

OPUS, P.O. Box 495,
Naperville, IL 60566-0495

Comprehensive • Inspiring • Challenging • Fun

In-Person Day Camp

OPUS



24th ANNUAL
CHAMBER MUSIC CAMP

July 26 – August 1, 2026

North Central College, Naperville, IL 60540

Mara Gallagher, Music Director

Daryl Silberman, Assistant Music Director

The study of chamber music with strings and piano in small ensembles of two to six players develops teamwork and draws on the individual strengths of each musician. Through this collaborative experience, students are inspired to strive for artistic excellence, build lasting friendships, and create beautiful chamber music together.

OPUS is here to help!



napopus.org



MUSIC DIRECTOR (MD)
Violinist-Violist

Mara Gallagher (14)



Violinist

Carl Johnston (24)

Assistant MD, Conductor-

Violist **Daryl Silberman (10)**



Piano Coordinator

Dr. Susan Chou (6)



Cellist

Ann Griffin (8)

They are also Audition Team's Core Members (plus conductors).

ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE Balourdet Quartet (3)



From left: **Angela Bae**, Violin
Justin DeFilippis, Violin
Russell Houston, Cello
Benjamin Zannoni, Viola

Balourdet Quartet believes that the true strength of music lies in breaking down barriers between people. Through educational offerings, they create a safe and inspiring space in which students develop not only **higher levels of music artistry, but also presence, openness, and connection with themselves.** The Balourdet Quartet has participated in all types of OPUS Chamber Music Camp class, and is appreciated and beloved by students and faculty alike.



Justin DeFilippis,
Violin



Angela Bae,
Violin



Benjamin Zannoni,
Viola



Russell Houston, Cello

Ensemble-in-Residence

Balourdet Quartet



www.BalourdetQuartet.com



OPUS campers have enjoyed the in-residence **Balourdet Quartet** since 2024. Acclaimed for its vibrant energy and masterful blend of technical precision and emotional depth, the quartet brings a fresh perspective to both beloved classics and modern compositions. Their close musical partnership and bold creative risk-taking earned them **the 2024 Avery Fisher Career Grant and Chamber Music America's 2024 Cleveland Quartet Award.**



Balourdet Quartet

is currently the first ever quartet-in-residence at the **Seattle Chamber Music Society** and have recently completed a residency at Indiana University. Its members were connected at Rice University and are graduates of the New England Conservatory's Professional String Quartet Program.

Balourdet Quartet at OPUS Camp



FACULTY: VIOLIN-VIOLA CLARINET



Kuei-Mien (Tina) Chang 張桂綿 (9),
Dr. Kate Carter (5),
Lauren Culver (13),
Amanda Fenton (12),

Dana Green (10),
Drew Lecher (13),
Nina Saito (9),



Also Carl Johnston,
Daryl Silberman,
Justin DeFilippis, &
Angela Bae (see p1),
Not Shown: Oboe -
Tricia Wlazlo (1) &
Flute Faculty



(x): Years with
OPUS Camp

Composer-in-Residence

Janis Wittrig (9). **Kathryne Pirtle** (19). **Michelle Isaac** (2)

CELLO CONTRABASS



Bill Cernota (5), **Michael Duggan** (17), **Cathy Kuna** (21), **Dr. Mark Liu** (11),
Also Ann Griffin, Russell Houston (see p1). **Dr. Phillip Serna** (9)

PIANO HARP PERCUSSION



Andres Martinez (1), **Timothy Mah** (2), **Dr. Stephanie Wu** (16), **Also**
Dr. Susan Chou (p1). **Harp: Nichole Young** (5). **Percussion: Juan Pastor** (3)



*Develop Your LOVE for
Chamber Music!*

OPUS believes musical intelligence lives in everyone and is explored through chamber music. By introducing students to chamber music whether through strings, piano, or other instruments, we create **positive, joyful** experiences of making music together.



**“We love OPUS Chamber Music,
our summer plan includes OPUS.”**

When we play music, on strings, piano, or any instrument, and when we listen to music of various genres, we are seeking that comfortable feeling unique to ourselves. Some people say it soothes minds, turns us to happiness, and relaxes anxiety. A small group of people that make music together are people in harmony, seamlessly creating fabulous chamber music.

Normally 30 Faculty



With different instruments, personalities, and essential musical roles, chamber music thrives on collaboration. Together, these elements create something greater and that shared musical experience is what we love.



