

An abstract painting featuring a large, swirling, light blue and white circular form on the right side. To its left is a vertical, elongated shape in shades of pink and orange. The background is a mix of these colors with scattered dots and brushstrokes in red, black, white, and yellow. The overall style is expressive and modern.

# CAVANI

STRING QUARTET

MAP: MUSIC, ART & POETRY  
TRAVELING THROUGH THE  
ARTS



Dike School of the Arts



## PROGRAM GOALS:

TO OFFER EVERY CHILD THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
CREATE ART THROUGH MUSICAL INSPIRATION.

TO PROMOTE POWER OF WORDS AND MUSIC AS  
A FORM OF SELF-EXPRESSION AND A WAY TO  
RELATE TO THE WORLD.

TO FOSTER A CHILD'S INDEPENDENT THOUGHT  
AND SELF-ESTEEM THROUGH INTERPRETATION  
AND PERFORMANCE.

TO INSPIRE COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND  
TO CREATE A JOYFUL AND MOVING  
PERFORMANCE.



## MAP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION and OVERVIEW:

*“The Cavanis were flexible, easy to work with, and made music by a variety of diverse composers approachable for our students. They were easy to reach and full of ideas about how to make the program work best for our needs. Our students were completely engaged in the presentations and made deep emotional connections that were unexpected by our staff. Watching students make connections between music, art, and poetry was moving, and the impactful hands-on aspect of the presentations helped our students grow.” ~ Emily Fisher, Liberty Union Middle School, Ohio*

The MAP program was first inaugurated in 2004, by the Cavani Quartet in collaboration with The Kazoo School in Kalamazoo Michigan. The program was created to include students of all ages, and to engage each child as an individual artist reacting to the music in real time,. Each MAP program is a collaboration between administration, teachers and the quartet, and designed to fit the specific environment of the school. The goal is to offer every student the opportunity to express themselves creatively, interpreting music through poetry or visual art. The MAP program culminates in a Gala performance for family and friends, which includes students performing side by side with The Cavani Quartet. This performance combines an uplifting concert experience, the energy of a poetry slam, and the excitement of a new art exhibition.

Throughout the project Cavani Quartet members will serve as a resource for teachers and will work closely with students. Teachers will receive links to four performance recordings, between 5-10 minutes in length. Students are not required to know anything about the music before they begin. This project is designed to offer the students the ability to actively engage in the interpretive process - everyone's idea is valid and all interpretations are welcome.

The teachers may wish to choose either a visual art project (painting, sculpture, film, etc.) or a writing project (poem, short story, etc), which will be inspired by one of the musical choices. We found it easiest when each classroom chooses one piece to interpret, however, students and teachers may be inspired differently by all four musical works and we encourage creativity in the process.

As students become familiar with and more curious about the different works, the Cavani Quartet will offer context about the composers and background about the genre and style of music. Teachers may choose to play music in the classroom for quiet listening or send the links to students to listen to on their own. The classes will have an agreed upon number of weeks to complete their poetry or visual art interpretations. The culmination of this project is a mixed media performance, part poetry slam, art exhibit, and live performance for families, friends and the community. Students gain self esteem and confidence from creating and sharing art and ideas in a safe, celebratory and welcoming space.

**Poetry:** Each class will choose one or more readers to perform a poetry or work of prose with the quartet. This may be a class project written together or written as individuals. All poetry and or short stories will be compiled and printed in a booklet for the program.

**Visual Art:** The visual art can be photographed and compiled as slide presentation with names of student artists underneath paintings (or other works of art) and grouped by the music that inspired the artwork.

## **MAP PROGRAM STRUCTURE:**

### **TIMELINE:**

1. **Meet and Greet** with Directors, Assistants and Administrative Staff meet with the Cavani Quartet members share process, set up timeline, and discuss how MAP can best support the ongoing curriculum and needs of students.

### **2. Cavani Quartet In School Presentation**

**GRADES K- 5 Team Up with Music:** an interactive performance for designated grade levels designed to illustrate the fundamentals of teamwork while creating an appreciation of the artists, their instruments and their music. Drawing a connection between group activities as seemingly diverse as sports and chamber music, the program creates a fast-paced, fun and interactive atmosphere with repertoire ranging from Beethoven to Bruno Mars and will feature the music that the students will use to inspire their visual art and poetry.

**GRADES 6-12 *COLLAGE* with poet Mwatabu Okantah**

3. **Cavani Quartet In School Workshop/ Rehearsal with student poetry and visual art multi-media**

### **4. GALA COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE**

## **MAP PROGRAM STRUCTURE:**

**MUSIC:** Each classroom is provided with a recording of the music introduced at the performances described above. The musical selections will be chosen to represent a wide variety of compositional voices, styles and genres, as well as a range evocative moods, rhythms and musical textures. (See program addendum)

**ART:** While listening to recordings, students in selected grades will be invited to create paintings, drawings or sculptures inspired by the music. These works will be shown in a slide show at the culminating MAP program concert presentation.

**POETRY:** Taking inspiration from the music they hear in their classroom, students will embark on writing projects, poetry, lyrics and short stories. The students will be invited to have their writing read in a side by side performance with the Quartet at the final event.

**REHEARSE:** The Cavani Quartet will rehearse with student readers and writers in their classroom. The Cavani Quartet will be visiting all participating classes either in larger assemblies or in the classroom. The details of these visits are to be mutually agreed upon by the teachers, principal and the quartet. The quartet will perform and interact with the students as well as help coach students readers.

**COMPILE AND PHOTOGRAPH STUDENT ARTWORK/ POETRY:** Art is compiled and photographed by teachers for the slideshow. Writing may be compiled into a booklet available to read electronically and/or in print.

