

Volume 16, Issue 1  
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Quality music education  
*for all children*

## ETM Welcomes Six New Partner Schools

This fall, with the addition of six new partner schools reaching an added 2,310 students, the ETM model now serves over 14,000 children in 28 schools throughout New York City. These new schools

the Apostle—a parochial school in Queens—is the first ETM partner school in the borough.

According to Principal Farid Reyes of P.S. 103, hearing about the positive impact of music on school



At P.S. 103 in the Bronx, students move in rhythm with ETM Music Teacher Kara Simpson.

include four public schools: P.S. 103 in the Bronx, P.S. 84 and M.S. 313 in Brooklyn, and P.S./M.S. 7 in East Harlem. This year, ETM has also diversified the types of schools it assists and its geographic reach; Brownsville Ascend Lower School in Brooklyn is ETM's first charter school partner, while St. Thomas

citement of parents and students generated by ETM's presence. He is already thinking long-term as he writes: "I wanted to bring a true musical experience to our students... [I hope] the continuity of music instruction...will help our students to develop critical and analytical skills that can be applied across sub-

jects."

P.S. 103's ETM Music Teacher, Kara Simpson, reports that students "enter [her] class like they are walking into a candy store"—excited by the opportunity to interact with new instruments daily. Since attending music class is novel for most of Ms. Simpson's students, she has developed creative ways to channel their excitement into productive lessons. Ms. Simpson has also collaborated with her teacher-colleagues, whose support and acceptance of music as a core subject helps reinforce music class as a place of fun *and* learning. Even for the select group of older students initially resistant to music or exhibiting behavioral problems, Ms. Simpson has noticed small, but significant, changes: "We have developed a more personal rapport. They understand that when they are on their best behavior they get to play instruments...they get to do and learn more."

At P.S. 182 in the Bronx, new ETM Music Teacher Molly Kackloudis echoes Ms. Simpson's feedback. Ms. Kackloudis uses constant encouragement to motivate shy and disengaged students to "realize their potential to be successful in music class." This has helped students develop norms for "par-

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## ETM Board Welcomes Amie Patel



New Board member Amie Patel.

ETM is thrilled to announce the election of Amie Patel to the Board of Directors. Ms. Patel is an Investment Officer with the Soros Economic Development Fund

(SEDF) where she focuses on early to growth stage investments in agribusiness, financial services, health and logistics. She is especially active with the firm's investments in India, Haiti and Palestine as well as other emerging markets. She joined SEDF from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation where she was a Presidential Management Fellow responsible for developing and evaluating emerging market private equity funds and fund managers. Ms. Patel graduated with a BS in Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and holds an MBA from Georgetown University.

## Academy Prepares Teachers for an Exciting Year

At the end of August, ETM held its annual *ETM Academy* to prepare music teachers for the new school year. The full-day workshops, designed by Director of Programs Pete Pauliks and the program staff, explored topics including strategies for short- and long-term student assessment and effective ways to engage school and community support for music programs.

In preparation for the new school year, ETM had updated its teacher resource materials to incorporate the Common Core Standards, a new framework of learning standards adopted by most states that defines the knowledge and skills expected of all K-12 students. ETM Professional Development and Consulting Specialist Chris Marolf led a workshop for the teachers



Oberlin College Professor of Music Education Peggy Bennett leads a workshop at ETM Academy.

to review the new materials.

Music teachers were also provided with resources to guide them in organizing effective lesson plans and in keeping on track with those plans throughout the school year.

Workshops on effective structure in the classroom and choral strategies to use with students were especially well received. One teacher shared, "Going over new music is the most valuable part of the day. The step-by-step process of how to teach it helps a lot."

Before heading off to the first day of school, teachers discussed

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## ETM Welcomes New Partners

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participation, musicianship and behavior," which have created important "spillover effects." She says that there are already signs that teachers appreciate the music classes, parents are recognizing their children's progress and students are developing interest in private music lessons.

At new partner school P.S./M.S. 7 in East Harlem, ETM Music Teacher Jason Atkinson invites all students to drop by his room after school for individualized attention in their choice of guitar or drums. Every day Mr. Atkinson leaves his door open—aiming to create a safe space—and meets with a considerable number of students eager to take advantage of his offer. "It serves as an example of students having a good time in class and wanting to reinforce their lessons."

In addition to continued expansion, there are exciting program developments at several returning ETM partner schools. For instance, five music teachers previously on ETM's payroll were hired by our continuing partner schools this fall. This lays the groundwork for sustaining programs in the long-term and enables ETM to use resources to expand into new partnerships. ETM's expansion this fall was also made possible through support from The New York Community Trust and the Emily Davie and Joseph S. Kornfeld Foundation.

