



# PROJECT MUSIC

Enriching Lives...Building Community



2015

# PROJECT MUSIC

## OVERVIEW

**PROJECT MUSIC** launched in October, 2014, a free afterschool/summer music instruction program targeted to serve Stamford's inner city student population, modeled on the hugely successful Venezuelan program *El Sistema*, which has lifted more than 500,000 children out of poverty. Meeting its first season budget of \$94,000 (with \$40,000 of support from *City of Stamford* at its core), and serving over 40 students based at *Chester Addison Community Center* (in partnership with **DOMUS**), and 15 students at Stamford's *Waterside School*, the program has been eminently successful in its few short months of operation, engaging students in productive learning while building confidence, self-esteem and the tools of good citizenship.

As *El Sistema*-inspired programs are successfully exploding worldwide (in over 42 forward-thinking US cities, with 5 more in the planning stages [elesistemausa.org]), Stamford has now joined that elite list with a thriving program and students on a waiting list; our goal is that no child in Stamford should need to wait for an open slot. Our public-private coalition of support puts Stamford on the map as yet another one of those forward-thinking cities investing in its young people. Expansion to a second location across town remains a future goal.

Already, the students have performed at *ATRIA Stamford*, and joined **NEXT GENERATION** partners *Ballet School of Stamford*, *Curtain Call*, *Loft Artists Association* and *INTAKE* to present a marvelous concert spotlighting *Romeo and Juliet/West Side Story* at the *Palace Theatre*. This exciting event was attended by the public-at-large and parents of the students, who received subsidized tickets via donations to **PROJECT MUSIC**. For these participating families, this experience was a thrilling step into the world of the arts, and transformational for our students who have shown tremendous enthusiasm for the program.

For **PROJECT MUSIC**, community partnerships are key and the list continues to grow beyond our model partnership with **DOMUS** and our **NEXT GENERATION** alliances. **UConn** (Stamford and Storrs) has offered both marketing support and outreach to potential **UConn** alumni/student mentors to augment staff. And, **PROJECT MUSIC** joins forces with **Spread Music Now!/The BE Foundation** to create a coalition of arts partners to expand fundraising reach. **Stamford Downtown** has offered to partner with **PROJECT MUSIC** in an upcoming instrument drive. We were thrilled to welcome Baltimore Symphony's *El Sistema* program **Orchkids** and **Bravo Waterbury!** to Stamford in late March to present Workshops for our students. Fundraising is ongoing year-round via solicitation to foundations, corporations and individuals. Social media engagement is highly valued as well.

We are excited about the success already achieved by this program; knowing that it is a game-changer for these students, **PROJECT MUSIC** is adamant about retention – that each **PROJECT MUSIC** student must continue to receive the more advanced instruction necessary for success through high school graduation. The goal is for the students to assimilate into any desired musical setting, utilizing all the life skills and musical proficiency provided to them by having 'grown up' at **PROJECT MUSIC**.

## HISTORY

In the late '60's, music educator (subsequently State Senator) Anthony D. Truglia introduced a groundbreaking program called **PROJECT MUSIC** which offered free music instruction to inner city students within walking distance to their homes. Well aware of the power of music to change lives, he was adamant that the playing field needed to be leveled for these students who lacked access and opportunity. While the program continued in Stamford until cut from the City budget, the scope and focus had changed dramatically following Sen. Truglia's death; while many students continued to learn instruments, inner city students were left behind when the program moved from their neighborhoods. While the program no longer fulfilled its original purpose, its demise was nonetheless a loss to the community.

In June 2014, recognizing the need for this program, The City of Stamford provided initial funding to launch the re-boot of **PROJECT MUSIC** geared to today's needs. Developed in the image of El Sistema, the brilliant Venezuelan program that has lifted hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty since its inception by Josef Abreu in 1975, **PROJECT MUSIC** was formed by Joyce DiCamillo and a small, dedicated Board of Directors. Archipelago Inc. serves as the organization's Fiscal Sponsor, providing managerial and program support. In the fall of 2014, programs began in partnership with DOMUS at *Chester Addison Community Center* and *Waterside School*.

