:: Overview

Chicago West Community Music Center and Berklee College of Music, Boston, Massachusetts have a partnership of the Music City Program.

In the spring of 2009, Chicago West Community Music Center (CWCMC) was selected to participate as a member of the Berklee City Music Network. Since its inception, a number of students have been offered scholarships to attend Berklee Music Conservatory.

The program is designed to deliver high-quality contemporary music instruction to underserved youth across the U.S. It will bring real-time and Web-based music education to students nationwide.

Berklee City Music is the college’s strategic initiative to engage underserved urban 6th- through 12th-graders in a year-round music education program designed to prepare them to pursue higher education. 10 students will be selected for this program. Its purpose is to reduce specific music-related achievement gaps between minority and non-minority students, and between economically disadvantaged students and their more advantaged peers. City Music provides quality music instruction, mentoring, and college scholarships to students from Boston as well as to those enrolled at City Music Network sites. This is achieved with the Berklee PULSE method—cutting-edge curriculum centered around present-day music styles; the instruments that youths tend to select; and theoretical, listening, improvisational, and performance skills.

Webcasting and videoconferencing technologies will provide face-to-face interaction between City Music Network students and partner sites, as well as with faculty and students at Berklee’s Boston campus.

Students who complete the required coursework will qualify to audition for scholarships to Berklee’s campus for five-week summer programs and undergraduate study.

:: The PULSE Method

Berklee’s program PULSE is a real time and web-based music education for students nationwide, regardless of financial means or location.

Study Environment Window

Once a student has logged in, behind this window, are tools that make learning music theory and other musicianship skills more fun than you can imagine. The Berklee PULSE music method relies on specially Berklee-trained, PULSE-certified instructors and extensive online music resources, and Berklee alumni serve on site as local mentors and teachers.

Practice Environment

Teachers provide real-time instrumental, vocal, and ensemble instruction of member sites, and also guide students in use of the extensive online practice materials. Videos featuring expert musicians demonstrate how to play and sing the instrumental and vocal parts to the songs from the PULSE music library.

Jam Room

The Jam room emulates for students a virtual ensemble experience. Loaded with songs from the PULSE music library, students can mute various tracks as they play along with band members from acts such as Christina Aguilera, Keisha Cole, and their peers from the Boston-based City Music all Star Ensemble, along with members of Berklee’s illustrious faculty including Jazz trumpeter Jeff Stout.

Listening Room

By using webcasting technologies, this environment connects youth at member sites to faculty and students at Berklee’s Boston campus. In addition to this virtual connection to Berklee, students who compete the required PULSE coursework are qualified to audition for scholarships to summer programs or full-time undergraduate study at Berklee’s Boston campus.

:: Courses

- Instrumental Instruction
- Jazz Harmony and Theory I
- Theory and Performance I
- Theory and Performance I Ensemble
- Ear Training I
- Piano Proficiency
- Sight-Reading
- Jazz History

Session 1:
January – August

Session 2:
September – December

Instructors:
Wilbert Crosby
Howard Sandifer

For audition and application information contact:

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The City Music Program will take place at:

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