While committed to providing high-quality in-school music instruction, ETM also continues to foster music appreciation and cultivate student achievement through elective activities. This year ETM is introducing new ensembles at two returning partner schools; M.S. 529 will feature a string orchestra comprised of students from its 6th and 7th grades, while P.S. 169 will add a 4th grade string orchestra. The students recruited to participate in this year's orchestra at M.S. 529 were



A student at a new ETM partner school in the Bronx plays the ukulele.

energized by attending the "ETM Festival" in June. The festival provided students with a glimpse into the pending program, and left them inspired by their peers' performances. According to ETM Music Teacher Brittnay Kolodziej of M.S. 529, the students are enthusiastic: "In orchestra, we practiced following the conductor while plucking the D and A strings. Many of the students commented on how they had 'goose bumps' after hearing us all pluck in unison."

ETM will work throughout the 2012-2013 school year alongside partner school communities, principals and teachers to provide sequential and standards based instruction. We will continue to develop curriculum aligned with the Common Core in content and approach, and emphasize professional development and integration to drive our impact. Ultimately, with the help of our supporters, we seek to make a sustained difference in the lives of children, and, as Ms. Simpson described, we hope all partner school students will "let music become a part of them and bring joy to their lives."

## ETM Academy

**(Continued from page 2)**

how to further develop programs by boosting parent and school enthusiasm and support.

ETM Academy provided a collaborative environment where teachers could ask questions and receive feedback from program staff and from their fellow music teachers. One teacher commented, "It feels great to be in a community of music teachers so excited about music education." ETM provided additional training through Wednesday evening workshops in September and October and has also scheduled workshops for later during the school year. Ongoing support includes regular site visits by program staff to observe music teachers in the classroom and provide feedback and mentoring.

Those in attendance at ETM Academy this year included not only ETM's music teachers, but also music teachers from ETM-LA, from the ICAN schools, and Oberlin College Professor of Music Education Peggy Bennett who served as a facilitator. By involving the teachers from Los Angeles and Cleveland alongside our New York City teachers, ETM sought to showcase our core program as an example, and also to foster communication among the music teachers, so they can feel a part of a larger initiative as they each work to implement ETM's model in their own school setting.

**To learn more about  
ETM's 2012-2013  
Partner Schools,  
visit:  
ETMonline.org/  
partner-schools**

*Photography courtesy of Chris Marolf.*

## Miss USA Visits Partner School M.S. 180

On October 10, current Miss USA Olivia Culpo visited M.S. 180 in the Bronx. During her visit, Culpo—a cellist by training since the 2nd grade—sat in on the school's 8th grade orchestra. Together they rehearsed Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. After the rehearsal, Culpo answered student questions—sharing advice on overcoming nerves and discussing her favorite and most challenging pieces to perform. During this segment, Miss USA expressed her enthusiasm for music—classical music in particular—and provided students with names and compositions for which they were eager to search on Youtube.

At the time of her visit, the orchestra was learning to sight read and perform a twelve-bar blues progression. According to music teacher Leah Potteiger, "Students

were excited and energized by the visit," and learned from Miss USA's example: "It was good for them to meet a cellist and to see her basic etiquette during rehearsal." In addition, "Miss USA pointed out to the students that while she is not a professional cellist, the cello continues to play an important role in her life." The distinction, Ms. Potteiger believes, resonated with students, who she hopes will allow music to shape their lives.

Ms. Culpo, a child of professional musicians and a band camp enthusiast, was impressed by the students' musicality—even after



Miss USA rehearses with the students in M.S. 180's orchestra.

only a month of school. Miss USA also spoke to the students in band and toured the school's music technology lab. Delighted by the experience, Ms. Culpo hopes to visit another ETM partner school in the near future to encourage student development through the arts.

## Students Love "Ella" Performance at Queens Theatre

On October 4, over 200 students from partner schools St. Thomas the Apostle School, St. Mark the Evangelist School, and M.S. 529 attended a matinee performance of the musical "Ella," which tells the story of jazz vocalist Ella Fitzgerald, at the Queens Theatre.

When Bank of America sponsored student matinee tickets, Queens Theatre contacted ETM. Field Supervisors Meryl Cullom and Allison Mickelson thought it would be a wonderful experience for middle school students.

