



*Dear CMS Friends,*

When asked to consider writing this year's annual appeal letter, I did not hesitate to respond with a resounding yes! My journey with CMS began in 2004 as a parent searching for cello lessons for my daughter. Fast forward eight years and I found myself still the parent of a student, but also the CMS Registrar. While I have moved on professionally to build a career in nonprofit fundraising, I am often nostalgic for the nights of watching the students stream in and out of Evans Hall with their instrument cases and listening to the music being made. In 2019 I joined the CMS Board of Directors and have recently assumed the responsibilities of board president.

My three vastly different roles at CMS have given me an appreciation for the many opportunities that CMS offers the community, and the resources it takes to make that happen. Not only does CMS offer top notch music instruction to fulfill the passions of musicians of all ages, but they also offer programs to introduce young children to the world of music, music therapy for students of all ages with special needs, free concerts by professional musicians, and more! Your donations have helped make this a reality. THANK YOU!

Of course, this robust and inclusive programming comes at a cost, and CMS cannot do it alone. ***Last year CMS provided more than \$64,000 in financial aid, scholarships, and free programming to deserving students and families.*** Your tax-deductible donation can be the difference between a student being able to pursue their musical passion or not. I ask you to join me this year in supporting the outstanding programs and opportunities that CMS offers to enrich lives and communities by offering excellent, affordable music instruction to all people.

*Your gift is a gift of music.*

With gratitude,

**Karen Barrett**

*President, Community Music School Board of Directors*



**Donate one-time, monthly or round-up by scanning this QR code or texting: CMS2024 to 26989 or check or credit card via insert**



*Thank you!*