## THE PROGRAM

**PROJECT MUSIC** is a four-day-a-week after-school music education program provided at no cost to underserved youth in Stamford, Connecticut. The program is inspired by Venezuela's "music education miracle" known as El Sistema, a program that employs music as a vehicle for social change, created over 30 years ago by politician and musician Josef Abreu. **PROJECT MUSIC** provides free high-quality music education, instruments, mentorship and a sense of community to Stamford children who need it most.

In addition to music classes, **PROJECT MUSIC** students participate in frequent performances at the program site and in the greater community-at-large. Whether performing for their peers, parents, board members, the staff at their community center, or 'on the road' sharing their talents with others, students provide quality programming for the public AND watch their fellow students perform, allowing them both to experience and be inspired by the accomplishments of others.

An important aspect of **PROJECT MUSIC** is fostering students' exposure to the arts, both within their own community and extending to the broader world stage. This enlightenment is brought to our students through frequent visits from guest artists, volunteer musicians, and exposure to other local arts-related activities; collaboration with other local arts organizations is highly valued and specifically sought.

**PROJECT MUSIC** works to engage parents and other family members in the goal of building community. Families are invited to attend sessions and performances, accompany children on field trips, meet with program staff, and even volunteer in the program. **PROJECT MUSIC**

students collaborate with other El Sistema-inspired programs across the country, recently hosting the Baltimore *OrchKids* program (sponsored by the Baltimore Symphony), and the *BRAVO Waterbury!* program (sponsored by the Waterbury Symphony) in a 2-day Workshop. Interaction with peers who are successful products of other similar programs provides a powerful means of shared learning.

## **WHO WE SERVE**

Currently, **PROJECT MUSIC** serves 55 children; 40 at the Chester Addison Community Center and 15 students at Waterside School. In our next year we plan to increase the number of students served to 80 (60 from Chester Addison and 20 from Waterside).

**PROJECT MUSIC** at Chester Addison students live in the Waterside neighborhood of Stamford, CT, an area of 1.13 square miles, supporting a dense population of 5,813 people. The racial/ethnic makeup of the neighborhood is almost evenly distributed among white, black and Hispanic. Single mother households account for 14.6% of the population. Non-English speakers are nearly 32.7% of the population and 41.9% of them are foreign born. 40% percent of Waterside's residents have achieved a high school education or less.

**PROJECT MUSIC** is also working with *The Waterside School*, a co-educational PK-5th Grade independent school serving children and families regardless of limitations in income or circumstance, located in Stamford's South End. The population at *Waterside School* is about 85% from Stamford, with the remainder from many different towns including Norwalk, Bridgeport and New Haven, with 92% of families identifying as African American, Latino or Multi racial, 47% are single parent households. The median income of families served is \$43,109 with 39% of families with earned incomes less than \$35,00.

## **OUR PARTNERS**

ARCHIPELAGO: Archipelago serves as **PROJECT MUSIC**'s Fiscal Sponsor and also provides guidance on establishing an El Sistema inspired program in a new environment. Archipelago Board Members are also involved with a number of other El Sistema based programs.

DOMUS/Chester Addison: DOMUS/Chester Addison provides its facilities, staff support, and assistance with administering the program, in addition to two important components of the program - snack and homework support - to the students prior to music classes.

WATERSIDE SCHOOL: Waterside School is home to the String Program supported by **PROJECT MUSIC**. Waterside School provides rehearsal space and coordinates the logistics of the program in liaison with Master Teacher and Assistant Teacher supplied by **PROJECT MUSIC**.

UConn (Stamford and Storrs campuses): One of the first projects in the planning stages of a partnership between **PROJECT MUSIC** and UConn is the production of a video intended to build community awareness of and support for **PROJECT MUSIC**, created by independent study students.



BALLET SCHOOL of STAMFORD, LOFT ARTISTS ASSOCIATION, CURTAIN CALL and **PROJECT MUSIC** dialogue regularly to provide each other with ongoing creative opportunities for performance and collaboration. This alliance was borne from the longstanding NEXT GENERATION concert initiative and works to fulfill **PROJECT MUSIC**'s mission to breed deep roots in the community via partnership and synergies.



