



## Settlement Music School Press Kit

Settlement Music School is an inclusive, creative community, dedicated to providing the highest quality arts education for all. Regardless of age, background, ability, or economic circumstances, there is a place for everyone at Settlement. We offer 10,000 services every week in music, dance, and arts therapy at our six branches and dozens of community partnerships across the Greater Philadelphia region, and are proud to offer financial aid to more than 60% of our student population, ages 6 months to 96 years.

### Quick Facts:

- Settlement is one of the largest and oldest community schools of the arts in the United States having served more than 300,000 students since its founding in 1908.
- With more than 200 degreed faculty and staff, Settlement is one of the largest employers of musicians in the tri-state area.
- Settlement provides over 10,000 weekly services of individual lessons, classes and activities in music and dance to children and adults from every zip code in the eight-county Philadelphia region.
- Settlement's six branches cover South and Northeast Philadelphia, Germantown, Wynnefield, Willow Grove, PA and Camden, NJ.
- Settlement provides a five-day-a-week nationally recognized, arts-centered preschool to children whose test scores for school readiness are three times greater than peers in a non-arts based program. (*Brown, E., Benedett, B, & Armistead, M. (2010). Arts enrichment and school readiness for children at risk. Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 25, 112-124. )*
- Settlement's Teacher Training Institute of the Arts (TTIA) offers programs to help other pre-school and elementary school teachers incorporate Settlement's arts-integration strategies into their classrooms.
- Settlement's Advanced Study Program for pre-professional teens, Adult Chamber Players, Daytime Seniors Program and Creative Arts Therapy Program for children and adults with disabilities have served as models for like-minded efforts in other major cities.

- Settlement's generous financial and scholarship assistance of more than \$2 million each year is among the highest of community arts schools across the country.
- Settlement Music School students have gone on to prestigious careers in music, dance, education, politics, science, becoming Nobel Laureates, MacArthur Fellows, Pulitzer Prize winners, Fulbright scholars, published authors, and Grammy Award winners. Some of our most notable alumni include Christian McBride, Kevin Eubanks, Questlove, Chubby Checker, Albert Einstein, G. Love, and Kevin Bacon.

## History

Settlement Music School was founded in 1908 by Jeanette Selig Frank and Blanche Wolf Kohn as the music program of the College Settlement in the Southwark section of Philadelphia. The College Settlement was a typical turn-of-the-century settlement house offering a variety of services to the newly arrived immigrants in the community. The music program grew rapidly from volunteers offering piano lessons for a nickel to a full program of instruction in all musical instruments taught by professionals, including several members of the Philadelphia Orchestra. By 1914, Settlement was incorporated as an independent community school of the arts. The current Mary Louise Curtis Branch building was built to house Settlement in 1917.

Although founded primarily for the benefit of school-aged children, Settlement developed a conservatory division offering pre-professional training that was of sufficient stature to serve as the nucleus of the Curtis Institute of Music, established in 1924. In the 1940s and '50s, Settlement experimented with various remote satellite and branch locations, and by 1960 had established Germantown and Northeast (later the Kardon-Northeast) branches.

In the 1970s, Settlement undertook an ambitious program of education and therapy in music and dance for children and adults with diverse needs, and in the mid-1980s incorporated the Kardon Institute of the Arts for People With Disabilities as a separate but allied institution. In 1985, the Kardon Institute formed its own independent 501(c)3 organization. In 2002, Settlement contracted with the Institute to manage and provide a program of instruction and therapy for individuals with diverse needs in Settlement's branch locations. In 2014, the Kardon Institute closed and its programs and many of its therapists transitioned to Settlement. In July of 2014, Settlement officially launched the Kardon Center for Arts Therapy, offering music, art, and dance/movement therapy services to

individuals with diverse needs at each of Settlement's community branches and at other locations throughout the communities we serve.

In the late '80s Settlement merged with the Jenkintown Music School to create a fourth branch and founded a fifth branch in West Philadelphia (now the Wynnefield Branch) as well.

In January of 1997, Settlement began a collaborative relationship with the Camden School of Musical Arts in East Camden whereby Settlement provided the Camden School with management and technical assistance. In 2002, The Camden School amended their articles of incorporation to become the sixth full branch of Settlement in 2005. In 2015, Settlement forged a partnership with Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy (CAMVA) and officially moved the Camden Branch to CAMVA's building on Morgan Boulevard. In the Fall of 2010, Settlement began building a new branch in Willow Grove, and in January, 2011, the Willow Grove Branch replaced the leased facility in Jenkintown. Due to the rapid growth of community partnerships in Camden, serving hundreds of students every week, the on-site teaching branch transitioned into the Camden Partnership Branch in 2020.

**Our Branches:**

Mary Louise Curtis  
416 Queen Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Germantown  
6128 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Kardon-Northeast  
3745 Clarendon Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19114

Willow Grove  
318 Davisville Road  
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Wynnefield  
4910 Wynnefield Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19131

Camden Partnership Branch  
215-320-2679

**Contact**

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