"The OPUS Music Camp offers us the space to refine our craft beyond the confines of the classroom."



Building Stronger Bonds by Playing Chamber Music Together



Making music together, building new friendships, rekindling old ones, and experiencing camaraderie, teamwork, and artistic growth are what bring OPUS participants back year after year.





Baroque Music Quartet - 2 Baroque violins, archlute, and viola de gamba



IMMERSIVE Chamber Music Ensembles - EVERY SINGLE DAY!



OPUS Chamber Orchestra Opportunity - where OPUS students play *side-by-side* with faculty and other professional musicians.



2025 Instrumental Choirs – fun & enriching. To continue every other year.



Every camper selects and works on an Arts Connections project of his/her choice:

- A. Theory-Composition
- B. Videography
- C. Arranging (H) or Ukulele (M)
- D. Jazz

Campers may work alone or in a team with friends.



Jazz Project

Arts Connections Workshop



- Projects & Showcase

Theory-Composition:

Compose a piece of music that is inspired by a work of visual art (*painting, photo, sculpture*) or a work of literary art (*story, novel, poem*)

Composition Track: Polish your composition with the OPUS Composer-in-Residence (*Must submit your work by July 4. Subject to OPUS approval.*)

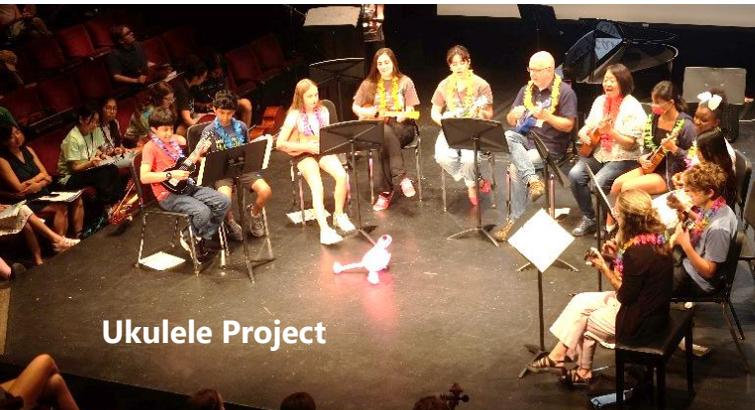


Showcase

"It was really fun performing my own piece, and I enjoyed viewing other campers' creations as well."

Develop campers' own creativity by making connections with the arts they love!

Ukulele: Strumming the open sky is as breezy as a tropical vacation! All you need is a ukulele (*may borrow one from OPUS*) and a love of singing while you learn how to play a few songs or even compose your own melodies.



Ukulele Project





Videography Project



Arranging Project



Arranging: Arrange, transcribe, or orchestrate a piece of music for your instrument or small ensemble of available instruments.

Arts Connections – Encouraging Campers' Own Music Creativity



Large Ensembles



Enjoy being part of a team as you perform large ensemble repertoire.



Invigorating String Orchestras



Uplifting Collective Ensembles for non-orchestra campers



The Collective Ensemble brings **many** instruments together in **specialty-written music** that is tailored to each camper's talent, which expands campers' music skills.



New & Exciting - Many participants played instruments they never had played previously.



In Salute-Honor-Love
Concert on Monday
Following the Camp.



Additional Performing Opportunities



In an interview
by Stephan Holt,
and performance
in NCTV Channel
17's The
Morning Show.

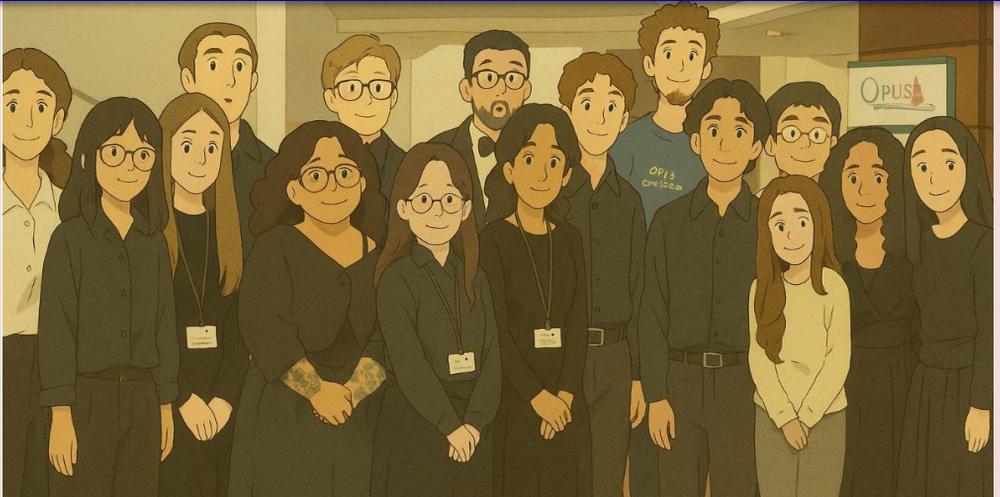
Performing in
Morton
Arboretum.