Teachers at St. Thomas prepared students before the show in order to provide them with background information on Ella Fitzgerald and the development of jazz in New York City—some students were unfamiliar with jazz music and Fitzgerald's contributions to the genre. The stu-

dents wrote short biographies of Fitzgerald, watched video of her "scatting," and viewed the clip of *Ride 'Em Cowboy* where she sings "A-Tisket, A-Tasket."

The trip almost fell through when no school buses were available the day of the show to drive the students to and from the theater. Thankfully, Queens Theatre Board member Linda DeSabato donated three buses from her company, Vallo Transportation.

The students filled the first and second rows of the theater, and, according to Ms. Cullom, "They were the best behaved students in the whole audience." At the end of the show, the audience gave two standing ovations. ETM Music Teacher Charlie Ortiz, who accompanied his students from St. Thomas the Apostle, said that they were very impressed. "For many of them, it was their first interaction with jazz,

and they said that now they like jazz." The caliber of the musicians also stood out to them, Mr. Ortiz said, especially the trumpet and bass players.

Rachel Bidwell, the ETM Music Teacher at St. Mark's, noted that students responded to Ella's courage and perseverance. "Ella Fitzgerald had many challenges in her life but she overcame them," 8th grader Khalik told her. "We can all learn from the way she lived."

The 7th and 8th graders from St. Thomas also sent thank you cards to ETM, sharing their enthusiasm for the show.

"I have to say that performance of Ella was amazing," wrote 7th grader Chasstidy. "The music made me tap my foot. This was a once in a lifetime performance. Thank you for making that possible."

## Country Music Star Dierks Bentley is a Hit in the Bronx



Mr. Bentley performs for excited students at P.S. 103.

Country music star Dierks Bentley visited first-year partner school P.S. 103 in the Bronx on September 13, thrilling students who sang along to his hit song "5150" and showed him their newly-acquired music skills.

The CMA Foundation coordinated the visit with ETM and P.S. 103. The Foundation contacted the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) about working with an organization in New York City that shared its interests in quality music education for all children; NAfME suggested ETM, and it turned out to be a great match.

Not only did the CMA Foundation send Mr. Bentley as an ambassador of their program Keep the Music Playing, it also donated \$20,000 to ETM to help purchase instruments and supplies for P.S.

of music and to engage children in learning."

Mr. Bentley performed for the entire 4th grade in the school gymnasium, and he visited 5th grade and 2nd grade music classes. ETM Music Teachers Kara Simpson and Erin Giacinto taught the students a variety of Bentley's songs so that they could sing along with him.

"He was shocked that they knew the words to his songs," said Pete Pauliks, ETM's Director of Programs.

103. "I'm so grateful for this incredible collaboration with CMA and NAfME," said Katherine Damkohler, Executive Director of ETM. "It is through working together that we can continue to expose more children to all genres

The students made an impression on Mr. Bentley, who said, "They lift you up, inspire you." He believes that children learning to read music, to play an instrument, and to perform in front of others is "an incredible task" that is important during children's formative years.

The students were so thankful for his visit and the donation that they wrote thank you cards, highlighting what the visit meant to them.

"We usually don't get special programs like this in our school. Thank you so much for the instruments so we can build a music community," wrote one group of students.

Others shared, "Thank you for appreciating our song as much as we did yours. You coming to our school it was a one of a kind experience."



4th graders clap along to the beat of Mr. Bentley's music.

## Laurie Rubin Inspires Students at M.S. 529

On October 26, mezzo-soprano Laurie Rubin visited ETM partner school M.S. 529 in the Bronx.

In anticipation of her visit, students read a chapter from Rubin's memoir, *Do You Dream in Color?: Insights from a Girl Without Sight*. The chapter, "The Babysitters' Club," chronicles Ms. Rubin's struggles throughout middle school with fitting in and feeling different. Ms.

Rubin, who has been blind since birth, shared her difficulty with overcoming obstacles like bullying—a topic which resonated with many students.

Ms. Rubin sang three songs, including one she wrote, and answered poignant student questions. During the Q&A, Ms. Rubin—candid about the discipline and habits required to be successful, whether as

a performing artist or in life in general—universalized her experiences to create a special and inspiring connection with the students.

Ms. Rubin's visit also coincided with students learning to write their own memoirs, which allowed English teachers to use the text to demonstrate proper use of dialogue and detail in personal narratives.

## ETM-Bay Area Hires New Executive Director

ETM-Bay Area is excited to announce the hiring of Dylan Tatz as the new Executive Director for ETM's licensed affiliate organization in San Francisco, CA. Mr. Tatz brings a wealth of non-profit and private sector experience to ETM-Bay Area, as well as a lifelong love of music.

