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

Comprehensive • Inspiring • Challenging • Fun

In-Person Day Camp

OPUS



23rd ANNUAL
CHAMBER MUSIC CAMP

July 27–August 2, 2025

North Central College, Naperville, IL 60540

Mara Gallagher, Music Director

Daryl Silberman, Assistant Music Director

The study of *strings and piano* based chamber music in small ensembles of two to six players develops teamwork and draws on the individual strengths of each musician. As a result, students who have had such exposure and training are **inspired and strive for excellence while making new friends** through producing beautiful chamber music together.

OPUS is here to help!

napopus.org





Develop Your LOVE for Chamber Music!

OPUS believes musical intelligence is possessed by us all and is to be explored and communicated through chamber music playing. When we introduce chamber music to OPUS students, whether with strings, piano, or other instruments, we seek to create **a positive experience** to showcase the joy of playing chamber music together.



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

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

Normally 30 Faculty



There are different *instruments*, there are different *personalities*, there are *different vital parts* in the music, and **the teaming** of these make the chamber ensemble so much better. Such collaboration is the music effect we love. **OPUS aims at training campers to become chamber music team players, responsible, energetic, enthusiastic, and focused on creating a positive experience for all.**

Ensemble-in-Residence

Balourdet Quartet



BalourdetQuartet.com



The OPUS 2024 campers had a blast with **the Balourdet Quartet** which is acclaimed for its vibrant energy and masterful blend of technical precision and emotional depth that brings a fresh perspective to both beloved classics and modern compositions. Its unique closeness and willingness to take creative risks earned it **the 2024 Avery Fisher Career Grant**, as well as **Chamber Music America's 2024 Cleveland Quartet Award**. They have performed more than 70 concerts per season.

The Balourdet Quartet is currently the *Graduate Quartet in Residence* at the prestigious Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, and its members are recent graduates of the New England Conservatory's Professional String Quartet Program. Welcome Back!



The Balourdet Quartet
at OPUS Camp





We are school orchestra friends. Our Orchestra Director recommended OPUS Music Camp.



Schoolmates played Antonín Dvořák "American Quartet" at OPUS Camp 2024



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



"The OPUS platform inspires our kindred spirits and unites our passion for chamber music come together."

It is the enjoyment of making music together with new friends, rekindling friendships from previous years, and all the camaraderie, character-building, teamwork, cultural appreciation, and chamber musical skill improvements that encourage OPUS participants to come back year after year.



Budding Stronger Bonds via the OPUS Chamber Music Camp

Learning and performing *String Quintet No.3, Op.97 in E-flat major* by Antonín Dvořák paves the way to refine and improve our musical skills, and forge lasting connections while having fun.



Pictured in Meet-'n-Greet, Quiz Bowl, Arts Connections, Coaching-Rehearsal, Concert



"Playing in a chamber group for the first time and doing it with my new friends were among the most exciting things at OPUS."



Chamber Music Ensemble - Coachings, Rehearsals, & Concerts



"Playing chamber music is **challenging**. People have said playing in a quartet can be at least four times as difficult as playing a solo. You may think you are in tune, but it may be only that way when you practice alone."



Chamber music coachings are campers' favorite classes at the OPUS Camp. The ensembles are coached by not only the Primary Coach, but also by additional team-coaches specializing in different instruments, which is unique at the OPUS Camp. There is one faculty for every 3 to 4 campers. 5

The Balourdet Quartet and Faculty Chamber Ensembles open up our minds.



IMMERSIVE Chamber Music Performance - EVERY SINGLE DAY!



The OPUS Chamber Orchestra
(where students play next to Faculty)

Cello Trio: Faculty,
TA, and Camper



Baroque Instrument Trio



Every camper must choose an Arts Connections project to work on. 2025 choices include:

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

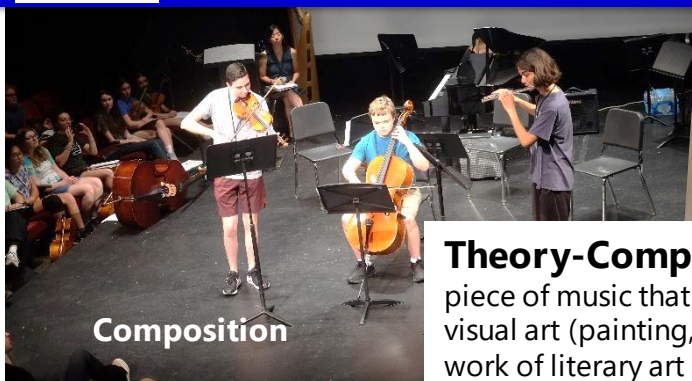
Camper may work alone or in a team with friends.



