

ASTA/NJ Chamber Music Institute at Kean University



Student & Parent Testimonials

- ❖ **I have now attended the ASTA CMI at Kean University for three years, and it continues to be the most meaningful week of my high school summer vacations. The nurturing music education environment coupled with state-of-the-art Kean facilities makes the CMI experience one I'll never forget. This year, performing the gala concert in magnificent Enlow Hall was thrilling. I can honestly say **this program has changed my life and opened my perspective on all levels!****
- ❖ **Our daughter participated in the Chamber Music Institute for the first time this year. She had a wonderful, challenging experience and is eager to return! For us, the chance to come to Kean was a revelation. We had no idea that there is a Concert Artist Series so close to home, and in such a pleasing and intimate venue as Enlow Hall. We very much enjoyed hearing Julie perform there. We also appreciated the opportunity to walk on the Kean campus and see Julie's room in a brand new dormitory....we had no idea that Kean has such new facilities, in such a green setting!**
- ❖ **"My son had an amazing time at the chamber music camp! Before the CMI he would only really practice his bass before an audition. Since the CMI experience, he has been playing bass non-stop!! He loved his instruction and thought the faculty was excellent. Thank you so much for running this excellent program!!**
- ❖ **I just wanted to convey to you how much I appreciate the CMI at Kean University, the program and the staff involved with this program. This was my son's second year attending, and he had the "time of his life", according to him. I have to say the final concert was awesome-it brought tears to my eyes. Why? Because I could not believe the level with which my son was playing his violin. I have never seen him play with such passion, intensity and confidence like I witnessed this past Saturday. Based upon his positive experiences and my observations, he will be attending both sessions in 2011. [CMI] is truly worthwhile and I would go as far to say a life changing experience. His intensity has carried through this entire week. As a matter of fact, he started teaching his 8 year old sister how to play the violin, something he aspires to study in college in addition to musical performance. I believe this program has been a catalyst for Steven and others as well. Thank you again to the wonderful staff who have done such a tremendous job in putting this program together. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated by me and other parents as well.**

- ❖ My son attended the ASTA/NJ Chamber Music Camp at Kean University for the first time this summer. He had an **amazing experience!! He absolutely loved the program, the teachers and the other students.** He really enjoyed being at Kean University and boasted to his friends that he spent a part of his summer at college! **The performances from the students were extraordinary.** My son wants to sign up now for the entire two weeks next year. If they offered a longer program, I'm sure he would sign up for it.
- ❖ My daughter, who will be going into 8th grade this year, attended Session 1. It was **her first experience at a camp on a college campus and she loved it!** She enjoyed the friendships she made, the experience of living in a dorm and having a roommate, and the wonderful instruction she received. One of the first things she said to me when we picked her up was, "I want to do both sessions next year."
- ❖ My son absolutely loved CMI....and my husband and I saw a **huge uptick in his playing.** He also made loads of friends. He also got a taste of **independence**, as well -- and **leadership** (with the speeches required, and acting as principle bass for the bass trio, the first week). All so wonderful for him, and I'm just delighted to see him grow.
- ❖ My 15-year-old son recently completed the program. This represented his first foray on a college campus, and **it would not be an understatement to say that it was a life-changing experience for him.** He loved the dorms and the whole independent aura of being on his own with fellow musicians on a lovely college campus. Kean is truly a gem within the state of New Jersey. In addition, he is already eager to attend CMI again next summer. **The teachers, CMI staff and, particularly, Christopher Kenniff, gave him the confidence to find his inner musician.** He has returned home happy and quick to pick up his double bass and practice. He even boasts to his friends of his newfound musical knowledge. Again, thank you for opening up your campus to this exceptional program.
- ❖ I first attended CMI in the Summer of 2008 **and a whole new community of people and world of opportunities opened for me.** Since then, I have returned to the program every year; **it is always the highlight of my summer.** The state-of-the-art Kean University facilities, including the Dining Hall, new dormitories, the Center for Academic Success, Wilkins Theatre, and Kean and Enlow Halls have made the experience unforgettable. In addition, the lovely landscaping and friendly campus provide an **artistically inspiring place to play chamber music.** **The CMI program is an integral part of my life and I deeply appreciate the chance to rehearse and perform in the spectacular settings found at Kean University.**
- ❖ **"I had a wonderful experience at ASTA/CMI 2009. It was the best and most beneficial summer camp I have ever attended, and the most I have ever learned! Thanks to you and everyone involved. "**
- ❖ **"This past August, my son attended CMI for the first time.** I heard about this program from his private teacher a few years back, and always kept it in the back of my mind. First, let me say **I sent several e-mails to many of the staff prior to my son attending asking all kinds of questions, especially dealing with**