## NEXT SEASON

### 1. The Need

The need for this program is clear. Many low income families lack means to provide arts access and opportunity to children - from availability to provide transportation to lessons and/or performances, to purchasing lesson books, hiring teachers to provide lessons, etc. **PROJECT MUSIC** tackles each of these barriers by going where the children are and providing its services at no cost to the family. Since after school care is a necessity for working parents and it is a proven fact that learning is greatly enhanced by the study of music, **PROJECT MUSIC** infuses the students' after-school life with music education, serving a larger purpose than music education alone. With repeated reinforcement four days a week, skills taught each day begin to define the student. By providing free access to the programs, which create a fun, self-confidence-building, rewarding learning experience, far more is instilled than music alone. The teacher-student relationship built through music instruction carries a deeper mentorship opportunity than one built on academic tutoring alone; teachers get to know the 'whole' child over time, enabling them to be powerful influencers, monitoring the students' growth on an almost daily basis.

### 2. The Program

We are seeking funding to continue and expand **PROJECT MUSIC** at *Chester Addison Community Center* and *Waterside School* for the school year 2015-16.

**PROJECT MUSIC** has two program sites (1) *Chester Addison Community Center*, where we run a complete program for 40 students and (2) *Waterside School*, where we are supporting the existing Strings Program for 15 students, with the hope of expanding it to replicate the 4-day-a-week *Chester Addison* model.

**PROJECT MUSIC** partners with DOMUS at *Chester Addison Community Center* and offers classes to 40 of its enrolled children; In addition to music instruction, students also receive homework assistance and participate in other enrichment activities provided by DOMUS. This year, students in Kindergarten – 5th grade began singing in choir, playing in Bucket Band (percussion ensemble), participating in Brass Attack and an Instrumental Exploratory class. Learning to read standard musical notation, often a lengthy process, is incorporated into students' learning as they progress.

During the school year, students take music classes 4 days per week, and after the school year ends, students participate in a summer music program. In '15-'16, we will continue the program as described above, adding the next class of students (approximately 20), while continuing the program for the students currently engaged in the program.

Optimum implementation of the program requires additional music teachers in Year 2 for two purposes: 1. to teach the incoming class of beginner-level students and 2. to allow for different rates of learning for those entering Year 2 of instruction, providing specialized attention for students who either need remedial help or are moving at a more advanced rate requiring a more challenging environment. **PROJECT MUSIC** is committed to retaining its students from

year 1 instruction through high school graduation.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**PROJECT MUSIC** is intended not only to provide musical instruments and training, but also to address some of the extensive social challenges affecting Stamford's youth. To this end, the study and appreciation of music is used to cultivate fundamental life skills such as self-expression, cooperative learning, discipline, leadership, and creativity— all of which are linked to improved social and academic outcomes. The program, which is offered to children at no charge, fills a gap in accessible quality music education and after-school care in the City of Stamford.

The goal is to one day offer this access and opportunity to inner city children in all corners of Stamford, focusing on one location at a time and creating viable K-12 programs which leave no child behind, modeling other successful El Sistema programs which have also started with 30-40 students and grown to include thousands.

## **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

We expect that students participating in the program will experience academic improvement, improved self-esteem, a demonstrated sense of pride and accomplishment, increased opportunities to work and play collaboratively with their peers. **PROJECT MUSIC** administrators and staff work closely with the students and their families and will be assessing these outcomes through surveys, academic review and day-to-day observation.



## **PROJECT MUSIC MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **Program Staff and Board of Directors**

Just in its pilot year, **PROJECT MUSIC** is staffed by part-time employees (5 including Program Director, Site Coordinator and 3 music teachers) and a volunteer staff. The program is helmed by an experienced management team led by Executive Director and Program Director **Garrett Mendez** and volunteer Board President **Joyce DiCamillo**.

Stepping down as 24-year Executive Director of *Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic* at the conclusion of the 2013-14 season, **Joyce DiCamillo** led the organization by fostering deep relationships within the community. She is co-founder of **SoNYC Media**, a digital content company, and also a jazz pianist and recording artist with an international performing career leading her own trio. Devoted to 'giving back', she is an experienced educator who brings a unique perspective of expertise onstage and off, melding the worlds of music, education, and business.

