What do you think of when you think about music? The latest music streaming from your digital assistant? The symphony whose notes penetrate your dreams so that you awaken literally hearing the crescendo of sounds you know by heart? The multitude of virtual concerts from performers of all types which we experienced during the pandemic?

At VanderCook College of Music, we think about all those things and more:

We think of the music education that is the very core of our existence, has provided training to more than 3,500 music educators who teach or have taught in grade schools, high schools, colleges, and universities, both public and private. We think about the abiding love for the college that has held true for nearly 120 years. We think of our graduates who have provided a solid foundation in music performance in addition to music theory, history and more, for people of every age, every ethnicity, every socio-economic level, not just in the United States but in as many as 20 other countries around the globe.

We think of the pride of accomplishment from our students as they learn to play strings, horns, reeds, percussion, and piano when their previous musicianship was limited to a single instrument.

I THINK MUSIC IN ITSELF IS HEALING.
IT’S AN EXPLOSIVE EXPRESSION OF HUMANITY.
IT’S SOMETHING WE ARE ALL TOUCHED BY.
NO MATTER WHAT CULTURE WE’RE FROM, EVERYONE LOVES MUSIC.

Billy Joel

FAST FACT:
EVERY VANDERCOOK STUDENT ATTAINS COMPETENCY ON AT LEAST 19 INSTRUMENTS & VOICE, SO NO MATTER WHERE OR WHAT GRADES THEY TEACH, THEY CAN HELP STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO SING, PLAY, AND PERFORM WITH EXCELLENCE.
VANDERCOOK’S ROOTS

Did you know that since the inception of the College, VanderCook has prepared music teachers who are versatile enough to teach vocal music and band and orchestra? Today, as primary and secondary school budgets have shrunk, this unique approach is serving our graduates well. Today’s music teachers teach vocal, instrumental, and general music in addition to contemporary music technology.

VanderCook College of Music traces its roots to 1909, when Hale A. VanderCook established the institution as a school where professional musicians could learn to function as public-school band directors. The early curriculum focused upon techniques for developing skills in conducting, music composition and arrangement, organizing the high school band program, performing music with expression, and principles of musical performance. This early program was offered in an old brownstone on Chicago’s west side neighborhood to groups of six to eight students. A “hands-on” performance-oriented learning environment – essentially an expanded music teaching studio – characterized the program.

MUSIC GIVES A SOUL TO THE UNIVERSE, WINGS TO THE MIND, FLIGHT TO THE IMAGINATION AND LIFE TO EVERYTHING.

Plato
No one knows when music first ‘existed.’ Was it a shepherd whistling to himself while passing time guarding his flocks? The sound of a horn used to spur men into battle? A mother crooning to her baby? Whatever and however music first happened, it has always touched the minds and hearts of humankind.

In more recent years, we’ve experienced further evolution - from classical music to ragtime, from big band sounds to rock and roll, to soul, rap, jazz, hip hop, and more.

The bottom line is that music is a form of expression like no other - one that involves the head, the ears, the heart and the soul.

And that is why VanderCook is so important to our world. VanderCook directly influences its students and their students, improving life for people here and around the globe through the belief in the importance of music.

And those who support VanderCook through their personal philanthropy make the difference that enables us to make great things happen.

MUSIC IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE SPIRIT.
IT OPENS THE SECRET OF LIFE BRINGING PEACE, ABOLISHING STRIFE.

Kahlil Gibran

FAST FACT:
DISTANCE LEARNING HAS BEEN A HUGE SUCCESS AT VANDERCOOK. OUR MUSIC EDUCATION CENTER OF AMERICA (MECA) CLASSES & MASTER CLASSES ATTRACTIONED OVER 2,000 STUDENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR.
At VanderCook, our evolution as a leader in music education continues. We have committed to an ambitious three-phase plan to provide 21st century technology, flexible performance spaces, classrooms and rehearsal spaces, all in an enhanced modern environment. We are already halfway towards achieving this plan:

**PHASE I ($3.9M)** is finished. The building at 3125 S. Federal is halfway to completion. Quinlan Hall is used daily. Wenger practice studios, as well as teaching studios ring with the sound of musical practice, often 24 hours each day.

**PHASE II ($7.4M)**, the Dr. Keith Mardak Performing Arts Building, is in development and will encompass all of the Phase I improvements. So far, thanks to the extreme generosity of Dr. Mardak, who matched every dollar raised up to $2.5M prior to June 30, 2021, we are well on our way to seeing this project to its fruition. When completed, it will contain a large performance hall, percussion suite, additional classroom space, and enhanced entrance and commons area.

**PHASE III ($3.9M)** is in its preliminary stages. The current building at 3140 S. Federal is in dire need of interior and exterior upgrades to modernize the facility, enhance climate control, become ADA compliant, and address decades of deferred maintenance.

These moves are being made intentionally, using a thoughtful approach which will ensure our future in completely new and infinitely more exciting ways. *We literally can’t do this without your belief in us!*

---

**FAST FACT:**

VANDERCOOK REACHES AROUND 10,000 PEOPLE A YEAR THROUGH OVER 100 CONCERTS, STUDENT RECITALS, MASTER CLASSES, CLINICS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS.
As we continue to grow in the ‘new world’ brought on by COVID and its aftermath, please consider supporting VanderCook College of Music – with a named or unrestricted gift.