**FINAL PERFORMANCE:** The MAP program will culminate with a performance for families, students, teachers and the community. Performance features visual art on display and slide show coordinated to fit simultaneously with performance by the Cavani Quartet. Selected students will perform their poetry, or a poem written by their peer, in a side by side with the Cavani String Quartet. All poetry will be compiled into a booklet available to read electronically and/or in print.

## ABOUT THE CAVANI STRING QUARTET

Described by the Washington Post as “*completely engrossing, powerful and elegant*” the Cavani Quartet’s artistic excellence, generous spirit, and their fervent ambassadorship for great music has placed them among America’s greatest string quartets. Leaders in the field of arts advocacy and education, members of the Cavani Quartet view the empathy and connectivity of chamber music as metaphor for the kind of communication that we should strive for between cultures and nations. The Quartet’s more than thirty year legacy has garnered impressive recognition including The Naumburg Chamber Music Award, Ohio Governors Award for the Arts, Musical America Magazine’s Young Artists of the Year, The Cleveland Quartet Award, ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming, and The Guarneri Quartet Award for Artistic Excellence. The Cavani Quartet has toured throughout all fifty states, and internationally, including appearances at the Perlman Music Program, New World Symphony, Kneisel Hall, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Chautauqua Festival, Caroga Arts, Aspen Music Festival, Carnegie Hall, Severance Music Center, Ijsbreker series in Amsterdam and ProQuartet, France. The Cavani Quartet continues their journey maintaining an energetic balance between performing cycles of Beethoven and Bartók, collaborating with living composers such as Gabriela Lena Frank and Josh Henderson and creating multifaceted programming that combines music, poetry, visual art, and dance. The Quartet continues to inspire and shape the musical lives of the next generation through their acclaimed seminar *The Art of Collaboration*. A complete and first of its kind guidebook, *The Art of Collaboration: Chamber Music Rehearsal Techniques and Team Building (Fullard- Cotter-Lockard)* was published in 2025 and is available on Amazon books. Illustrating the intersection between organizational leadership strategies and chamber music *The Art of Collaboration* seminar is frequently presented as a supplement to the Management and Business courses at The Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University and throughout the country. Deeply committed to providing transformative musical and educational experiences for all communities, the Cavani Quartet has served as visiting artists for numerous university- based residencies and is the recipient of more than ten Chamber Music America Residency Partnership Grants. The quartet has presented inspiring chamber music programs nationally for more than a hundred thousand school age children, and at home, serve as faculty and Ambassador Artists for The Cleveland Music Settlement Chamber Music Intensive, Artistic Directors of Arts Renaissance Tremont and Program Directors for The String Quartet Intensive at Encore Chamber Music Institute. As former faculty and Quartet-in Residence at The Cleveland Institute of Music, the quartet created a legacy of superlative chamber music teaching and inaugurated nationally acclaimed programs for student ensembles devoted to the serious study of chamber music. These programs included Intensive Quartet Seminar, The Apprentice Quartet Program, The Art of Collaboration and The Art of Engagement: Careers and Leadership in Music. Former students coached and mentored by The Cavani Quartet include members of distinguished ensembles including A Far Cry, Attacca, Aeolus, Afiara, Attacca, Catalyst, Daedalus, Dali, Ehnes, Fry Street, Harlem, Jupiter, Kasa, Kronos, Linden, Maia, Telegraph, and Verona String Quartets as well as Chamber Orchestra of Paris, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, ECCO, Minnesota Symphony Orchestra, Miro, New York Philharmonic, and St Paul Chamber Orchestra. The Quartet has been featured on National Public Radio’s Performance Today and Saint Paul Sunday Morning, as well as the syndicated quiz show “Says You”. The Cavani Quartet continues to celebrate the voices of contemporary and global majority composers and has commissioned, premiered and performed the music more than forty living composers, including Josh Henderson, Joan Tower, Donald Erb, Jessie Montgomery and Margaret Brouwer. Joyful collaborations with some of today’s most renowned artists include Alisa Weilerstein, Itzhak Perlman, Sergei Babayan, Kim Kashkashian as well as members of the KLR Trio, Takács, Cleveland, Juilliard, Tokyo, Emerson Quartets. The Quartet has been on the Advisory Board of Amateur Chamber Music Players and currently serves on the Honorary Board of the Suzuki Association of the Americas and served as participants in The Violins of Hope Project [violinsofhopecle.org](http://violinsofhopecle.org). For more information please visit [cavani.org](http://cavani.org)

## MAP: MUSIC ART & POETRY- OUR COMPOSERS

### TRAVELING THROUGH THE ARTS

#### MEET THE COMPOSERS



##### JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Music is my connection to the world. It guides me to understand my place in relation to others and challenges me to make clear the things I do not understand. I imagine that music is a meeting place at which all people can converse about their unique differences and common stories."— Jessie



##### Claude Debussy

"Music is the arithmetic of sounds as optics is the geometry of light.

Music is the expression of the movement of the waters, the play of curves described by changing breezes,"

Music is the silence between the notes."



##### Gabriela Lena Franck

...I'm a big believer in collaborative relationships with performers, I am a disabled woman of color who is middle-aged. My musical ability also helps me navigate my day-to-day life. On Folk music: the goal is using simple means to convey something that is authentic from the people. It takes a great deal of skill to elevate its authenticity, and that was the goal Bartók set up for himself."



##### Béla Bartók

"My own idea, however -- of which I have been fully conscious since I found myself as a composer is the brotherhood of peoples, brotherhood in spite of all wars and conflicts."