

# Crescendo Academy of Music 2009-10 Annual Report

Dear Friends:

Crescendo had a stellar 2009-2010 year! For the first time in our history, our student count rose to over 400 students. The total number of contact/teaching hours rose to 7,821, an average of 156 hours per week. We offered a music theory class in addition to private music theory and composition instruction. Our Music Together® program, for children ages 0 – 5 and the adults who love them, was offered in two locations in 2009-2010, and has become the basis of a new preschool outreach program. Guitar FUNDamentals, a class offering basic skills for the beginning guitar player with the emphasis on fun, continued for another year. The Crescendo Fiddlers and Kalamazoo Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra continue to thrive. The Aspire Ensemble, a vocal quartet comprised of soprano Corlyn Longer-Schreck, alto Sara Rivera, tenor Howard Techjma, and bass Joseph Schreck became Crescendo's resident vocal ensemble.

In these less than ideal economic times, the many ways that you continue to support Crescendo has made a huge impact on the lives of our students and their families. One parent wrote to thank me for “your recent, generous support of our children’s musical training through Crescendo’s scholarship program. You truly cannot imagine our gratitude at this moment. Both (of our children) understand this to be a privilege and an honor, and we are deeply thankful for your investment in their musical development.” She continues by describing the changes she sees: “They grow in your presence. They transcend their usual impulses and demonstrate a focus, respect, and concentration that we have yet to elicit in them ourselves. They look forward to their lessons and always walk away with formidable and interesting challenges. Their lessons are to each of them a reason for self-reliant study, and their improvement under your tutelage, a source of pride and accomplishment.”



The possibilities become realities thanks to you. Each day, through the commitment of our parents and volunteers and the support of our donors, our dedicated instructors and staff continue to help this family, and others like them, achieve their goals and dreams. Thank you for your investment in Crescendo.

*Audrey*  
Audrey Lipsey

## *The generous support of these donors has helped us accomplish our mission:*

### **Foundations and Corporate Donors**

Arcturus Fund at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation  
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Thursday Morning Musicale

### **Individual Donors**

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Joyce Zastrow  
Jerry & Mary Zwart

# Crescendo Highlights of 2009-10

Crescendo Academy of Music's continued dedication to educate students of all ages and abilities brought enrollment to more than 400 students for the first time. We hope to maintain this growth trend and bring music to the lives of more children and adults in the Kalamazoo community.

2009-2010 was a year of exciting events, including the start of Music Together® classes, an early childhood music and movement program for children and adults to enjoy and learn together. CAM began offering Music Together in Fall 2009 and now holds classes at the Epic Center and the Excel Dance Centre in Portage. An exciting boost came to this program via the PNC Foundation, which awarded a 3-year, \$300,000 grant in August 2010 to bring Music Together and other great musical experiences to high-need children. The grant to the



“Marvelous Music!” program serves young children in Head Start, the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency’s Great Start program and the YWCA Children’s Center. The program is designed to foster teamwork, active participation, focus, creativity, music skills and reading readiness in young children through a web of components designed by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and Crescendo Academy of Music. Jane Rooks Ross is the Marvelous Music! program director; Cathi Smits is our Music Together specialist.

In addition to the Music Together classes and our wide range of instrument and voice lessons offered at the Epic Center, CAM began offering music theory classes in Summer 2009, continued to hold guitar lessons at the Open Door Church of God in Christ and string classes through the Vicksburg Community Schools.

Public performances by our students and faculty provided opportunities for us to share our musical gifts with the community. Monthly student recitals took place at the First Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo and the Crescendo Student Violin Trio played several dates and venues. In addition, several individual studio recitals were presented. The eighth annual Faculty Showcase Recital took place in November at the Wellspring Theater. The Crescendo Fiddlers performed at several



venues, including appearances at Art Hop and the Kalamazoo Farmers’ Market. Mark Portalese and Friends held a well-received benefit concert for CAM scholarships in September. The Kalamazoo Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra were busy with many performances, including Art Hops at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, debuts at the Cooper’s Glen Music Festival in January and Fretboard Festival in March, a CAM Scholarship benefit concert in May, and a highly-attended performance with mandolin virtuoso Carlo Aonzo in June. The latter two performances included premieres of new works by local composer Elizabeth Start.

