



2025
ANNUAL
REPORT

HEAR.
UNDERSTAND.
PLAY.
PERFORM.
LOVE.
MUSIC.



Dear CCM Community,

This year was a watershed year for Concord Conservatory of Music. Every day, CCM's faculty and staff live our purpose: to offer educational experiences that connect people through music, strengthen our individual and collective well-being, and build social bonds.

The CCM community continues to grow. We have record student enrollment and the largest faculty and staff in its history. We continue to increase the number of adults who come to CCM for lessons and community and the joy of music in their lives. Students and families consistently comment on the quality and experience of music education that we offer. CCM has devoted alumni who tell vivid stories of how their experiences at CCM have influenced their lives.

While CCM makes music every day, this year we also took a bold step towards our future. With the help of generous donors, we were able to complete the purchase of land at 15 Junction Square Drive in the heart of West Concord as the site of a future "home of our own". The Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded us a sizeable grant, reflecting their support for work and our mission. The grant enabled us to immediately refurbish the existing building on the property and extend our programming. We now offer new electronic music offerings and have space to enable musicians of all ages to come together and jam. The fun has just begun. We hope to repurpose the old garage space this summer.

Acquisition of the land is the first step in building for a new generation of musicians. CCM's extraordinary faculty and staff have been making music and growing musicians for almost 20 years, and now we look forward with enthusiasm to the prospect of sharing music with our communities for a long time to come. "Music is energy"—to quote Yo-Yo Ma—and it's a positive energy that we need in our world and in our community now more than ever.

Come make music with us.

Warmly,

Kate Yoder
Executive Director & Founder

Amanda Young Hickman
Board Chair

CCM BY THE NUMBERS A year of growth, creativity, and community connection

A COMMUNITY MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER

742

Individuals making music in lessons, classes, ensembles, scrambles, jams

19

Communities reached across the region

1-94

Ages represented in our programs

18,690

Lessons and group classes provided, building lifelong skills

EXPANDING ACCESS TO MUSIC EDUCATION

136

People discovering music with CCM through community partnerships

\$37,000

Financial assistance grants and free programming provided



A VIBRANT MUSIC ECOSYSTEM

17

Instruments taught

39

Faculty artists inspiring our students

36

Concerts, student recitals, and community performances presented



STRENGTHENED BY OUR SUPPORTERS

\$1,061,893

Donors contributing operating and capital funding

\$249,000

Grant funding invested in CCM's mission

SUSTAINING OUR FUTURE

1

Property sites purchased for the future home of the CCM community music center

20

Years providing inspiring, high-quality music-making experiences





SWAMPED!

Helping Students Balance Music and a Busy Life

At Concord Conservatory of Music, student success is about more than musical progress alone. *Swamped!* reflects CCM's commitment to supporting students as they balance the demands of academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities while continuing to grow as musicians.

Now in its second year, *Swamped!* is a workshop designed for students navigating full schedules and competing priorities. The program introduces practical strategies for time management, organization, and stress reduction—helping students make music a sustainable and meaningful part of daily life. Rather than asking students to choose between commitments, *Swamped!* encourages thoughtful integration of music alongside school and other pursuits.

CCM high school senior Grady Flinn shared how this approach influenced his practice habits. During particularly busy periods, he found it challenging to justify additional practice time, even when his desire to improve remained strong. With guidance

from his teacher, Grady discovered that consistency mattered more than duration.

“Even ten minutes of practice can go a long way.”

By reframing practice as achievable rather than overwhelming, Grady was able to maintain momentum without adding stress. Short, focused sessions became both manageable and rewarding, helping him continue his musical studies while juggling other responsibilities.

“Music doesn't have to compete with a busy life—it can be part of it.”

Workshops like *Swamped!* help students develop habits that support both musical growth and personal well being. Through practical tools and realistic expectations, CCM empowers young musicians to stay engaged with music, build resilience, and carry these skills with them well beyond their time at the Conservatory.



