

We work with APS music directors when they identify a need with which we can assist. Here are the ways that we assisted in 2021-2022:

- Beginner band and Orchestra assistance, helping t with beginning band techniques to keep class moving at the same level.
- Beginning Orchestra-work with students teaching bow hold and string techniques.
- Prepare students for solo and ensemble and other contest settings.
- Work with students auditioning for all state and other honor band programs
- Serving: 174 students
- **Rock Band Project**
APS students interested in performing rock music were identified and placed in a band, Orange Haze. These students worked together to create an hour performance of popular music. Orange Haze members began to write originals and created a new ensemble: Torch.
- Faculty: Jacob Burkhart
- Performances: 3 private parties, MacPhail Rock Concert VFW, and Austinaires Show
- Students Involved: 6; Audience Reached: 650

IV. **MacPhail Music for Life™**

An interactive music education and creative arts program that brings the many benefits of music into the lives of students ages 55 and older regardless of experience level, ability, and musical goals. Classes include a variety of musical activities: singing, playing instruments, movement, relaxation, music history, and much more.

Total Students: 29

- **Unwrapping the Orchestra:** Austin Symphony Orchestra Principal Violist and Austin Middle School Orchestra Director Jacob Crosby will presents a sneak peek at the music being presented at ASO's concert to help listeners have a greater understanding for what they're hearing. Learn about the composers, their inspirations, and what to listen for during the performance; but also hear what's been happening behind-the-scenes with the orchestra as they've been rehearsing for the program.

Students: 22

- **Back to Basics group piano:** New piano students or those in need of a refresher join to make music through familiar tunes.

Students: 7

V. **Music Therapy**

- Board-certified music therapists address a client's physical, emotional, cognitive, and/or social needs. After assessing the strengths and needs of each client, a music therapist provides treatment that may include creating, singing, playing an instrument, and moving and/or listening to music.
- Wu Yue, MacPhail Music Therapist, conducted research studies through the University of Minnesota for clients with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. Wu provided tele music therapy services to clients during the pandemic, 5 of which are from Austin and remained as clients with her post pandemic.
- MacPhail Austin is working towards developing our Music Therapy studio and partnerships throughout the community.

VI. **Individual Lessons**

- MacPhail's outstanding faculty are experienced in teaching beginning through advanced music lessons for children, youth, and adult learners. Students are paired with teachers who will best suit the students' needs, learning styles and to support growth.
- Piano, Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, Percussion, and voice.
- Students: 213

VII. **Financial Aid**

- \$11,410 in financial aid awards.

MacPhail and Austin Public Schools 2022-2023 Partnership Activities

New opportunities forming:

- English Language Learners High School Music Class
- Electronic Music Recording Arts Workshops

- Minnesota Music Educators Association Elementary Workshop held in the MacPhail and Austin High School facility

Yearly Sequence:

- **September** – SPL Partnerships for APS begin
 - Community Choir registrations begin
 - Rock Band members identified
 - Austin Big Band (Hosted in our facility)
 - Austin Symphony Orchestra
 - Pacelli Band Begins
- **October** – Band/Orchestra support for beginners
 - Community Choir begins for 3rd and 4th Grade choir
 - Sumner Intersession Ukulele Camp with Donovan Skinner
 - MacPhail Austin Piano Festival October 8 and 9th Victoria Sabo
 - Sumner choir and IJ 6th Grade Choir Featured in two pieces.
- **November** – Support provided for Minnesota Band Association Honor Band Auditions
 - Solo and Ensemble for Band/Orchestra/ Choir support begins
- **December** – Middle School Solo and Ensemble Support Begins
- **January** – HS Band, Orchestra, Choir Solo and Ensemble
 - Community Choir Concert
- **February** – Harris Competition Hosting at our site
 - Middle School Solo and Ensemble
 - MMEA All State Conference
 - MMEA 2024 All State Music Audition Preparation
- **March** – Sumner Intersession
- **April** – MacPhail Austin Piano Festival with Michael Cain
 - Showcase Concert featuring Community Choir and APS partnerships
 - Support Provided for Austinaires.
 - Northwestern Singers and MacPhail collaborative Concert Riverland Theatre
- **June/July** – Camp opportunities for APS students
- **July** – J.D. and Fred Steele Concert

MacPhail
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Austin Faculty and Staff

Individual Instruction

William Arnold,+ Percussion
Cheryl Berglund,+ Percussion and Piano
Scott Blankenbaker, Voice
Jacob Burkhardt, Trumpet (Brass)
Jacob Crosby,*+ Strings
Tim Davis,*+ Trumpet (Brass)
Erin Grush,+ Flute, and Piano
Sonia Larson, Piano and Voice
Soojin Lee, Piano
Rebecca Merblum, Cello
Amalie Niethammer,+ French Horn
Sue Radloff,+ Strings
Donavon Skinner, Guitar, and Ukulele
Lorene Strobel+, Piano
Amy Wightkin+, Clarinet and Saxophone
Ethan Wightkin+,* Trumpet and Ukulele

Sing Play Learn with MacPhail®

Erin Grush+
Misha Stanley
Lorene Strobel+

MacPhail Music For Life™

Lorene Strobel+
Jacob Crosby+

Group Instruction

Cheryl Berglund+ Pacelli Band
Jacob Burkhardt – Pacelli Band
Phil Burkhardt+ – School Partnerships
Lorene Strobel+ – Group Piano, School accompanist
Katie Tharp* - Community Children's Choir
Nikky Tolde* - Community Children's Choir

Staff

Cheryl Berglund, Austin Site Director
Jacob Burkhardt, Student Services
Erin Grush, Office Coordinator

* Austin Public School Employee
+Austin Symphony Orchestra Member
or Board of Directors Member

MacPhail Austin Timeline

2014

- Conversations began between Hormel Foundation, Austin Public Schools, the Austin Community and MacPhail.

2015

- Hired Project Manager Cheryl Berglund
- Focus groups and conversations with community members determine program needs
- Sing Play Learn with MacPhail begins in Community Learning Center and Apple Lane Childcare
- MacPhail Austin faculty hired
- Opened facility at Riverland Community College offering individual and group instruction
- First Children's Community Choir formed with 90 3rd and 4th grade singers
- Community Choir performs at the Music Matters Luncheon in Minneapolis (1000 guests)

2016

- MacPhail offers Sing Play Learn to Woodson Kindergarten
- All Four-Year-Old Classes added at Apple Lane Child Care
- Pacelli Band and Orchestra Begins
- Community Choir Performs at MacPhail Music Matters Luncheon in Minneapolis
- MacPhail and Austin Public Schools Administration tour high school music facilities
- Location of MacPhail Austin is officially determined
- MacPhail Administration, Austin Public Schools High School Directors meet with Wenger Corporation to discuss technology/equipment needs

2017

- Community Choir reaches 140 participants
- Programming in Austin reaches 1500 students

2018

- Documentary filming begins in anticipation of opening of new building
- Meetings with building architects, ATS&R to finalize plans
- MacPhail Partners with Adult Basic Education

2019

- New building construction begins
- Exceed 170 Students in individual instruction

2020

- New choir Room opens in January
- All MacPhail Austin students and faculty successfully transition to online educational platforms during pandemic
- MacPhail Center for Music Austin and Austin Public Schools occupy new facility
- Successful grand opening celebration