

1/13/2024

Dear Students and Families,

We have some big news to share!

In mid-December our landlord at 125 St. Andrews Court approached us and asked us to consider moving to another building he owns that unexpectedly became available. Our program has been expanding quickly and he has been thinking ahead to help solve the problems we are facing as we are on track to rapidly outgrow our current space.

The new building he proposed is located at 110 S Broad Street, Mankato; it is situated in between the Carnegie Arts Center and the large Cultivate Mankato child development and resource building. The new location offers us eight teaching spaces like our current location. Additionally, because we recently partnered with Cultivate Mankato to bring music lessons to their children, they are offering us the use of their entire building after 5:30pm M-F and on Saturdays. This extra space would effectively triple the amount of room we currently have and double the amount of parking we would have. Also significant, the new location costs less than we are currently paying, saving our program approx. \$20,000 over the coming year.

Given the dollars our program saves, the incredible location between an Arts Center and a partner program, the additional space and the increased parking, we have determined that this move makes sense for our organization and have signed the new lease, taking the landlord up on this offer to relocate.

As the landlord has already found someone to take over our existing lease, we are working with two moving companies to facilitate a swift & clean move on Saturday, January 27th so as to minimize any disruption to lessons. Our goal is to begin lessons in the new location on Monday January 29th, 2024. If weather or anything else disrupts this plan we will notify you accordingly.

For answers to basic questions, please see the attached Q&A. If your questions are not answered there, you can reach out to Mary, our Executive Director, via email: [director@mankatosom.com](mailto:director@mankatosom.com).

We understand that moving mid-year is unexpected, but we truly believe you will all appreciate the benefits of this new space! Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation as we transition to this new location.

Sincerely,

Amber Bentler

Interim Board President, Southern Minnesota School of Music