Composition

Arts Connections Workshop

- Projects & Showcase



Composition



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, ...)

Ukulele: Strum 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 Ensemble



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



Music Videography



Music Arranging



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



Music Story with Sound Effects



Music Story with Sound Effects:

Learn to create sound effects on your instruments and apply them to a story.

Orchestra Sectionals



Invigorating Large Ensembles - String Chamber Orchestras



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



Final Concert





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

- Uplifting Collective Ensembles for non-orchestra campers



Campers may get the chance to play drums or percussions for the first time.



The valuable experience climaxes in the final concert performance.



The Violin Choirs and
Contrabass Choir



Varieties add more FUN! - INSTRUMENTAL CHOIRS 2024



The Cello Choirs, Harp Choir,
and Viola Choir
(& Piano Ensembles in 2023)



Instrumental Choirs are high-energy groups
full of instrumental **pride and big sound!**

INTRIGUING QUIZ Bowl



Test and challenge campers' music knowledge as they learn.

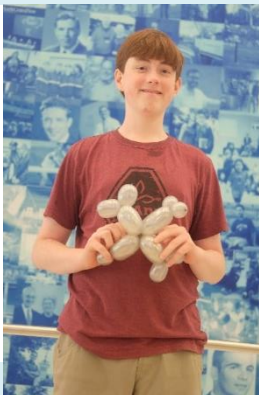
ENJOYABLE Lunch & Recreation



Activities foster growth of friendship and a sense of belonging.



Special Treat:
Taco Lunch
& Balloons





Camp Schedule (subject to adjust)

- **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) will be scheduled by Teaching Assistants with Faculty 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 4th 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 28 MONDAY	July 29 TUESDAY	July 30 WEDNESDAY	July 31 THURSDAY	Aug. 1 FRIDAY	Aug. 2 SATURDAY
July 27	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					
Safety Training	9:30-10:20	P1 Chamber Music Coaching	Chamber Music Coaching	Chamber Music Coaching	Chamber Music Dress Rehearsal & Coaching 1	Chamber Music Coaching	
Staff Meeting & Lunch	10:30-11:20	P2 Orchestra or Collective Ensemble	Orchestra or Collective Ensemble	Orchestra or Collective Ensemble	Orchestra or Collective Ensemble Rehearsal	Orchestra or Collective Ensemble	"Listen to Our Young Artists" Concerts – 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, Wentz Concert Center 8:30 AM Sound Check for Handbells and M Camp. 10:30 AM Concert; Followed by Sound Check for H Camp for the 1:30 PM Concert
Campers Registration 11:30-3:00	11:30-12:20	P3 Chamber Music Coaching	Chamber Music Coaching	Chamber Music- Learn from Other Groups	Chamber Music Dress Rehearsal & Coaching 2	Chamber Music Coaching	
	12:30-1:10	Lunch					
1-2 PM Arts Connections Seminar (all)	1:20-1:50	PX Recreation	Group Photo & Recreation	Ice Cream Social. Recreation	Recreation	Recreation	
2-3 PM M Meet 'n Greet. H Orchestra Sectionals. Other Ensem Orientation	2:00-2:50	P4 AC- Arts Connections PROJECTS To 3:50 except Choirs to 3:00	2:00-3:20 Culture Workshop – Tuvergen Band - Mongolian Music	ArtsConn PROJECTS: Theory Composition, Videography, Improvisation, Jazz	ArtsConn PROJECTS	BRING A FRIEND to OPEN HOUSE: Arts Connections SHOWCASE (Families)	
3-4 PM H Meet 'n Greet. M Orchestra Sectionals. Other Ensem Orientation	3:00-3:50	P5 3:00-3:50 Choirs 4:00-5:20 Balourdet String Quartet Concert - ALL (Families)	3:30-4:30 ArtsConn PROJECTS	Chamber Music – Figure Out Session	Music Quiz Bowl		
4-5 PM Instrument Choir Rehearsal	4:00-5:00 (or Mon, Fri to 5:30)	P6 Camper Dismissal* 5:30 PM	4:40-5:00 General Assembly + Dismissal	Special Subject by Balourdet Quartet + General Assembly to 5 pm	General Assembly + Dismissal 5:00 PM		Recognition and Awards Camper Dismissal 5:30 pm

*Notes: 1. Camper Dismissal 5:00 PM, except Mon and Fri at 5:30 pm
 2. AC Project-Campers choices turned-In by 9 am on July 28th

- **Scholarship Application** (Special, Outstanding, Merit, or Honor)
June 2nd (fill-out and email form from website)
- **Application for Admission (Electronic Audition Required)**
June 9th (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 referred camper referred by a past camper. \$50 discount also applies to the past camper who made the referral, Plus, \$100 discount for 2 new camper referrals; and \$150 (cap) discount for 3 referrals to new campers who actually participate.
- **Tuition Payment Due**
July 1st (Amount notified June 24th. Online 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.