MARVELOUS TEACHING TEAM

of the OPUS Chamber Music Camp

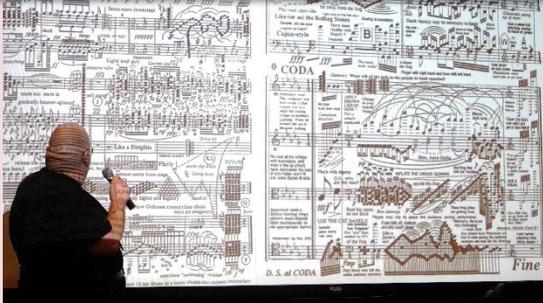


OPUS Teaching Assistant – Instructor (TA) Team members are wonderful counselors and role models for campers. TAs are responsible, energetic, and enthusiastic young musicians focusing on creating a positive experience for all campers. TAs often were named *"my best friend"* in campers exit surveys.

Most of the OPUS TAs had been OPUS Campers. They averaged 6 years of OPUS Camp participation. Most of them are college students or recent college graduates. Some TAs-TIs have advanced degrees and are music teachers. TAs perform on stage at the Camp and in concerts.



INTRIGUING QUIZ Bowl



Test and challenge campers' music knowledge as they learn.

ENJOYABLE Lunch & Recreation



Activities foster friendship and a sense of belonging.



Special Treat:
Taco Lunch
& Balloons



Camp Schedule (subject to adjustments)

- **By July 15th:** Students receive music, handbook, and practice tips and then start practicing. **Campers are expected to learn the music in July.**
- **Last Two Weeks of July:** One or two 1-hour Progress-Check Lessons (virtual or in-person) will be scheduled with OPUS teaching staff at mutually agreed times.
- Faculty divides campers into two groups: **Harmony and Melody**. The two groups have **mirror-image schedules**, except the joint classes (shown in red below).
- **Campers will be fully occupied during the 7-day Camp. Please check the updated General Schedule on www.napopus.org.** Camper's **INDIVIDUALIZED CLASSROOM Schedule** will be sent 5 days before the 1st day of Camp.
- **2 pm on August 3rd Concert in Wentz Hall:** Camper chamber ensembles and Arts Connections **selected by Faculty** to perform for veterans and older adults.

Tentative Schedule	HARMONY Camp →	July 27 MONDAY	July 28 TUESDAY	July 29 WEDNESDAY	July 30 THURSDAY	July 31 FRIDAY	Aug. 1 SATURDAY
July 26	8:00-9:00	Early Drop-off Option: Brain Teaser/Video, Private Lessons (Inst Choir Rehearsals)					
SUNDAY	9:00-9:20	P0	General Assembly- Instrument Choir Performances, Chamber Demos				
	9:30-10:20	P1	Meet & Greet	Chamber Music Coaching	Chamber Music Coaching	Chamber Music Dress Rehearsal & Coaching #1	Chamber Music Coaching
Staff Safety Training	10:30-11:20	P2	Orchestra Sectionals, Collective Ensemble (or Composition Track for H)	Orchestra, Collective Ensemble (or Composition Track for H)	Orchestra, Collective Ensemble (or Composition Track for H)	Chamber Music Dress Rehearsal & Coaching #2	Orchestra, Collective Ensemble (or Composition Track for H)
Staff Meeting & Lunch 11:30-1	11:30-12:20	P3	Chamber Music Coaching	Chamber Music Coaching	Chamber Music- Learn from Other Groups	Orchestra, Collective Ensemble Sound Check, Comp Track	Chamber Music Coaching
	12:30-1:10		Lunch				
Campers Registration 1-3 pm.	1:20-1:50	PX	Recreation	Group Photo & Recreation	Recreation	Recreation	Recreation
Faculty Meeting 2-3 pm.	2:00-2:50	P4	Arts Connections PROJECTS Meeting Rooms + Composition Track	ArtsConn PROJECTS : Theory-Composition, Videography, Arranging, Jazz + Composition Track	ArtsConn PROJECTS + Composition Track	ArtsConn PROJECTS + Composition Track	BRING A FRIEND to Arts Connections+ Composition Track SHOWCASE (Families)
3-4 PM Arts Connections Introduction	3:00-3:50	P5	Orchestra, Collective Ensemble (or Composition Track for H)	Music Genre/Culture Workshop – "Korean Percussion"	Chamber Music – Figure Out Session	Music Quiz Bowl	
	4:00-5:00 (or Wed, Fri to 5:30)	P6	Chamber Music Coaching (dismissal at 5 pm)	Orchestra, Collective Ensemble or Composition Track (dismissal at 5 pm)	Balourdet String Quartet Concert - ALL (Families) + General Assembly to 5:30 pm	Chamber Music Dress Rehearsal & Coaching #3	Recognition and Awards + General Assembly to 5:30 pm