**REMAINING CAPITAL NAMING OPPORTUNITIES**

**PHASE II: 3125 S. FEDERAL: The Dr. Keith Mardak Performing Arts Center**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concert Hall</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting and Sound Control Booth/Equipment</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percussion Suite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 large @ $75K</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 small @ $35K ea.</td>
<td>$215,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patio</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ $80,000 ea.- 1st Floor West Classroom, Percussion Storage</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ $75,000 ea.- 2nd Floor West Classroom, Chamber Music Room</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ $50,000 ea.- Choral and Orchestra Music Library, Ensemble Office</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCM Instrument Storage, 3 Faculty Offices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Vestibule, Southwest Vestibule</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ $25,000 ea.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairs in the concert venues:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 @ $2,500; 70 @ $3,500; 34 @ $5,000 ea.</td>
<td>$590,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124 retractable seats @ $1,000 ea.</td>
<td>$124,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PHASE III: 3140 S. FEDERAL:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commons Area</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President's Office and Conference Room</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Floor Classrooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 @ $25,000 ea.</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDI/Computer Lab</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offices for Directors of Bands, Choral Music, Strings; First Floor Classroom, Lobby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 @ $30,000 ea.</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offices for Reception, Graduate Dean, Undergraduate Dean, Business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 @ $15,000 ea.</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offices for MECA, Applied Trumpet, Saxophone, Flute, Euphonium and Tuba, Horn, Violin/Viola, Cello/Bass; Clarinet; Admission, Development, Registrar, Financial Aid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 @ $10,000 ea.</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Practice rooms @ $5,000 ea.</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Teaching studios @ $2,500 ea.</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CAPITAL NEED:</strong></td>
<td>$3,654,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUR PLANS FOR PHASE II

IF I WERE NOT A PHYSICIST, I WOULD PROBABLY BE A MUSICIAN.
I OFTEN THINK IN MUSIC. I LIVE MY DAYDREAMS IN MUSIC.
I SEE MY LIFE IN TERMS OF MUSIC.

ALBERT EINSTEIN
PROGRAM AND ENDOWMENT NEEDS

One City Jazz (Fall 2021-2023) 3 yrs. programming $150,000
One City Strings (Fall 2021-2023) 3 yrs. programming $150,000
ANNUAL Scholarship Need $500,000
Endowed Director positions: Band, Strings, Choral,
Distance Learning 4 @ $500,000 each $2,000,000
Endowed professorships – 4 @ $500,000 $2,000,000
Additional Scholarship Endowment $2,000,000
TOTAL ALL NEEDS: $10,454,000
Gifts to VanderCook come in many forms and sizes and each one truly makes a difference. You may wonder how a small contribution can matter to the college – how it can “make a dent.” Combined with other donor gifts, even a relatively minor contribution can make a major impact.

EVERY GIFT SUPPORTS OUR STUDENTS.

Our diverse student body comes from the greater Chicago area, Illinois and the Midwest, from as far away as California and Alaska, Nigeria and China. And though each student brings with them a unique set of experiences, they all have one thing in common: they all aspire to be music teachers trained and educated in the VanderCook tradition. What better return on your investment than the success of our students?

EVERY GIFT STRENGTHENS THE VANDERCOOK FAMILY.

Your gift affirms your belief in the power of music and lets each and every member of our college family know that you support their work. Your support sends the message to our students that you care, that you are tangibly encouraging them to follow their dreams so that someday, they too can share their passion for music with children of all ages. Your investment in VanderCook shows that VanderCook matters to you and makes VanderCook matter to others.

EVERY GIFT IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF MUSIC EDUCATION.

Our students choose VanderCook knowing that the tradition and values of H.A. VanderCook will make them the best in their field. As the needs of music education students evolve with each generation, VanderCook promises to expand on its legacy. Your gifts will cement VanderCook’s position as the leader in music education well into the future.

Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness.

Maya Angelou
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Linda Crabtree Powell
Conductor, Sounds Good! Choirs of Illinois (OP/RF)

Adrienne Thompson
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Frank N. Tsamoutales
Founder & CEO, Tsamoutales Strategies

Christopher Vanderwall
Director of Bands, Plainfield Central HS

FAST FACT:

WE ARE AN INDEPENDENT, NOT-FOR-PROFIT, DEGREE-GRA NTING INSTITUTION, ACCREDITED BY THE HIGHER LEARN ING COMMISSION & THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF MUSIC.

OUR TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS ARE APPROVED BY THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.
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Lisa Marie Kahn, Adjunct Faculty, Harp
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Dr. Robert Sinelair, Professor, Dean of the Graduate Division, Director of Choral Activities
Kenneth Snoeck, Adjunct Faculty, Arranging
Monica Soto, Development
Deborah Stevenson, Adjunct Faculty, Oboe
Cynthia Tovar, Director of Admissions
Dr. I-Hsuan Tsai, Adjunct Faculty, Theory and Piano
Tom Wegesin, Adjunct Faculty, General Education
Dr. Leah Schuman, Applied Trumpet, Executive Director, One City
Dr. I-Hsuan Tsai Applied Piano, Music Theory
Joshua Wirt, Adjunct Faculty, Euphonium/Tuba
Dr. James Yakas, Associate Professor, Percussion