WCM (Weekend of Chamber Music) Music & Arts Programs
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The STEAM Fund is proud to present a series of **Artist Workshops and Performances**, bringing world-class musicians into schools to inspire creativity, curiosity, and collaboration. Each artist is not only a distinguished performer on the international stage but also a dedicated **teaching artist**, committed to engaging students in meaningful and accessible ways.

Through live performances, interactive workshops, and conversations, these artists connect their artistry to the classroom, offering students the opportunity to explore music as both an expressive art form and a tool for learning across disciplines. From classical masterworks to contemporary innovation, their programs are designed to enrich education, spark imagination, and foster a lifelong appreciation of the arts.

About WCM



Weekend of Chamber Music (WCM) is all about connection—between artists and audiences, tradition and innovation, performance and place. Based in the Catskills and Upper Delaware region, WCM brings chamber music to life through performances, workshops, and conversations in unexpected, welcoming spaces: barns, galleries, farmer's markets, and more. Wherever people gather, we bring the music to them—offering experiences that are intimate, inspiring, and rooted in community. At WCM, they believe chamber music is a living, evolving art form that speaks to the present as powerfully as it reflects the past.

Founded in 1994 by flutist Judith Pearce, WCM has grown into a vibrant nonprofit led by Artistic Directors Andrew Waggoner and Caroline Stinson, both world class performers and educators with a deep passion for teaching and creative engagement. WCM's programs—whether performances, school residencies, or summer intensives—honor the classics while embracing new music, improvisation, and collaboration with living composers. As part of their partnership with the STEAM Fund, WCM is thrilled to bring this same spirit into schools across the region, offering students meaningful, hands-on experiences that connect music with creativity, empathy, and the wider world around them.

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Weekend of Chamber Music

Artist Workshop and Performance



Experience the power of music like never before with the **WCM Artist Workshop and Performance Program**, presented in collaboration with the STEAM Fund. Designed for students in grades 2–12, this dynamic initiative brings professional WCM artists directly into schools—or transports students to vibrant public venues—to engage in unforgettable live performances and hands-on workshops. These events don't just showcase music—they unpack it, allowing students to physically, intellectually, and emotionally step inside the music through interactive, collaborative creation.

Each 30-minute workshop is crafted to turn listening into an active, creative process. Students clap rhythms, sing melodies, act out musical forms, and build soundscapes with instruments and found objects—all grounded in the stylistic and cultural worlds of the music they'll experience live. The goal? To connect music to the broader world: history, civics, science, and beyond. With input from classroom teachers, our teaching artists tailor each experience to spark curiosity and creativity, foster critical listening, and show students that music isn't just something you hear—it's something you feel, build, and live.

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Weekend of Chamber Music

Improvisation For Everyone



WCM's Improvisation For Everyone program —offered in partnership with the STEAM Fund—is a joyful, deeply engaging introduction to musical creativity, designed for students from PreK through 12th grade. Rooted in collaboration and guided exploration, this program makes improvisation accessible to *all* students, no matter their musical background. Whether using classroom instruments, found objects, or just their voices and bodies, students learn to build entire pieces of music together in real time—no scripts, no wrong answers, just attentive listening and imaginative response.

The workshops prioritize empathy, focus, and group connection as students respond to each other's musical gestures through rhythm, tone, and expressive play. By working in a fully inclusive and democratic creative space, they gain confidence, develop sharper listening skills, and experience firsthand the emotional range and expressive power of music. From call-and-response to full-class soundscapes, students are invited into a process that is equal parts serious and joyful—one that helps them hear and be heard in new ways.

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Making An Opera Residency Program



WCM's Making an Opera program, presented in collaboration with the STEAM Fund, is a six-week residency that invites students in grades 4–12 to dive into the creative process of building an opera from scratch. Guided by a professional composer and teaching artists, students will explore what opera really is—its music, drama, storytelling, and cultural context—before collaboratively crafting an original work of their own. From choosing the story and writing the libretto, to developing musical ideas and staging the final performance, every step is shaped by the students' voices, ideas, and creativity.

During the residency, whether working in small groups or large ensembles, students take ownership of the process in a way that connects deeply across disciplines—writing can range from full productions with costumes and sets to simple staged readings, the heart of the project is always the same: student-led storytelling brought to life through music. It's an ambitious, joyful, and truly collaborative journey that turns young creators into composers, librettists, directors, and performers—all at once.

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