Music education is most powerful when it supports the whole person. At Concord Conservatory of Music, learning music means building confidence, resilience, and connection—skills that extend far beyond the practice room.

Across all ages and stages of life, CCM creates welcoming spaces where individuals can explore music, share it with others, and grow through meaningful experiences. Whether students are learning to balance busy schedules, returning to an instrument later in life, or finding new ways to express themselves through music, these programs reflect CCM's belief that music should be accessible, shared, and lifelong.

By fostering community alongside high-quality instruction, CCM strengthens both individual well-being and the cultural life of the broader community.



“Learning an instrument is hard, but if you learn to enjoy the music you’re playing, the hard work really pays off over time. I also think that playing an instrument has taught me how much hard work it takes to fuel a passion.”

– CCM Graduate Claire Jennings (Piano)



Piano Connections:

Building Confidence and Community for Adult Learners

At Concord Conservatory of Music, music learning is a lifelong journey. Piano Connections reflects this commitment by offering adult pianists a welcoming, collaborative space that complements private study and deepens musical engagement. While piano practice is often a solitary pursuit, Piano Connections brings adult learners together to grow as musicians through shared experience, encouragement, and connection.

Led by CCM faculty member Kitty Cheung- Evans, the biweekly program brings together adult pianists with a wide range of backgrounds and experience. Participants explore repertoire, musical styles, and historical context while sharing works in progress and collaborating through four-hand duets. This group setting encourages musicians to learn from one another, exchange perspectives, and build confidence—whether they are returning to the piano after many years or continuing a long standing practice.

A defining feature of Piano Connections is the opportunity to perform developing pieces for peers. For many adult learners, performing can feel intimidating at first. In this supportive environment, however, sharing unfinished work becomes an opportunity rather than a source of pressure. Through thoughtful feedback and group reflection, participants develop practical strategies for managing performance nerves and gain greater confidence at the keyboard.

“In this supportive environment, even unfinished pieces become opportunities for growth.”

Beyond technical development, Piano Connections fosters meaningful relationships among adult learners. Participants connect through shared challenges, open discussion, and collaborative problem-solving—transforming individual practice into a shared musical experience. In doing so, the program reinforces CCM’s role as a place where music brings people together at every stage of life.

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK

Finding Her Voice: Singing with Parkinson's Chorus

When Helena Chan was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, she faced not only the physical effects of the condition, but a longstanding fear of singing rooted in a childhood experience that left her deeply self-conscious. A lifelong love of music had gone unexpressed for decades. Accepting Parkinson's without allowing it to define her became a central challenge.

Helena's experience changed when she joined **Singing with Parkinson's (SWP)** at Concord Conservatory of Music. Through private instruction and participation in the program, she reached a moment she describes as the first time she truly felt like a singer—when her voice "soared effortlessly" during a lesson. That breakthrough marked a shift in both confidence and self-perception.



The impact of SWP extended beyond emotional renewal. Helena had noticed her voice losing volume, a common symptom for people living with Parkinson's.



Through consistent vocal work, she reports that her voice has improved significantly. She credits the program's qualified instruction, noting that SWP instructor Jay Lane uses the McClosky Technique, which focuses on relaxing the body and freeing the voice. This approach supported improvements in her singing and contributed to her overall well being.

Through Singing with Parkinson's, donor support helps participants improve vocal strength, build confidence, and expand their lives through music.

While Parkinson's is often described as narrowing a person's world, Helena found the opposite to be true. Singing—alongside other creative practices—opened new skills, confidence, and opportunities for expression. Her experience reflects the broader impact of CCM's Singing with Parkinson's Chorus: a program that supports voice, dignity, and community through music.

Programs like Singing with Parkinson's are sustained through donor generosity. Philanthropic support ensures access to skilled instruction and a supportive environment where individuals living with Parkinson's can strengthen their voices and rediscover creative confidence.