**PROJECT MUSIC** Program Director, **Garrett Méndez**, has been deeply involved in El Sistema programs around the United States and South America. Spending the last 10 years running *The Archipelago Project*, a non-profit music education ensemble and running the K-12 Instrumental program for the past six years at King Low-Heywood Thomas School in Stamford, **Garrett** is experienced in all of the details and nuances in running a music education program. He reports to Joyce DiCamillo.

Site Coordinator, **Ian Taylor** is a graduate of the State University of New York at Fredonia with a degree in Music Education, he began his career teaching at a K-12 school in St. Croix. Ian now teaches instrumental music programs across southern Connecticut and New York, ranging from beginning elementary school lessons to work with an award-winning high school marching band. An active musician as well, Ian has studied and performed on three continents, and currently does the majority of his playing with theatre orchestras, and with his Dixieland jazz band. Ian is proud to be immersed in the world of El Sistema, making regular collaborations with affiliated programs such as Play On, Philly!, the Baltimore Orchkids, and Bravo Waterbury!

The faculty is comprised of three music instructors, musician/teachers **Willie Bruno** (percussion), **Terri Hess** (musicianship/choir) and **Marja Thompson** (strings). Site Coordinator Ian Taylor also teaches wind instruments and Program Director Garrett Mendez works with the children teaching brass instruments.

Other volunteers include:

**Michael Horyczun**, former PR Director of the Bruce Museum and PR Director at Fairfield University, heads **PROJECT MUSIC's** Press and Public Relations;

**Jenny Lake**, a former administrator at the *Stamford Center for the Arts*, supports the organizational aspects of the program as Director of Community Development;

**Amanda Finn**, with significant non-profit experiences in the social service area, is developing a Young Professionals group in support of **PROJECT MUSIC**.

**PROJECT MUSIC**  
**Board of Directors**

**Joyce DiCamillo**

Board President, **PROJECT MUSIC**  
Co-founder, CEO, SoNYC Media  
Group Support Leader, Alzheimer's Organization of CT  
Member, National Pen Women  
Member, National Organization of Italian-American Women

**Christel Truglia**

Retired State Senator  
Vice President, PROJECT MUSIC  
Founder, Truglia Thumbelina Fund

**Mort Lowenthal**

Retired investment Banker  
Treasurer, PROJECT MUSIC  
Executive Committee and Treasurer, Liberation Programs  
Advisory Board, Jewish Federation of Stamford

**Susan DiMattia**

Vice President, Friends of The Ferguson Library  
Secretary, Board of Liberation Programs, Inc.  
Advocacy Committee and Awards Committee, American Library Association  
Past President, Special Libraries Association

**Marion Meadows**

Professional Recording Artist  
Principal at Marion Meadows Design  
Board Member, PROJECT MUSIC

**For more information about PROJECT MUSIC**

Would you like to know more or visit our classroom? Please contact Jenny Lake at 203-395-5687, [jennyober@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyober@hotmail.com) or Joyce DiCamillo at [joycedicamillo1@gmail.com](mailto:joycedicamillo1@gmail.com)



## PROJECT MUSIC BUDGET INFORMATION

Projected Expenses	2014-15 Chester Addison & Waterside 55 Student	2015-16 Chester Addison & Waterside 75-80 students
<b>Administrative Expense</b>		
Program Director Salary	8,000	22,950
Health Benefit	-----	2,500
Site Coordinator(s)	19,744	22,950
Payroll Liabilities (7%)	-----	3,388
Worker's Comp (2.4%)	-----	1,162
Insurance (liability)	-----	1,500
Program Promotion	2,500	1,500
<b>Total Administrative Expense</b>	<b>\$30,244</b>	<b>\$55,950</b>
<b>Program Expenses</b>		
Teaching Artists	36,225	65,150
Teacher Professional Development	2,000	1,000
Guest Artists	5,000	2,000
Instrument Repair	2,000	1,000
Food & Beverage	2,000	2,000
Field Trips, Transportation & Performance Expenses	3,000	3,000
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>\$50,225</b>	<b>\$74,150</b>
<b>Equipment &amp; Supplies</b>		
Musical Instruments & Equipment	12,426	3,000
Office Equipment & General Supplies	2,000	1,000
<b>Total Equipment &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>\$14,426</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
Allocated for Administration Overhead(Fiscal Sponsorship)	-----	1,350
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$94,895</b>	<b>\$135,450</b>