SPECIAL CULTURE GUEST ENSEMBLE



TUVERGEN BAND
(meaning *Galloping*
in Mongolian)

*Tamir Hargana,
Naizal Hargana,
Brent Roman*

www.tuvergenband.com

The morin khuur, also known as **the horsehead fiddle** 馬頭琴, is a traditional **Mongolian** bowed stringed instrument. It is one of the most important musical instruments of the Mongol people, and is considered a symbol of the nation of Mongolia. The musicians will talk about the instruments, the culture, the various styles of throat singing, nature and animal themes, etc. Volunteers from the audience will be asked to participate.



Opus at a Glance:

Our comprehensive 7-day program for musicians ages 8-18, who study *violin, viola, cello, contrabass, flute, clarinet, harp, classical guitar, or piano*, combines the following classes to challenge and musically inspire our campers:

- Chamber Music Coaching & Rehearsals
- Faculty Chamber Music Demonstrations
- Chamber Music Master Classes
- Arts Connections Workshop & Showcase of Camper's Work

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

- Culture-Genre Music Workshop – *Mongolian*
- Music Quiz Bowl
- Violin, Viola, Cello, Contrabass & Other Choirs
- Chamber Orchestra or Collective Ensemble
- Individual Pre-Camp Progress-Check Lessons
- Final Concert (8/2), and Post-Camp Concerts at
A. *Wentz Hall For Veterans and Older Adults (8/4)*
B. *Morton Arboretum (8/5)*

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

Contact Us:

www.napOPUS.org

Linda Lin Yu, OPUS Camp Director

campdirector@napOPUS.org

630.983.8902

*All photos were from
the 2024 OPUS Camp.*

Audition Team's Core Members (plus conductors):



MUSIC DIRECTOR (MD)
Violinist-Violist
Mara Gallagher (13)



Violinist
Carl Johnston (23)
Assistant MD, Conductor-
Violist Daryl Silberman (9)



Piano Coordinator
Dr. Susan Chou (5)



Cellist
Ann Griffin (7)

ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE Balourdet Quartet



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

"The **Balourdet** put all of its cards on the table at the beginning of the evening with the Debussy Quartet, playing with warm precision, making dramatic dynamic contrasts, and reinforcing crescendos with subtle increases in tempo. Ensemble members got out of the way of the multiple mini-solos that were beautifully integrated into the fabric of the first movement, and generally played with a single mind." -- Cleveland Classical (Oct. 2022) **OPUS loves Balourdet Quartet returning at OPUS Chamber Music Camp 2025.**



Justin DeFilippis,
Violin



Angela Bae,
Violin



Benjamin Zannoni,
Viola



Russell Houston, Cello

FACULTY: VIOLIN-VIOLA CLARINET



Kuei-Mien (Tina) Chang 張桂綿 (8)
Dr. Kate Carter (4)
Lauren Culver (12)
Amanda Fenton (11)

Dana Green (9)
Drew Lecher (12)
Patrick Gallagher (5)



**Also Carl Johnston,
Daryl Silberman,
Justin DeFilippis, &
Angela Bae (see p3)**



**(x): Years with
OPUS Camp**

Nina Saito (8) Janis Wittrig (9) Kathryn Pirtle (19)

CELLO CONTRABASS

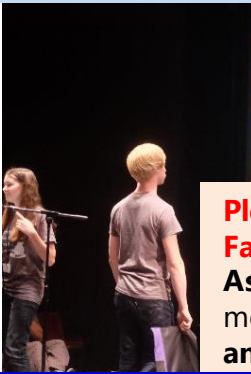


Bill Cernota (5) Michael Duggan (17) Cathy Kuna (21) Dr. Mark Liu (11)
Also Ann Griffin, Russell Houston (see p3) Dr. Phillip Serna (9)

PIANO HARP PERCUSSION



Patricia Barnes (12) & Handbells; Dr. Diana Schmück (17) Dr. Stephanie Wu (16)
Also Dr. Susan Chou (p3) Nichole Young (5) Juan Pastor (3)



Please visit our website for OPUS Faculty List. The OPUS Teaching Assistant – Instructor (TA) Team members are **wonderful counselors and role models** for campers.

MARVELOUS TEACHING TEAM of the OPUS Chamber Music Camp



Delightful TA Ensembles

Many campers wrote, "**TAs are MY BEST friends,**" on the Exit Survey.



OPUS TAs average ~ 6 years OPUS experience. The TA Team includes instructors, who are college students, or recently college graduated teachers. TAs **perform on stage** for campers and the community as well.

