



848 West Fourth St. Williamsport PA, 17701 (570) 329-0888

Uptown Music Collective Overview

For the past ten years it has been the mission of the Uptown Music Collective to *“provide a resource for higher musical education in all genres, at all levels and on all instruments, in a safe and open environment, stressing high impact musical experiences intended to instill a love of music, a strong sense of community and an understanding of the importance of discipline, hard work and self-expression in all students, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or economic status”*. Over the years the school has stayed true to its mission and has grown in its capacity to deliver it, due to the hard work of its teachers, staff and the generosity of donors, sponsors and foundations.

What started in April of 2000 with twenty students, meeting in a three room walkup over top of Johanna’s Bakery on Market Street in Williamsport, has become over one hundred and thirty students meeting weekly in a much more spacious facility at 848 West Fourth Street. Once mostly boys, the school is now 40% female and students come from seven different counties and over seventeen different schools.

The Uptown Music Collective offers students a complete modern music education including private lessons on guitar, voice, bass, drums, keyboards and drums, as well as classes and workshops open to students of any instrument. The school’s target market is ten to eighteen years of age, but all ages are welcome.

The school is run by a staff of four, including founder Dave Brumbaugh (Executive Director), Bill Ort (Student Manager and Technical Director), Jared Mondell (Admissions and Marketing Manager), Tracey Tillett (Development Coordinator). The school’s lessons, classes and workshops are taught by Dave Brumbaugh and Bill Ort, along with eight teachers working as independent contractors.

Over the past ten years, the Uptown Music Collective has gained much notoriety due to its extensive performance program, which gives students opportunities to perform in a wide variety of venues and circumstances. Recent performance events include: a live performance before the television cameras of

WNEP16, for a five segment special about the school, a Fundraising Concert for the Children's Development Center, featuring collaborations with the Williamsport High School Choir and Mellissa Augustine Dancers, a unique collaboration between the Uptown Music Collective and the Williamsport Symphony Youth Orchestra and most recently a tribute to the band U2 and Irish Rock acts the that took place this past St. Patrick's Day weekend at the Community Arts Center in Williamsport.

Quality music education is so important in our society today. The discipline, self-confidence, self-esteem that come from learning a musical instrument and performing in front of an audience are life changing. At the Uptown Music Collective not only do students learn an instrument, but they also learn important leadership, planning, organizational and relationship skills that will help them to not only be better musicians, but better citizens of the world.