This brief summary is just a sampling of a busy year’s activity at CAM and reflects the locations and diverse audiences with whom we interact throughout the year. We are dependent on, and thankful for, the support of the community and the dedication of our students, families, instructors, support staff, and donors. Thank you for your continued investment in Crescendo!

## Crescendo Academy of Music – Faculty and Staff

### **Paul Bauer, Drum Set/Percussion**

Studies at WMU, KVCC and Columbia College; performs with several theater companies.

### **Jeff Breisach, French Horn**

BM Education from WMU; Band Instructor, Covert Public Schools.

### **Jerzy (George) Bugaj, Piano/Voice**

BM from Warsaw College of Music; MM from University of Warsaw; MM/DMA from West Virginia University.

### **Rachel Castle Herzer, Piano**

BA in piano and BFA in painting from WMU.

### **Luke Cook, Cello**

BM/BA from WMU; Member/manager of Arioso String Quartet.

### **Carol Corey, Viola/Violin**

BA from WMU.

### **Thalea Davis, String Bass**

Pursuing BM from WMU; Member WMU Symphony Orchestra.

### **Michael Evans, Low Brass**

BA in tuba performance from WMU.

### **Mark Guthrie, Percussion**

BFA from University of Toledo; KSO Artist in Residence–Principal Timpani.

### **Sarah Hedlund, Violin**

BA from WMU; Member KSO & SMSO;



violinist with string quartet Bach to Bacharach; Director, Crescendo Fiddlers.

### **Derek Herzer, Piano/Accompanist**

Pursuing degree in piano performance from WMU; Accompanist, WMU School of Music and Crescendo Academy of Music.

### **Kip Hickman, Trombone**

BFA from UCLA; MM from U of M; KSO Artist in Residence–principal trombone.

### **Patricia Kates, Violin**

BM from University of Illinois; MM from U of M; Member of GRSO.

### **Micaela Kingslight, Acoustic/Electric Guitar**

AA in Liberal Arts/Music from KVCC; adjunct faculty Kalamazoo College.

### **Penny Kohns, Flute/Piano**

BM from Spring Arbor College; MM from University of Massachusetts; adjunct faculty, Andrews University; Director, Southwest Michigan Flute Choir.

**Miles Kusik**, *Classical Guitar/Mandolin*  
BS from GVSU; Founder/Director of Third Coast Guitar Trio; Co-founder/Conductor of Kalamazoo Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra and Crescendo Children's Guitar Ensemble.

**Audrey Lipsey**, *Violin/Executive Director*  
BM from WMU; graduate work at U of M; Asst. Concertmaster KSO; Associate Concertmaster BCSO; Member Renaissance Strings and Opus IV String Quartet; Conductor of Kalamazoo Prep String and Training Orchestras; Executive Director of Crescendo since 2000.

**Stacy Little**, *Piano*  
BA from WMU; Associate Director of Development, KSO.

**Adam Main**, *Acoustic/Electric Guitar*  
Over 20 years playing guitar; has performed in local rock bands and with the Kalamazoo Civic Theater.

**Bethany McKnight**, *Piano*  
BM from WMU; Instructor for Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival Piano Lab.

**Mark Portolese**, *Violin/Piano*  
BM from Illinois Wesleyan University; MM from U of M; Assoc. Concertmaster SBSO; Member of SMSO & KSO.

**Gabriel Renteria**, *Oboe*  
BM from Oberlin Conservatory; MM from University of Washington; KSO Artist in Residence—Principal Oboe and member of the KSO Woodwind Quintet.

**Corlyn Long Schreck**, *Voice*  
BA from University of Northern Iowa; MM from WMU; instructor at Kalamazoo College and Cornerstone University; instructor for the Education for the Arts Musical Theater class.

**Henning Schroder**, *Clarinet/Saxophone*  
University of Arts in Berlin, diploma in saxophone pedagogy, diploma in saxophone performance, and Konzertexamen (artist diploma); MM from WMU; DMA, University of Illinois; Member of Opus 21.

