

Meet the Director



Christmas Gainsbrugh is the founder of Big as Life Music (BALM), which offers band programs to schools in the Denver metro area. She brings joy and playfulness to her teaching that keeps students motivated and self-directed in their learning. She received a Masters Degree in Music Education and Flute from CU Boulder. She has taught elementary through high school music in Colorado and California for 18 years and is currently the band director at Slavens K-8 and University Park Elementary in DPS. She has offered the BALM Summer Band Camps for six years and each year, it keeps growing! She is a firm believer that music education strengthens our children cognitively, socially and emotionally. And above all, music should be fun!

2017 Summer Camp Details

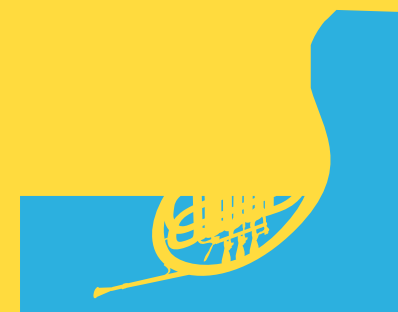
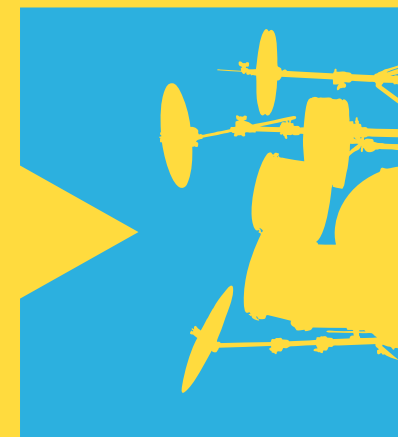
- All camps run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- All camps are available to students 4th – 8th grade. Students will need to bring their own lunch daily.
- Tuition will be \$275 per week and includes all project supplies and a t-shirt.
- Instrument choices include: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, french horn and percussion.
- Students are responsible for providing their own instrument. In case of hardship, contact Christmas at christmas.balm@gmail.com.
- The camp is held at:

Most Precious Blood
(NW Corner of Iliff and Colorado)
3959 E. Iliff Ave
Denver, CO 80210

For more information, please contact
Christmas Gainsbrugh at
Christmas.BALM@gmail.com



Big as Life Music Summer Band Camps



ROCK BAND CAMP

June 5th – June 9th

Punk, Metal, Glam, British Invasion? Join us as we explore the rock scene. We had so much fun last summer, we have to do it again. Same fun, but all new materials and projects. From Elvis to the White Stripes, from the Beatles to Journey, we will learn the history of rock 'n roll. Most importantly, we will learn how to rock out on our own instruments. Using famous riffs, costumes and hairstyles, we will create our own rock personas. Last but not least, we will compose our own song. With 3 hours of rehearsal on our instrument per day, master classes, water balloon fights, art projects and research, we will become outrageously fun musicians to be around. We will end the week with our own rock show for friends family. Mohawks and leather jackets are welcome!



Music Around The World: RUSSIA & IRELAND

June 26th – June 30th

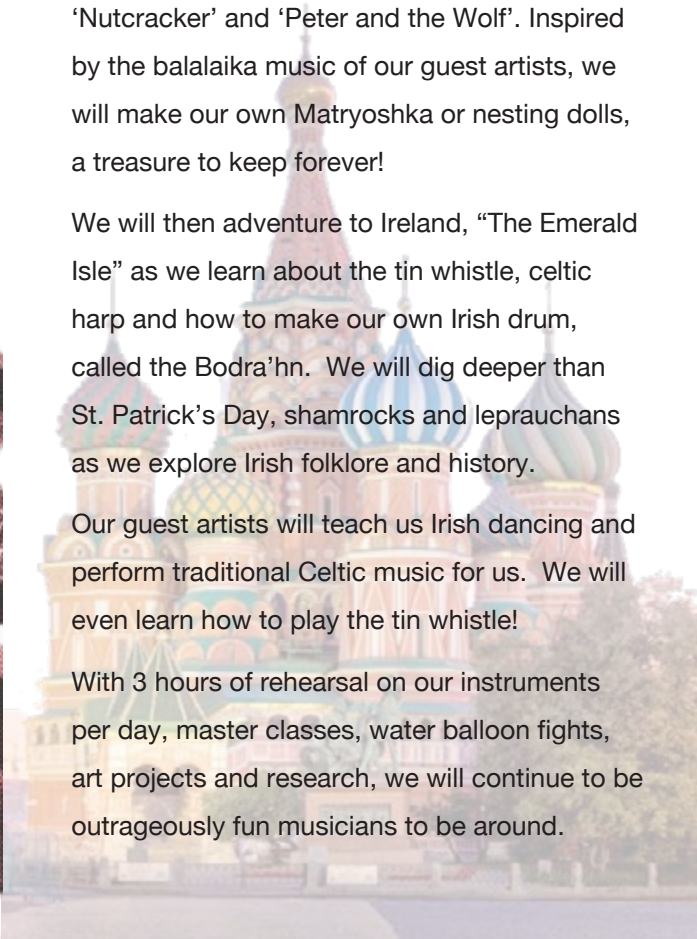
We will learn about each culture's traditions as we learn about their music! First, we will explore Russia's rich music by learning (and trying to dance) the Russian Sailor's Dance! We will learn of the beautiful music of the Ruska Roma or Russian Gypsies which has inspired local Denver groups like DeVotchka.

We will learn about the composers who have changed all of our lives with 'Swan Lake', 'The Nutcracker' and 'Peter and the Wolf'. Inspired by the balalaika music of our guest artists, we will make our own Matryoshka or nesting dolls, a treasure to keep forever!

We will then adventure to Ireland, "The Emerald Isle" as we learn about the tin whistle, celtic harp and how to make our own Irish drum, called the Bodra'hn. We will dig deeper than St. Patrick's Day, shamrocks and leprauchans as we explore Irish folklore and history.

Our guest artists will teach us Irish dancing and perform traditional Celtic music for us. We will even learn how to play the tin whistle!

With 3 hours of rehearsal on our instruments per day, master classes, water balloon fights, art projects and research, we will continue to be outrageously fun musicians to be around.



Summer Blues

July 10th – 14th

Our music making and repertoire will focus on music from the rich tradition of the blues. Without the blues, there would be no R&B and no Rock 'n Roll! We will learn about the far reaching impact of the blues on the music we listen to now and dig deeper into understanding the who, why, where and when of the blues. With such powerful roots in the African American experience, we will learn how the blues tells us about our history as a nation both good and bad. We will write our own 12 bar blues, our own lyrics, learn to improvise with the blues scale and get to perform our own blues with a local blues band. As Katie Greenwood said, "Music isn't just learning notes and playing them. You learn notes to play to the music of your soul."

