



About the Colburn School

OVERVIEW An internationally renowned performing arts school located in the cultural corridor of downtown Los Angeles, the Colburn School provides the highest quality music and dance education to students at all levels of development, from beginners to those about to embark on professional careers. The Colburn School was founded over 70 years ago on the principle of access to excellence. Under the care and guidance of an exceptional faculty, generations of students have discovered and expressed their passion for music, dance, and the performing arts.

LOCATION 200 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CAMPUS A busy downtown campus welcomes an estimated 10,000 people each week, including students attending classes, lessons, and rehearsals; community partners who rent the current performance and lecture spaces; and audience members who enjoy the offerings of over 500 performances a year. Colburn's state-of-the-art facilities include two small venues—the 430-seat Zipper Hall and 189-seat Thayer Hall—in addition to rehearsal areas, practice rooms, studios, administrative offices, and a residence hall.

In 2022, the Colburn School announced designs by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry for the Colburn Center, a 100,000-square-foot building featuring a 1,000-seat state-of-the-art concert hall, a 100-seat theater for dance, and four professional-sized studios for dance instruction and rehearsal.

ACCESS Robust scholarship support and active community engagement programs ensure that the Colburn experience is accessible to all. In a typical year, students receive over \$11 million in scholarship support, and community programming serves 15 Title I public schools within a six-mile radius of campus.

Each year, more than 2,000 students from around the world study at Colburn to benefit from the renowned faculty, exceptional facilities, and focus on excellence that unites the community.

ACADEMIC UNITS **The Community School of Performing Arts** welcomes passionate, dedicated students of all ages, from seven months of age to adult, and is committed to making the highest quality music education available to all. It offers private instruction and group classes through over 120 classes each year in orchestral instruments, piano, guitar, voice, jazz, music theory, drama, and ensembles including orchestra, choir, chamber music, and more—taught by world-class teachers.

The Music Academy brings exceptional pre-college students from around the world to Colburn and takes their training to the next level. Young musicians ages 12 to 18 balance performance, musical instruction, and academics in a residential program that prepares them for conservatory study and performing careers at the highest levels of achievement.

The Trudl Zipper Dance Institute is dedicated to developing the talent and ambitions of its students, from beginners starting in Youth Dance to a national pool of aspiring professionals in the Dance Academy. Students receive training in ballet, tap, musical theater, and modern genres as part of a comprehensive dance education that emphasizes the joy of dance through artistic and technical accomplishment.

The Conservatory of Music opened twenty years ago with one goal: to train the very highest level of instrumental performers for careers in music. Outstanding performance opportunities, unparalleled faculty, and a unique all-scholarship model covering tuition, room and board for all students have allowed the Conservatory to produce dynamic young soloists, chamber groups, and orchestra musicians. In the short time since the Conservatory's inception, over 140 alumni have gone on to professional orchestra positions.

Created to serve all units of the School, the **Center for Innovation and Community Impact** empowers the musical and dance leaders of tomorrow by nurturing students' passion and ability to serve their communities, preparing them for sustainable careers, and embracing the development of new ideas. The Center embodies Colburn's commitment to developing young artists with the curiosity, skills, and commitment to make a difference in their field.

MILESTONES

1950: The University of Southern California College of Music establishes a preparatory school, offering piano classes for children from preschool through senior high school.

1956: The school's band and orchestra give debut performances.

1972: The Preparatory School is renamed the USC Community School of Performing Arts.

1978: The Community School relocates to the former McMahon Brother Furniture warehouse on Figueroa Street.

1980: The Community School of Performing Arts is taken over by Richard Colburn's California Foundation, with Toby Mayman as executive director and Fran Zarubick as dean.

1983: Joseph Thayer becomes dean.

1986–87: Jazz program begins under the leadership of Harold Battiste. Chamber Music Institute begins under Lia Starer Levine.

1988–89: The School's name changes to the R.D. Colburn School of Performing Arts.

1992–93: The school establishes a scholarship program based solely on need. Jascha Heifetz Studio gifted to the School.