**Adam Schumaker**, *Theory/Composition & Guitar FUNDamentals*  
MM from WMU; BA from Principia College; adjunct faculty, WMU.

**Shannon Scoles**, *Voice*  
BA from Hillsdale College; MM from WMU; adjunct faculty, Kalamazoo College and WMU; 2007 & 2008 Michigan NATS winner.

**Silvia Sidorane**, *Cello*  
Graduate of the Latvia State Conservatory in Riga, Latvia; MM in Education from MSU; Orchestra instructor for Portage Public Schools; principal cellist of BCSO; member of Opus IV String Quartet.

**Sheri Simah**, *Violin*  
Studied at Northeastern Illinois and DePaul Universities; Member of BCSO.



**Cathi Smits**, *Music Together®*  
AA from Mount Scenario College; Music Together teacher for over 10 years.

**Diane Sparrow**, *Office Assistant*  
BA from WMU; Teacher at Mrs. Wolfe's Preschool.

**Joanna Steinhäuser**, *Violin*  
BA from Kalamazoo College; MM from MSU; DMA from Louisiana State University; Performs with SMSO and KSO.

**Michael Wood**, *French horn*  
BM from Concordia College; MM from Baylor University; KSO Artist in Residence—Principal Horn.

**April Woodward-Slack**, *Office Manager*  
BA from WMU; MPA from GVSU.

**Olga Ziabrikova**, *Viola/Violin*  
BM from Astrakhan State Conservatory in Astrakhan, Russia; MM from WMU; Member of GRSO and the Renaissance Strings.

**Jackie Zito**, *Mandolin*  
BBA WMU; co-founder of the Kalamazoo Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra.

**BCSO:** Battle Creek Symphony  
**GRSO:** Grand Rapids Symphony  
**KSO:** Kalamazoo Symphony  
**SBSO:** South Bend Symphony  
**SMSO:** Southwest Michigan Symphony



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**Board of Directors 2010–11**

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# *Crescendo Academy of Music – Statement of Financial Condition*

August 31, 2010

**ASSETS**

Cash.....	\$ 4,532
Accounts receivable .....	943
Furniture, fixtures and equipment ...	197,835
Prepaid expenses.....	<u>300</u>

**TOTAL ASSETS.....** \$ 203,610

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

Prepaid scholarships .....	\$ 6,428
Payroll tax liabilities.....	<u>4,953</u>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES .....** 11,381

**NET ASSETS .....** 192,229

**TOTAL LIABILITIES  
AND NET ASSETS .....** \$ 203,610

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

Contributions .....	\$ 20,731
Grants .....	27,500
Scholarship.....	9,680
Tuition .....	268,058
Registration fees .....	19,085
Mandolin/Guitar Orchestra .....	2,558
Rent income.....	750
Miscellaneous.....	519
Interest income.....	<u>196</u>

**TOTAL SUPPORT .....** 349,077

Payroll expenses.....	247,053
Scholarships .....	16,830
Payroll taxes.....	21,625
Mandolin Orchestra .....	1,154
Insurance.....	1,572
Occupancy .....	28,715
Teaching expenses .....	18,031
Office .....	4,348
Advertising.....	10,012
Administrative.....	3,369
Dues.....	1,011
Postage & printing .....	4,244
Telephone.....	<u>1,558</u>

**TOTAL EXPENSES .....** 359,522

**DECREASE IN NET ASSETS.....** (\$ 10,445)



*crescendo*  
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Epic Center, Suite 12  
359 South Kalamazoo Mall  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007



## *2009-10: a year of musical accomplishments*

# *crescendo* academy of music

## 2009-10 Annual Report

***Our mission is your musical growth and enjoyment***

Epic Center, Suite 12, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall,  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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	We provided over \$16,500 in financial assistance to students.		We gave 42 public recitals.
We provided over 7,000 hours of instruction.			31% of Kalamazoo Junior Symphony members were Crescendo students.
		17% of our students were adults.	
We provided financial assistance to over 11% of our students.			
		52% of Prep String Orchestra members were Crescendo students.	