When asked about his interest in the ETM model and music education, Mr. Tatz explained that as a clarinetist hailing from a family of musicians and music teachers, he witnessed firsthand the positive impact of music education his entire

life.

"I am eager to devote myself full-time to building up ETM-Bay Area and ensuring that we make a difference in the lives of thousands of Bay Area children for years to come," he said. "Seeing our teachers interact with their students in the classroom and watching their faces light up while learning about music reminds me why I care so deeply about this important work."

He has already developed core initiatives for this year, focusing on streamlining operational processes and increasing communication and

collaboration among the staff. Mr. Tatz, for example, put into place a "buddy system" for the music teachers. Buddies observe each other's lessons, and they then give feedback and brainstorm ideas over coffee. The pairings change every month in order to provide fresh perspectives and generate creative thinking.

We welcome Mr. Tatz and look forward to an exhilarating and busy year with our Bay Area affiliate.

For more information, visit [www.etmbayarea.org](http://www.etmbayarea.org).

## Professional Development with the DSMP

At the end of September, ETM's Director of Programs Pete Pauliks and Field Supervisor Allison Mickelson spent a week in the San Francisco Bay Area leading professional development sessions for music teachers from ETM's continuing consulting project with the Dominican Schools Music Project (DSMP).

Mr. Pauliks and Ms. Mickelson spent two days observing teachers before they began their professional development workshops. Based on the observations, they adapted the sessions from the ETM Academy in New York City (see article, pages 2-3) for the Bay Area teachers. These workshops included 10 teachers: six from the DSMP and four from ETM-Bay Area partner schools.

Mr. Pauliks and Ms. Mickelson discussed teaching techniques such as curriculum-mapping, benchmarks, scope and sequence, and educational psychology as well as musical topics such as repertoire. In addition, teachers had specifically requested a workshop on making "instruments" using classroom materials—they all made "guitars" using wood, cardboard, foam, brown paper and rubber bands.

"The teachers were very receptive," said Mr. Pauliks. "The training strengthened their understanding

of the ETM model and their confidence."

ETM staff will continue to provide professional development to these teachers through ongoing correspondence and additional visits.

Right: Bay Area music teachers show off their hand-made guitars.



### New ETM Collaboration in Cleveland, Ohio

ETM is proud to collaborate with Oberlin Conservatory's Music in America (MIA) program to replicate ETM's model in the I CAN SCHOOLS (ICS) charter school network in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 2008, ICS is comprised of four K-8 schools and one high school. As part of this emerging charter network's strategic plan, ICS sought to adopt a comprehensive and sequential music program. Thanks to the generosity of the Nord Family Foundation, this year, every child that attends an I CAN school will receive music instruction year-round. In addition, ETM and MIA will provide advisory support, and the schools will receive needed materials and supplies. ETM is excited for this new project-building opportunity with ICS—a school network which prioritizes ongoing professional development for teachers as part of its model of excellence.

## Happenings at ETM-LA

ETM-LA (Education Through Music-Los Angeles), ETM's first licensed affiliate organization, expanded its partner school program this fall to reach new schools in the Burbank, Compton, Los Angeles and Pasadena Unified School Districts, and now serves approximately 5,500 students. In addition, as a growing organization ETM-LA was thrilled to recently hire its first Program Director and host its 7th Annual Benefit Gala.

New Program Director Ryan Rowles holds a Bachelor's of Music Education degree from California State University Northridge and two Master's degrees (M. Ed., M.A.T.) from Grand Canyon University. Mr. Rowles—whose work has focused on the use of arts standards to promote the development of the whole student—has spent 15 years teaching music classes for K-12, conducting ensembles and mentoring student-teachers.

On November 4, ETM-LA hosted its 7th Annual Benefit Gala. Supporters from the music, film and education communities gathered to honor legendary Academy Award®-winning composer John Williams and music teacher Linda Mouradian at the Skirball Cultural Center. The biggest stars of the evening, however, were perhaps the music students of the ETM-LA program playing an arrangement of Williams' "Dry Your Tears, Afrika" from *Amistad*. Major artists and champions of the cause also presented awards and gave moving performances, including Lynn Harrell (GRAMMY-winning cellist), Michael Giacchino (Academy Award-winning composer), Bing Wang (LA Philharmonic Associate Concertmaster), and Deborah Borda (CEO & President, LA Philharmonic).

For more information, visit [www.etmla.org](http://www.etmla.org).

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