

Founded in 2018, the mission of the Center for Music Education at Georgia College is to bring accessible music education opportunities to middle GA. Our student initiatives, such as the Violin Club, Bobcat Keys and the student matinee concert series, focus on providing free musical opportunities for students who lack access to similar experiences. Similarly, our annual professional development series brings musical learning opportunities closer to Middle Georgia's music teachers.

We will continue to assess the needs of students and music teachers in middle Georgia to refine and expand our opportunities in the coming years.

Bobcat Keys

Bobcat Keys is the brainchild of Dr. Lovell, coordinator of piano studies at Georgia College. Dr. Lovell uses volunteers from the piano pedagogy class to provide free piano lessons to students who might not have access to music lessons otherwise. In 2019, Bobcat Keys partnered with Wilkinson County Elementary school for the inaugural season and will partner again with Wilkinson County in fall 2021. BASF is a partner for the fall 2021 season, they are funding the transportation between Wilkinson County Elementary School and Georgia College as well as the teaching supplies needed for each student.

Violin Club

Launched in 2016, the Violin Club is an after-school program offering lessons to Putnam County Elementary School students in Putnam County, Georgia. The result of a collaboration between Georgia College Department of Music Education; Georgia College Artists-in-Residence, Kazanetti String Quartet; and Putnam County Schools, the Violin Club is the first initiative of the Center for Music Education at Georgia College.

Putnam County Schools provides funding for GC music education and strings students to travel to PCES and teach beginning violin students. The long-term goal is to maintain and grow this partnership to create a sustainable strings curriculum program in the Putnam County Schools.

Student Composition Competition

The newest offering of the Center for Music Education at Georgia College is a composition competition aimed at composers 19 years old and younger. In the fall of 2021, student composers are encouraged to write short pieces for small ensembles and submit them by October 1, 2021 for evaluation. The winning composition(s) will be premiered in the spring 2022 semester by the appropriate Georgia College ensemble. In the future, we plan to host a similar event in odd numbered years (2023, 2025, etc.)

Register your original composition [here](#).

Professional Development Series

Professional Development is a component of continued certification for in service teachers in Georgia. Teachers must earn professional development hours annually to renew

their professional certificates, but little school-based training is geared toward our music teachers. This initiative provides music specific professional development opportunities to fill this gap. Participants earn certificates of participation that can be used as evidence of their progress toward the professionalism standard in their Teacher Keys Evaluation System (TKES) or for certificate renewal.

We plan to link a weekly **podcast** to the PD series in 2021-22. The podcast will preview each workshop and presenter and will be archived on our web-site. We want to be a resource for local and national in-service music teachers.

Intro to building choral tone with Jeremy Williams 8/14/2021 <https://youtu.be/eSEJzqGB5K0>