

DRUM SET HANDCHIMES
MALLET HANDBELLS
SNARE TIMPANI

Beginning percussion students start with snare drum studies to develop technique and notation reading. Advanced students may choose among mallet, drum set and timpani as well as continuing snare drum studies. There is the opportunity for all students to work in ensembles.

What you can expect from us

Welcome to the Percussion Department at City Music Center. You will learn from outstanding faculty in a stimulating environment. It is our philosophy that excellent music training should be available to every child who wishes it and to that end we accept every child who applies. We test young beginners for readiness and we audition all entering students for placement purposes. We believe that a good match between student and teacher is very important to the learning process.

What we expect from you

In carrying out our program of excellence, we expect students to practice daily as well as complete any written homework given at the lesson. We expect students to take the appropriate musicianship classes and to demonstrate progress. Musicianship and studio faculty are in regular communication about student progress and problems. We suggest parental attendance at all private lessons, especially with young children; and daily supervision of home practicing. Finally, we suggest that each student or parent keep a practice journal.

The minimum time your child should practice each day at home:
4-8 years 30 minutes
9-12 years 45 minutes
12-18 years 60 minutes

Evaluation

At the end of each academic year, all percussion students must play for a panel composed of members of the percussion faculty. Each student will be expected to play the required material from memory with technical command and musicianship.

Handbells/Handchimes

• **Ensemble 3rd–12th grade**

This course will introduce students to the art of handbell/handchime ringing. The initial goals will be to teach the basics, such as: care of the bells/chimes, how the handbells work, correct handhold, how to ring and damp properly, and various special ringing techniques. In the beginning, students will play chords, scales and exercises to help develop good ringing habits and to prepare them for the challenges as the literature and techniques become more difficult. As students begin learning a piece of music, they will work on dynamics, phrasing and articulation to add musicality and interpretation to the music. As the group progresses, they will be encouraged to participate in recitals.

Handbell/handchime choirs don't function well if a member is absent from rehearsal, and concert performances suffer if a ringer is missing, so regular attendance is essential. Class size is limited to 11. Please indicate on your registration form if your child plans to enroll.

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Perry "P.J." Gatch—Chair

Percussion

Perry "P.J." has been teaching in Pittsburgh since 1990 and has since built one of the most successful studios in the area.

P.J. earned his Bachelors of Music Education and Masters of Music Performance at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. He is the Director of Percussion Studies and adjunct music education faculty member at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA and is an adjunct music education faculty member at Duquesne University.

P.J. has presented numerous clinics and master-classes throughout the country and writes percussion education and performance articles for the PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Educators Association) Journal, which is published quarterly.

P.J. maintains a busy playing and recording schedule throughout the year. Some of his engagements include the Pittsburgh Musical Theater, The Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh Opera, River City Brass Band and the Westminster College Faculty Jazz Quartet. He is a founding member of the Tempus Fugit Percussion Ensemble, which has performed throughout the United States, Europe and Russia. Tempus Fugit has collaborated with some of the finest names in percussion including Stanley Leonard, Steve Houghton, Michael Burritt and Leigh Howard Stevens.

Roberta Erickson

Handbells, Handchimes

Member of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR) and Solo to Ensemble Project (STEP); former District Coordinator for AGEHR Area II; studies with Christine Anderson, Sueda Luttrell, Ron Belamy, Bobbie Schmidt, Beth Klein, Michael Kastner and Kevin McChesney; Director of Handbells, Oakmont Presbyterian Church and The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington; handbell soloist with frequent performances throughout western Pennsylvania.

“I am so happy that this school exists. What happens at City Music Center is extremely important and everyone in Pittsburgh should know about it.”

Mariss Jansons

Former Music Director,
Pittsburgh Symphony
Orchestra