

FACULTY

Birch Creek's national reputation as a summer music school and concert venue is attributable in part to the quality of its faculty. Music educators and performers from across the country return year after year to teach by day and perform by night. Among the schools represented by Birch Creek's faculty are Eastman School of Music, Northern Illinois University, Lawrence University, and Indiana University.



The faculty's performance credentials range from the Lyric Opera, the Chicago Symphony, and the Ravinia Festival to performing and recording with the Count Basie Orchestra, Frank Sinatra Jr., Maynard Ferguson, and Marian McPartland.

PARENTS WRITE

"My son changed from the musician I dropped off on July 4th, to the performer I saw play that final Saturday. Birch Creek helped him bloom in so many areas. Gone was the stage fright, the performance anxiety, and the deep concentration face - I saw a relaxed flow, a smile, and fluid movement to all that was happening."

"All of the teachers I observed seemed down-to-earth, approachable and engaged with the students. I think it is extraordinary that these professional musicians work so closely with the students and join with the students in playing music together in public performances. This aspect of Birch Creek makes it very special."

CAMPUS LIFE



Students live on Birch Creek's 40-acre rural campus. Housing is dormitory style, and students and faculty share meals in the dining hall or picnic grounds, enjoying the opportunity to discuss all matters musical. Buildings added to the historic campus in 2008 provide practice rooms for individuals and large or small ensembles.

Study at Birch Creek is intense; however, there is daily free time. "Roof ball," volleyball and impromptu jam sessions are popular on-campus activities. Additionally, there are supervised trips to Door County's beaches, parks, and shops. There is also time for practice, and private lessons are available.



STUDENT COMMENTS

- *"The key part of the whole experience for me was sitting side-by-side with the professionals, having lessons with them, and even practicing with them. I learned not only musical things, but also musical etiquette, and got a peek into the professional music world."*
- *"This was my second season at Birch Creek...the campus itself is beautiful with state of the art facilities and the dorm was comfortable and a great home for the two weeks."*
- *"The program was very welcoming and the staff was very supportive. The music level was very high and I was inspired time after time by the evening performances of the faculty jazz orchestra."*

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

A complete application packet is available on our web site (www.birchcreek.org) or by calling our office (920)868-3763.

Auditions are required for most instruments.

Application review begins as follows:

Feb. 15 for Symphony and Percussion applicants

March 1 for Jazz applicants

Applications are welcome after these dates and are reviewed until all positions are filled.

FEES AND POLICIES

General Fees for each 2-week session:

Non-refundable processing fee (per session) due with application	\$ 50
Tuition	\$ 600
Room & board	\$ 1,270
Activity fee	\$ 50
Limited health and accident insurance	\$ 25
Total	\$ 1,995

Note: Due to the intensive, mentoring-based nature of Birch Creek's programs, campus residence is required.

FINANCIAL AID

- Contact our Registrar for more information and an application, or obtain an application from our website. Student application requirements must be met before financial aid applications are considered.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

- Eligibility for enrollment and financial assistance is based solely on the applicant's personal qualifications without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.

QUESTIONS

- Please feel free to contact our Registrar with any questions you may have.

BIRCH CREEK MUSIC PERFORMANCE CENTER, INC.

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BIRCH CREEK

Music Performance Center, Inc.

Two-week resident sessions
for advanced musicians ages 14 - 19



SYMPHONY

June 25 - July 7, 2012

Percussion & STEEL BAND

July 9 - July 21, 2012

JAZZ

Two Sessions:

July 23 - Aug. 4, 2012

Aug. 6 - Aug. 18, 2012



Each session with world-class faculty
and 6 to 10 public performances

Door County, Wisconsin · Since 1976



James Gill, Wisconsin Public Television

ABOUT BIRCH CREEK

Our Mission

To provide intensive, performance-based instruction to promising young musicians by immersing them in a professional, mentoring environment.