sleeping arrangements, supervision, etc., as he was never away from home for that long without parental supervision. **Those e-mails were always answered in a timely and reassuring manner.**

Second, I know he had a great time as I only heard from him perhaps two times during the week, and they were very brief phone calls. And the **first thing he said to me when we came for the concert on Saturday was "I want to come back next year," with a big smile on his face.**

The facilities at Kean were quite nice and seemed to fit well with the size of the program. **The staff were unmatched by anything I've ever seen. The Saturday performance by the students/staff was phenomenal.** I would say his **overall experience was a positive one and gave him a different perspective on life. Being away from home, supervised (but on his own), playing music with musicians who wanted to be there and who were matched with his experience level, and having fun doing it.**

He plans on returning next year, so I'm looking forward to seeing what you have in store for the program. Thank you for having this program and allowing these kids to have this wonderful and unique experience, and for all that you do to make this happen."

- ❖ **"I was a violist for Session One of CMI 2009. I had never been to a sleep-away camp and this was a phenomenal first for me! Kean University was just great! I absolutely loved the food that was served during the week. I did like the one day where we could switch electives because we got a feeling for all the different aspects that other students had chosen to study. CMI has given me so many fantastic memories that I'll never forget!"**

- ❖ **I wanted to take a moment to write you in regard to the ASTA/NJ Chamber Music Institute (CMI) at Kean University 2009 summer program. My son had the honor of being invited to participate in the program this summer and had an outstanding time. Not only did he learn a great deal (the final concert made me cry for the achievements made in just one week's time), but he had the chance to bond with youth and adults who place value in classical music.**

My son, like many youths, is often torn between the many activities that life presents him...music, sports, and of course academics. It is challenging to make these choices, especially when our society as a whole tends to favor sports over arts. **I truly appreciate that Kean University holds the arts in such high regard, offering such rich and diverse visual and performing arts programs at the precollege level. Programs such as CMI allow our young people to deepen their own studies of and contribution to fine arts.** These offerings also demonstrate to these youths that **they are not alone - nor among a dying breed - in treasuring their pursuit of these arts thus encouraging their continued interest and dedication.**

Thank you for sharing your beautiful campus with teens like my son. **Kean University's beautiful facilities and outstanding Concert Artist faculty were a discovery for us.** We look forward to attending future events at Kean University and are hopeful that our son will be back next year for ASTA/NJ CMI at Kean University!

- ❖ **“Thank you so much for all your help and guidance at CMI this year. It was a great experience and needless to say, I had a lot of fun. I hope to come back and see you next year.”**
- ❖ **“I thought the ending concert was excellent; they had obviously worked hard and it showed. All around a great experience. Thank you.”**
- ❖ **“My son had an excellent week at the ASTA/CMI camp, and the concert was incredible: a good variety of music and so well-done.”**
- ❖ **“I would like to thank you and CMI team for a wonderful program my son participated on. It was a wonderful experience for us as parents seeing a lot of talented kids playing their instruments with such passion. My son now feels more confident in his playing after having participated in the CMI 2009 program.”**
- ❖ **I just wanted to share my experience with the ASTA CMI program for this past summer. I attended session II and it was my first time doing the program, and I absolutely loved it. The staff was wonderful, friendly, easy to get along with, and fantastic musicians who related so well with everyone in the program. The facilities were great also; nice dorms, great food, and awesome rehearsal rooms in the CAS building as well as the incredible opportunity to perform in the gorgeous Kean Hall. I will definitely be attending again next summer -- hopefully for both sessions this time -- and look forward to another great summer. It couldn't have been better!**