



community school of music and arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2017

CONTACT:

Sharon Kenney, Director of Marketing & Communications, Community School of Music and Arts
650.917.6800, ext 305; skenney@arts4all.org

Music and Children With Autism: A Practical Guide for Parents and Caregivers **Hosted by the Community School of Music and Arts; March 6**

Mountain View, CA - The Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) will host the presentation *Music and Children with Autism: A Practical Guide for Parents and Caregivers* on Monday, March 6 at 7:30pm. Featuring music educator Dr. Ryan Hourigan, the session will be held in CSMA's Tateuchi Hall, located at 230 San Antonio Circle in Mountain View. This event is free and open to the public. RSVPs are requested at arts4all.org.

Music and Children with Autism: A Practical Guide for Parents and Caregivers will be led by Dr. Ryan Hourigan, Director of the School of Music at Ball State University, and Amy Hourigan (MT-BC), a licensed music therapist. This session is designed to offer insight into how the arts can assist parents and caregivers in connecting and engaging with their children. Artistic and non-artistic parents and caregivers will discover a variety of activities and techniques to take home and try with their children. Specific concepts will include: the arts and communication, the arts and cognition, the arts and social engagement, and the arts and theory of mind and self-determination.

Dr. Ryan Hourigan is a dedicated music educator with tremendous passion and expertise for serving children on the autism spectrum. He currently teaches music education and is the Director of the School of Music at Ball State University. He was the 2010 Indiana Music Educators Association Outstanding University Music Educator of the Year. He is also a national presenter for the John F. Kennedy Center. Dr. Hourigan holds degrees from Eastern Illinois University (B.M.), Michigan State University (M.M. Wind Conducting) and a Ph.D. in Music Education from The University of Michigan.

Amy Hourigan (MT-BC) is an Instructor of Music Education at Ball State University. She began her professional music career as an elementary music education specialist. She is the co-author of "Teaching Music to Children with Autism: Understandings and Perspectives," *Music Educators Journal*, September 2009. She is also a contributing author to "Teaching Music to Students with Special Needs: A Label Free Approach" by Alice Hammel and Ryan Hourigan. She earned her bachelor's degree in music therapy from Eastern Michigan University and her Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education from Ball State University. In addition to being educators, the Hourigans are parents of two children who are on the autism spectrum.

This event is part of CSMA's Parent Education series. CSMA is the area's largest non-profit center for arts education, serving Mountain View, Los Altos, Palo Alto and over 20 other Bay Area communities since 1968. The Community School of Music and Arts provides group and private instruction in music, visual

arts4all



community school of music and arts

arts classes and camps, preschool art and music classes, a free Community Concert series and free art exhibitions. CSMA's in-school visual art and music programs (*Art4Schools* and *Music4Schools*) serve over 16,000 students at 45 schools in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. CSMA serves the special needs community by providing classes in visual arts, music and dance to teens with autism and developmentally disabled adults through our partnerships with the Morgan Autism Center, Abilities United and AchieveKids. CSMA welcomes students of all ages and skill levels. By providing scholarships, financial aid and program subsidies, CSMA makes arts education accessible to all.

For more information on CSMA's music and art programs, visit www.arts4all.org or call 650-917-6800, ext. 0. For staff or faculty interviews, please contact Sharon Kenney, Director of Marketing & Communications, at 650-917-6800, ext. 305 or skenney@arts4all.org.

EVENT CALENDAR INFORMATION:

WHAT: *Music and Children with Autism: A Practical Guide for Parents and Caregivers*
A presentation by Dr. Ryan Hourigan, Director of the School of Music at Ball State University, and Amy Hourigan (MT-BC), a licensed music therapist

WHERE: Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA)
230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View, CA

WHEN: Monday, March 6, 7:30pm

COST: Free. Open to the public.
RSVP at www.arts4all.org.

PARKING: Limited on-site and street parking is available.

INFO: www.arts4all.org; 650-917-6800, ext 305

###

Founded in 1968, the Community School of Music and Arts is Northern California's largest non-profit provider of arts education programs. With a \$5 million budget and 160-member staff and faculty, CSMA is one of the ten largest community schools in the United States. Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, one of the global capitals of creativity, CSMA is dedicated to making the arts and arts education accessible to all, regardless of age, experience or background. Headquartered in the award-winning Finn Center in the City of Mountain View, CSMA directly serves over 22,000 people of all ages, skill levels and economic means each year, including over 16,000 students at 40+ schools in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

arts4all