"Listen to Our Young Artists" Concert – 9:30 AM For M and 1:00 PM for H Camp, Wentz Concert Center (Open to Public)

8:00 AM Sound Check for M Camp; 11:30 AM for H Camp Concert.

Reception-Celebration Follows the 1 pm Concert.

*Notes: 1. Camper Dismissal at 5:00 PM, except Wed and Fri at 5:30 pm
2. Camper's choice deadline for ArtsConn Project: 9 am on July 27th

Application & Tuition



- **Scholarship Application** (Special, Outstanding, Merit, or Honor)
June 1st (fill out form from website & email)
- **Application for Admission (Electronic Audition Required)**
June 8th (Only online application accepted)
- **Tuition: \$900. Pianists pay \$1,000** (\$100 Past camper or sibling discount may apply.) **Referral Discount:** \$50 tuition discount to a new camper referred by a past camper. The new camper must enroll and actually participate. \$50 discount also applies to the past camper who made the referral. Past camper can refer multiples: \$100 tuition discount for 2 referrals; and \$150 (cap) discount for 3 referrals new campers.
- **Tuition Payment Due**
July 1st (Email \$notice ~June 24th. Online/ZELLE payment available)

Options available by request (before or after the camp):

- **ILMEA-Audition Preparation Class:** 9th -12th Grade campers only. Minimum of 3 required. Pay \$60 more upon end of June notification.
- **Private Lessons:** available by request for \$60/60 minute lesson.

WORLD MUSIC GENRE Workshop

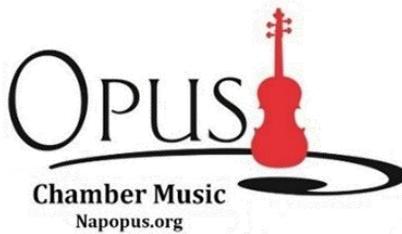


Korean Percussion

This workshop introduces students to the vibrant traditions of Korean percussion through a balance of cultural context, listening, observation, and hands-on music making. Students will explore the folk traditions of **Pungmul** (communal music and dance) and **Samulnori** (percussion quartet), learning how rhythm, movement, and ensemble playing work interactively together in Korean performance traditions.



Brent Roman



Opus at a Glance:

Our comprehensive 7-day program for musicians ages 8-18, who study *violin, viola, cello, contrabass, piano, flute, clarinet, harp, classical guitar, or oboe*. Our immersive curriculum combines the following classes and activities to challenge, inspire and support each campers' musical growth:

- Chamber Music Coaching & Rehearsals
- In-Residence Balourdet Quartet Concert, Q&A
- Faculty Chamber Music Demonstrations
- Orchestra, Collective Ensemble, or Composition Track with In-Residence Faculty Composer
- Arts Connections Workshop & Showcase of Camper's Work

Choice of Theory-Composition, Music Stories by Videography, Arranging, Ukulele, Jazz, etc.

- Culture-Genre Music Workshop – *Korean Percussion*
- Music Quiz Bowl
- Individual Pre-Camp Progress Check Lessons
- Final Concert (8/1), and
- Post-Camp Concert at Wentz Hall for Veterans and Older Adults (8/3)

*"There is nothing like this camp program around here.
The location is literally in our "own backyard."*

Contact Us: www.napOPUS.org

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