Welcome parents, students, and teachers to another year at CMS! My name is Olivia Jamandre, your new director. Let me begin by saying what a wonderful job Laura Hrivnak has done with the school in the past, and how honored I am to be able to take over for her.

As many of you already know, Dr. Scott McBride Smith will still be on board as our faculty supervisor. He is a recognized leader in music education, and we are lucky to have him! Dr. Smith and I have some exciting changes to the programs this year.

There are two plans of study: Regular and Accelerated.

- The Regular Program includes weekly lessons and CMS recitals
- The Accelerated Program is for more motivated students. It includes lessons and CMS recitals, plus participation in KU and KCMTA events.

We’ve also added two new CMS recitals. The first will be a Halloween Costume Concert around the end of October. Students will get to dress up in costume and play cool or spooky music to fit the occasion. How fun! The second recital is a Movie Music recital in the Spring semester. For this one, we’ll program your favorite themes from anything on the big-screen.

I’m really looking forward to the year and to meeting and getting to know you all if I haven’t already. Here’s to a great year!

- Olivia

Olivia Jamandre, currently a doctoral student in piano performance and graduate teaching assistant at KU, holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a Master’s from Northwestern University. She has been in the teaching field since 2000, and has a wide range of experience in multiple states. Olivia has performed as a soloist and collaboratively in the US and Switzerland, and has worked with renowned clinicians William Westney, Robin McCabe, and Ursula Oppens.
The Benefits of Performing

The process of preparing for a performance teaches us much about ourselves and encourages us to strive for a goal. In selecting and learning repertoire, we may come across intriguing literature, thus expanding our parameters and frame of reference. While practicing, our work ethic is put to a test, exposing both strengths and weaknesses. As the music moves from practice room to the stage, we are forced to confront nerves, excitement, emotions, and fears. We learn more about what to expect in pressure situations, and how we react to them. Just as we can learn from re-reading a rough draft for a paper, watching a video, or listening to a recording of ourselves, we can learn from feedback given by a judge or an audience. Sometimes what we think comes across is actually not all that apparent, for example, a crescendo here or time taken there. Contrastingly, we might be doing something that we aren’t aware of, like rushing, for example. Through all of this, we aim to better ourselves, learn more, push harder, and practice smarter. And who knows, maybe our performances will inspire someone in the audience to do the same!

Regular Program

• $270/semester, $540/year
• 30 weekly lessons
• 4 CMS recitals at KU

Accelerated Program

• Same cost, number of lessons, and recitals as the Regular Program, PLUS:

• Bi-weekly studio classes: Students will gather twice a month and take turns performing for each other. There’s no better way than this to polish pieces for an audition! It’s also incredibly inspiring to hear peers play, and builds friendships and a sense of community.

• Masterclasses: This is a public lesson given in a recital setting. Once each semester, students will have the unique opportunity to perform and learn from esteemed KU faculty, Dr. Scott McBride Smith, and Fulbright scholar and Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dan Bruggeman.

• KCMTA Fall Festival: A recital-like audition setting where students perform for a judge and receive comments. Because of the group setting, they also hear other students their age play, which is one of the greatest sources for inspiration.

• KCMTA Progressions: A comprehensive exam over theory, aural skills, and performing. No other event tests a student’s knowledge more thoroughly. In preparing for Progressions, students gain invaluable tools that will help them develop into a well-rounded musician. Test scores are ranked, and students receive test grades, a certificate, and a ribbon.

• National Piano Guild Auditions: In this audition, a judge listens to students play repertoire and technique. The program encourages students to strive for a larger program every year, which provides them with essential knowledge of piano literature and develops their performance skills. Students receive comments, a rating, a certificate, and a pin.

Quote of The Month: “It’s easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time, and the instrument will play itself.”

-J. S. Bach
Upcoming KU School of Music Events

September 16, 7:30pm, Swarthout Recital Hall: Faculty Virtuosi Series, featuring Steven Spooner performing Gershwins Rhapsody in Blue with Paul Popiel conducting. FREE

September 21, 7:30pm, Lied Center: Annual Collage Concert featuring a showcase of KU faculty and students. $16/general admission, $11/students and seniors.

September 25, 7:30pm, Lied Center: KU Symphony Orchestra. Ticket discounts available for KU faculty, staff, and students. $8/gen admission, $6/students

September 29, 7:30pm, Swarthout Recital Hall: Faculty Recital Series presents Jack Winerock, piano. FREE

For more events, visit http://music.ku.edu/events/

Meet Our New Teachers!

We are welcoming two new teachers at CMS. Both are doctoral students and Graduate Teaching Assistants at KU, and have selected to teach with CMS based on their ability and teaching background. Soojin Kim, a graduate of the University of Michigan and one of the recent winners of the KU concerto competition, has performed as soloist and collaborator, and worked with renowned clinicians such as Nikolai Demidenko, Victor Rosenbaum, Robert Roux, and Boris Slutsky. She has extensive teaching experience, having studied in the renowned Faber Institute in Michigan, and is sure to work wonders for our school.

Soojin Kim

Jiwon Choi, a graduate of Roosevelt University in Chicago, has performed in a wide array of settings, such as the Lake View Musical Society and the Italian Operatic Experience in Urbana, Italy. She has also enjoyed abundant solo appearances, most notably with the Northwestern Indiana Youth orchestra, and has worked with well-known musicians, such as Robert Chen of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Benjamin Taylor, and Martin Katz. Jiwon brings warmth and enjoyment to everything she does, and it is great to have her on board with us!

Jiwon Choi