

New Collaborations with BSO Musicians

We are continuing to grow in our 15th year of programming by bringing a variety of professional musicians right in our backyard to OrchKids students. The Cross-Site String Ensemble recently welcomed a very special guest conductor to rehearsal - the BSO's own Jonathon Heyward! Before Heyward was even appointed as Music Director Designate, he expressed and demonstrated his strong commitment to the program. During this rehearsal, Heyward worked on Shostakovich's Waltz no. 2 with the ensemble, focusing on style and creating greater contrast in the dynamics and articulations. Just a few days later, Jonathon again worked with OrchKids students, this time on stage at the season launch! Together, OrchKids students, BSYO students, and BSO musicians performed Piazzolla's Libertango under Jonathon's baton.

We are also excited to share a new opportunity for committed students who are interested in pursuing music beyond high school. In addition to receiving weekly private lessons from their



Jonathon Heyward conducting the Cross-Site String Ensemble.

OrchKids Teaching Artist, 11 students are now receiving regular coachings from 8 BSO musicians to support their musical growth! Once a month, BSO musicians visit the students' OrchKids site to augment what they are learning in their lessons by helping them prepare for auditions and performances, continue developing proper technique, and offer mentorship on pursuing music as a career.

Earlier this year, BSO musician Matt Barker guided his two soon-to-be students through the process of buying new, professional trumpets from Baltimore Brass Company. With Matt's expertise and guidance, Alexis and Janai played many different trumpets, learned about the criteria to consider when choosing a new instrument, and selected the instrument that will be with them through college and beyond! We are thrilled to increase collaboration with the BSO musicians and add these coachings to the myriad of opportunities that OrchKids students can receive.



Matt Barker with Janai, Alexis, and their new trumpets!

Collective Composition

Collective Composition has been a staple of OrchKids since the start of the program in 2008. One week during the school year, regular after-school programming is paused while Collective Composition takes center stage. During Collective Composition week, students of every age and musical ability come together in a non-hierarchical setting to create an original and impactful piece of music. Student voice and leadership are central to the compositions, as students are given a space to explore ideas that are important to them, and an opportunity to process their own experiences and/or current events through music. Students work together in groups, facilitated by OrchKids alumni, teaching artists, and staff to share and develop ideas that lead to the creation of a collectively-conceived piece of music. Often the music that students create is more complex than what they learn through playing sheet music in their regular lessons and ensembles, as they are not confined by limitations of notation.



The "Be for Real" group performing their original composition at the Collective Composition Concert.



The 2023 El Sistema Community Concert hosted by the King School in Stamford, Connecticut.



Rehearsing for the UMBC Create Music Festival Concert.

This year, students created collective compositions exploring what it means to be an OrchKid, pride and confidence, and being real with yourself and others. One group's performance included electronics, other groups included singing, instrumental playing, and body percussion into their piece, showcasing a wide variety of music. The week culminated in a concert at Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts where all groups performed their song and shared their perspective with the world. View a recording of the Collective Composition Concert [here](#).

The fun doesn't stop there! Immediately following the concert, a handful of students and staff loaded up a few vans and made their way up to Connecticut for the 2023 El Sistema Community Concert hosted by the King School. OrchKids students collaborated with students from other El Sistema-inspired programs in the Northeast to write another collective composition in just a few hours. This composition featured OrchKids students Carter Griffin as a student conductor and Ashley Gonzalez as a soloist. Sunday evening, all of the participating El Sistema USA students came together to perform their collective composition and two new works by modern-day composers. Watch a video of the concert [here](#).

Similarly, students in the "Be For Real" group stayed closer to home and performed at the University of Maryland Baltimore County's inaugural UMBC Create Music Festival. At this intensive festival, students worked with Emmy-nominated composer Daniel Bernard Roumain, singer-songwriter Diana Lawrence, and UMBC music faculty James Dorsey to workshop and elevate their collective composition piece. Later that day, students rehearsed compositions by Roumain and Lawrence with the UMBC Symphony Orchestra before presenting the music in a concert that evening.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

ORCHkids

You're invited to our

15-YEAR CELEBRATION CONCERT

WED, MAY 17 | JOSEPH MEYERHOFF SYMPHONY HALL

DOORS OPEN AT 4:30PM

VIDEO PRESENTATION AT 5:45PM

CONCERT AT 6:00PM

Join us on May 17 for the first-ever OrchKids concert at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. There will be engaging pre and post concert activities, fun photo ops, special guests, refreshments, and, of course, beautiful music performed by our OrchKids students. You won't want to miss this sensational celebration of OrchKids' 15th anniversary!

RESERVE YOUR
COMPLIMENTARY
TICKETS HERE

