CWCMC traveled to Shanghai, China this past July and participated in the MISA International Music Camp. Students studied with International Art Masters and performed at the 2018 Shanghai Music Festival. Representing the USA, our students were one of four groups at the camp, the others being from Taiwan, Russia and Lithuania.

Additionally, Howard Sandifer, Executive Director of Chicago West Community Music Center, was invited by the Mayor of Shanghai to teach a Masters Class in Jazz to Chinese students. All activities took place at the beautiful Shanghai Oriental Land Villa.
Virtuoso guitarist Wilbert Crosby explored the rich and varied repertoire of great guitar music and great guitarists during a Chicago Park District Night Out In The Park concert at Columbus Park Refectory.

He saluted guitarists Wes Montgomery, B.B. King, Jimi Hendrix, George Benson and Carlos Santana.

Crosby, an instructor at Chicago West Community Music Center, has performed with the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin, Mavis Staples and Pops Staples.

The CWCMC/After School Matters Orchestra performed at a special concert at Constellation Chicago in May.

The students opened for the jazz group, “The Bridge,” a jazz group comprised of American and French musicians, and performed a diverse repertoire of traditional and non-traditional music and included progressive contemporary jazz.
CWCMC PRESENTS W.I.S.H. SPRING RECITAL

Students as young as four-years-old showcased what they have learned at the Westside Instructional String and Harp (W.I.S.H.) Spring Recital in May.

Beginning and advanced string students presented annual recital of classical, pop and jazz music.

The young students tackled such numbers as Perpetual Motion, Song of The Wind, Long, Long Ago, Adantino and Etude.

CWCMC SALUTES CHICAGO’S OWN EARTH, WIND AND FIRE

Earth, Wind and Fire received a soulful tribute during a Chicago Park District “Night In The Park” concert at Columbus Park Refectory in June.

The concert, “The Elements of the Universe,” traced Earth, Wind and Fire’s rise to worldwide fame and featured vocalist Carl King accompanied by a 10-piece band.

CMCMC Student, Charles Brown, 19, opened the evening with an original tune, “Summertime.”

CWCMC HOSTS CHINESE STUDENT PERFORMANCE

As part of the second year collaboration between the Pudong Youth & Children’s Center in Shanghai, China and Chicago West Community Music Center, 32 young Chinese student musicians and singers presented a concert of traditional Chinese music to an attentive community-based audience August 1, at the Garfield Park Conservatory. In attendance for this special event was Jun Liu, Deputy Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago and former Governor Pat Quinn.
Black History Month Celebrations

In recognition of February's Black History Month, our students, singers and musicians performed at two Black History Month observances.

First-up was their appearance at the Black History Family Festival at the Gail Borden Library in Elgin.

Students performed songs including A Change Is Gonna Come by Sam Cooke, Keep On Pushin' by Curtis Mayfield and September by Earth, Wind & Fire.

Two weeks later, the CWCMC/ASM took the stage at the Black History Month celebration at the Chicago Bulls community event at the United Center. Musical selections included We're A Winner by Curtis Mayfield and I've Got Favor by New Direction.

Project Innovation

Chicago West music students participated in a culminating event, Project Innovation, by a city-funded after school program, on the campus of Malcolm X College.

They won the Project Innovation 2018 STEAM event for best performance. Project Innovation Event at Malcolm X is sponsored by the Department of Family and Support Services.

The Godmothers of Rock and Roll Remembered with Grit and Soul

Chicago's own Dorothy Roberson paid tribute to Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Big Mama Thornton, Etta James and Tina Turner.
CWCMC SALUTES AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPATRIATES

Vocalist Karla Beard-Leroy (pictured right) and a jazz quartet paid tribute to African-American expatriates Nina Simone, Josephine Baker, Eartha Kitt and Bricktop in a cabaret show of French chanson.

The cabaret show, “Paris Noir: African Americans in ‘The City of Lights’” was held at Garfield Park Conservatory in March.

NEW PROGRAM - ONE SUMMER CHICAGO

Chicago West Community Music Center hosted its first One Summer Chicago program July 2nd through August 10th, 2018. A City initiative to provide youth and young adults between the ages of 14 to 24, Mayor Emanuel’s One Summer Chicago (OSC), is led by Lisa Davis. The program titled CWCMCSO consisted of a full community orchestra and with vocalists.
SUMMER PROGRAMS

CWCMC’s WISH (Westside Instructional String and Harp) Summer Camp, sponsored by the Department of Family and Support Services hosted 25 youth with private and group classes in cello, violin, viola and piano under the direction of Phyllis Calderon, Hillary Butler, Tom Clowes and Kyle Dickson.

ASM (After School Matters) continued to support CWCMC during the summer as teens performed “Night Out in the Park” concerts around the city of Chicago.

CWCMC STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN LIVE PERFORMANCE OF “PAN”

“PAN” – an opera based on the Greek mythical story of a flute-playing god who loves intensely and violently and often causes pain to those he loves most” was presented at the Garfield Park Fieldhouse October 4th & 5th. Students from CWCMC participated in this presentation under the direction of Clair Chase, an internationally-renowned flutist who played the role of PAN and was joined by the creative team of international composer Marcos Balter, New York Philharmonic Director Doug Fitch, and sound designer Levy Lorenzo. There were two performances on October 5 and 6.

CWCMC STUDENTS WIN BEST PERFORMANCE

CWCMC students performed at the Department of Family and Support Services annual event winning “Best Performance.” This DFSS event entitled Project Innovation features youth from around the city of Chicago who design and create inventive showcases under the STEAM heading (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math). Headed by Ms. Earline Whitfield-Alexander, this program is sponsored by the Mayor and sanctioned by the commissioners who attend and speak about the results of hard work and creative fun.
About
Chicago Community West Music Center’s (CWCMC) mission is to harness the creative potential of individuals through education to inspire artistic and cultural expression in such a way that we help foster positive relationships across neighborhood lines.

The activities presented by CWCMC have a unifying effect on the community, as residents from neighboring communities build healthy relationships sharing common interests. Learn more at cwcmc.org.

Staff
Howard Sandifer  
CWCMC Executive Director

Darlene Sandifer  
CWCMC Managing Director

Wilbert Crosby  
Director of Jazz Studies

Info
Garfield Park Field House (The Gold Dome)  
100 North Central Park Avenue, 2nd floor.  
Chicago, IL 60624-1912

E-mail: cwcmc1@sbcglobal.net  
Phone: (708) 386-5315  
cwcmc.org

Donations & gifts of support may be mailed to: Chicago West Community Music Center, 100 N. Central Park Avenue. Chicago, IL 60624-1912, or call Darlene Sandifer at (708) 386-5315.

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