Birch Creek, located in the heart of Wisconsin's beautiful Door County, is a young musician's dream. Founded in 1976, this unique summer music school and concert venue provides talented students (typically ages 14 to 19) advanced training as well as the opportunity to perform publicly alongside some of the top music professionals in the country.

Birch Creek offers four two-week summer sessions: Symphony, Percussion & Steel Band, and Jazz (two sessions). The student to faculty ratio averages 2 to 1, ensuring that students receive attentive hands-on mentoring from top music educators and professionals. Additionally, students have numerous performance opportunities before appreciative audiences who have come to expect only the best from Birch Creek.

CONCERTS



Numerous public performances are a key part of the Birch Creek experience. Most other summer music schools have only one concert at the end of each session. At Birch Creek, students perform in 6 to 10 public performances in the renovated concert barn before paying audiences. Also, students perform in concerts throughout Door County.

SYMPHONY June 25 - July 7, 2012



The Symphony program is unique in that it incorporates a student/mentor approach in virtually every aspect of training. Students rehearse and perform alongside their teachers, and with a 1.8 to 1 student-to-teacher ratio, students receive an abundance of personal attention. In such a nurturing environment, students develop excellent practice habits and rehearsal skills. Six public performances of four completely different orchestral programs are given over the two-week session. Students also have several opportunities to perform in their chamber ensembles.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

Sectionals
Orchestra rehearsals
Coached chamber music rehearsals
Technique classes and seminars
Dedicated practice time

PERFORMANCE REPERTOIRE

While repertoire varies from year to year, prospective Birch Creek students must be able to perform at a high technical level.

Major repertoire for the 2012 season includes:

- Dvorák, Symphony No. 5
- Hanson, Symphony No. 2
- Stravinsky, The Firebird Suite
- Copland, The Red Pony Suite

Additional repertoire will be posted on the website as it becomes available.

Percussion & STEEL BAND July 9 - July 21, 2012



The Percussion & Steel Band Program offers a comprehensive experience for the young percussionist. Through hands-on experience in performance, small-group instruction, and master classes, the program provides an excellent working knowledge of all the instruments and styles essential for today's percussionist. Our small size and busy concert schedule challenge each student, whatever his or her level, to learn and perform at a pace found on the professional music scene. All students perform in eight public concerts in either their percussion ensemble, mallet ensemble, Steel Band, or world drumming ensemble.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

Group warm up
Class sessions covering 2 and 4 mallets, snare, and orchestral percussion; drum set, vibes, and jazz improvisation; and world percussion ~ Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, and African
Rehearsals for Steel Band, percussion ensembles, Samba band, jazz combos, and Latin percussion groups
Music theory, composition, and focus groups

PERFORMANCE REPERTOIRE

Students in the Percussion & Steel Band session perform repertoire from three distinct areas of percussion:

- Traditional percussion/mallet ensembles
- Ethnic drumming groups (West African, Brazilian, & Afro-Cuban)
- Steel Band

Faculty members advance students' experiences with original compositions and arrangements in each of these genres.

JAZZ Two Sessions: July 23 - Aug. 4, 2012 Aug. 6 - Aug. 18, 2012



The Jazz program gives students an effective combination of experiences to help them master the fundamentals of jazz while establishing professional attitudes. This includes top flight instruction during the day, a chance to play side-by-side with today's top performers and educators in the evening, and to hear instructors perform in the Academy Jazz Orchestra on concert nights. All students perform eight times in their Big Band, and a minimum of four times in their combo.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

Warm-up session and sectionals
Big Band rehearsals
Instrumental technique classes
Seminars and workshops
Musicianship, theory, and improvisation
Combos & sectionals

PERFORMANCE REPERTOIRE

Jazz session students perform music drawn from standard and jazz repertoire. They perform in small groups and large ensembles focusing on improvisation, ensemble skills, and solid technical training. Emphasis is also placed on the practical application and development of the vocabulary and syntax of the jazz language.