NOTABLE MOMENTS & COMMUNITY TRADITIONS



Music & Rebels: Unrest and the Power of Rebellion

In February 2025, Concord Conservatory of Music presented Music & Rebels, a concert that connected Concord's revolutionary history with the enduring role of artistic dissent. Offered in recognition of the 250th anniversary of Concord's role in the American Revolution, the program explored how composers who challenged convention reshaped the course of music history.

The program featured works spanning from Monteverdi and Beethoven to contemporary voices, with CCM faculty speaker Jackson Carruthers guiding audiences through the historical context of each selection. By tracing how these composers broke with tradition, the concert invited listeners to consider music as an evolving art form shaped by moments of unrest and change.

A highlight of the evening was the world premiere of Unrest by CCM faculty member and local composer Aaron Jay Myers, commissioned by Concord Conservatory specifically for this event. Performed by CCM faculty and guest artists, the premiere underscored CCM's commitment to supporting living composers and presenting new work alongside established repertoire.



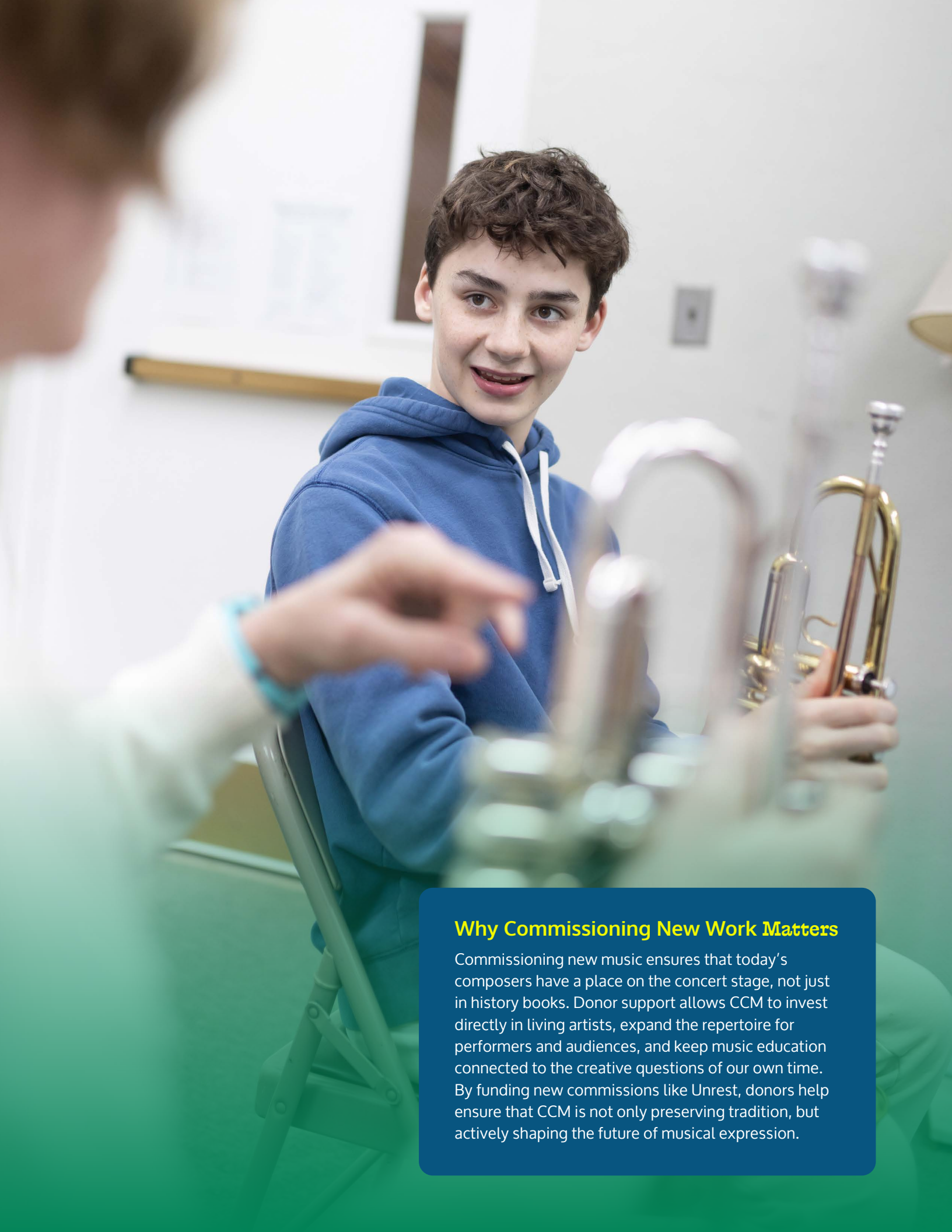
Through programs like Music & Rebels, CCM continues a long tradition of bringing music into dialogue with community history—honoring the past while actively investing in the creation of new artistic voices. Donor support makes these moments of shared cultural reflection possible.