1995–96: The school name is changed to the Colburn School of Performing Arts, officially the Colburn School.

1996–97: Groundbreaking occurs for new building at 200 South Grand Avenue.

1998: On June 30, the Colburn School moves into its new home on Grand Avenue. Dean Thayer presents a strategic plan for the Conservatory to the board for review.

2003–04: The Colburn Conservatory of Music welcomes its first official class of 15 students.

2004–05: Groundbreaking for Olive Street building.

2006–07: The Colburn Conservatory Orchestra debuts in Walt Disney Concert Hall. 12-story residence hall added to campus.

2008: Trudl Zipper Dance Institute established.

2010: The Colburn Music Academy welcomes its first class of students.

2014: Jenifer Ringer, former principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, chosen to lead the new Colburn Dance Academy, part of the Trudl Zipper Dance Institute; Dance Academy welcomes the first group of students. Jean-Yves Thibaudet named Artist-in-Residence.

2018: The Center for Innovation and Community Impact is created. The Colburn Orchestra completes its first international tour with performances in the UK and Ireland. Colburn co-presents the 2018 Primrose International Viola Competition with the American Viola Society.

2019: Negaunee Conducting Program created under the direction of Esa-Pekka Salonen; first class of Salonen Fellows enter the Conservatory. Viano String Quartet is named the first Chamber Ensemble-in-Residence; the group wins first prize in the Banff International String Quartet Competition.

2020: Colburn celebrates a milestone achievement as the Access Fund surpasses the initial scholarship funds goal of \$10 million. The Access Fund provides need-based scholarships to students of the Community School of Performing Arts. Through the generous support of more than 250 individual donors, the power of Colburn continues to be accessible to all in Southern California.

2022: Colburn unveils Frank Gehry designs for a transformational expansion of its campus to benefit students and the community, announces \$270 Million raised to date in support of the new concert hall and dance facilities.

2023: Second international tour with chamber music performances in London, Dublin, Berlin, and Paris; international dance educator Margaret Tracey named Dean of the Trudl Zipper Dance Institute; \$4 Million gift from the T. Robert Greene Foundation names Chair of Conducting Studies held by Esa-Pekka Salonen in honor of Maestro Ernst H. Katz.

LEADERSHIP

Andrew Millstein, Chairman, Board of Directors

Carol Colburn Grigor, Life Chairman Emeritus, Board of Directors

Sel Kardan, President and Chief Executive Officer

[Complete List of Board of Directors](#)

**STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENTS
AND CAREERS**

5% of graduates of the [Community School of Performing Arts](#) went on to college in 2023, entering top music programs and Ivy League universities including Columbia, Dartmouth, Juilliard, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, and Stanford.

[Music Academy](#) students were accepted to prestigious conservatories and music programs in 2023, including the Colburn Conservatory, Juilliard, Curtis Institute of Music, Harvard, Cleveland Institute of Music, Eastman, and Yale. Since the Music Academy was founded, 23% of graduates have gone on to the Colburn Conservatory.

Over 140 [Conservatory of Music](#) alumni hold professional orchestra positions, and graduates also form internationally renowned chamber ensembles, teach at distinguished conservatories and universities, and enter top post-graduate programs around the country.

Graduates of the [Dance Academy](#) perform across the globe in ballet companies including the New York City Ballet, Royal New Zealand Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and National Ballet of Canada.

**NOTABLE
ALUMNI**

[Kris Bowers](#) (Community School '06), Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award-winning composer and pianist

[Anne Akiko Meyers](#) (Community School '83), internationally renowned violinist

[Lauren Collet](#) (Dance Academy '16), corps de ballet at the New York City Ballet

[Kevin Lin](#) (Conservatory '15), concertmaster at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

[Nicholas Podany](#) (Trudl Zipper Dance Institute '12), lead role in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child on Broadway

[Anthony Gonzalez](#) (Community School '22), star of the Disney animated film *Coco*

[Viano String Quartet](#) (Conservatory '21), recently signed to Opus 3 Artists roster, Curtis Institute of Music string quartet-in-residence

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