2024–2025 Concert & Lecture Series

Beyond the "Music & Rebels" experience, CCM continues to cultivate a community that deeply appreciates and enjoys the power of live performance. Our 2025–2026 season featured a vibrant lineup of faculty and guest artists, spanning everything from Classical and Jazz to American Roots. These performances do more than showcase exceptional talent; they provide a vital space for social connection and remind us how music intersects with our everyday lives.

THIS PAST YEAR, WE WERE PROUD TO PRESENT:

- **Music & Identity: Your Listener Profile**
November 22, 2024
- **Po' Ramblin' Boys**
January 25, 2025
- **Music & Rebels**
February 7, 2025
- **Around Hear**
March 22, 2025
- **Southern Rail**
January 24, 2026
- **Music & Math**
April 26, 2025



Why Commissioning New Work Matters

Commissioning new music ensures that today's composers have a place on the concert stage, not just in history books. Donor support allows CCM to invest directly in living artists, expand the repertoire for performers and audiences, and keep music education connected to the creative questions of our own time. By funding new commissions like *Unrest*, donors help ensure that CCM is not only preserving tradition, but actively shaping the future of musical expression.

Financial Summary

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025



As we approach our 20th anniversary, we're grateful for all that this community has helped us achieve. This past year, more students than ever walked through our doors; our financial assistance program opened access for families across the region; new partnerships brought music into schools, senior centers, and public spaces; and—thanks to donor confidence and support—we purchased a property at 15 Junction Square Drive in Concord, that will become the location for CCM's future music center.

None of this growth happens by accident. It happens because of you.

To everyone who contributes, volunteers, sponsors, and champions our work: thank you. Your generosity strengthens our programs, fuels innovation, and ensures that music remains a source of connection and joy for people of every age. Together, we're building a legacy that will carry CCM into its next decade with purpose, momentum, and heart.

Support and Revenue	FY2025	FY2024
Tuition and Fees	\$1,003,079	\$968,307
Contributions	\$213,020	\$228,610
Capital Contributions	\$848,873	
Miscellaneous	\$68,695	\$252,138
Total	\$2,133,667	\$1,449,055

Expenses		
Program Services	\$1,001,210	\$996,217
Management and General	\$237,074	\$207,768
Fundraising	\$207,764	\$106,519
Total	\$1,476,048	\$1,309,804

Net Assets		
Increase in Net Assets	\$687,619	\$139,251



“I love the emphasis on community, and the thread of believing in the value of music to individuals, communities, and humanity as a whole. My philosophy is to share what I know without being too directive. We can all learn from each other.”

- CCM Native American Style Flute Instructor John Gass

Invest in the Future of Music at CCM

At Concord Conservatory of Music, we believe in HEAR. UNDERSTAND. PLAY. PERFORM. LOVE. MUSIC.

Your generosity directly enables us to:

- Provide music education for all, regardless of financial need.
- Expand vital programs for all ages, including music therapy.
- Strengthen community partnerships.
- Invest in our exceptional faculty.

Your support makes a difference!

Ways to Give:

- Individual Giving
- Encore Leadership Giving Society
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Employer Matching
- Monthly Giving
- Corporate Giving
- Volunteer

GIVE NOW