

# SOUND-OFF

Quarterly news from Education Through Music

## Expanding Support for Teachers

### *New Tuition Reimbursement Initiative Enhances Existing Professional Development*

Education Through Music is developing the talent of its teachers through programs and resources that deepen their knowledge and enhance their skills. ETM offers programs that support teachers' professional development ensuring their long-term success.

#### **Music Teacher Academy**

Education Through Music hosted a two-week, intensive training program in August at the Children's Lab School (P.S. 343) in Queens for K-12 music

educators, including general music specialists and ensemble directors, in preparation for the new school year. Program highlights include workshops led by Liz Rose, Grammy Award-winning hit songwriter, and Peter Boonshaft, professor of music at Hofstra University.

Every year, prior to the start of school, ETM holds a professional development workshop as part of its year-long Music Teacher Academy. ETM's Music Teacher Academy incorporates targeted training, professional

development and ongoing mentoring services to reinforce its commitment to providing the highest quality music instruction. Throughout the school year, ETM offers evening, full-day and afternoon workshops that explore

*"Attracting and retaining  
the very best teachers  
is core to our mission  
of providing high-quality  
music education at our  
partner schools."*



*Teachers Erin Giacinto (left) and Gina Pemberton collaborate during the keyboard unit at the August Music Teacher Academy.*

best teaching practices and innovative teaching strategies ensuring music is an indispensable part of its partner schools' culture and identity.

"At the heart of ETM's partner school program are our music teachers. We are proud to offer valuable professional development training and mentoring services that ensure our teachers have the tools and resources to be successful educators," says Katherine Damkohler, Executive Director of Education Through Music. "Our Music

education  
through **MUSIC**  
etm new york



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# Support for Teachers

*Continued from front page*

Teacher Academy brings together the talents and expertise of our school and music professionals to collaborate on new and innovative methods to engage students in the classroom. It is their pedagogy and dedication that makes ETM's model a reality."

Participants at ETM's Music Teacher Academy are given instruction on implementing ETM's comprehensive and sequential curriculum that aligns with national, state and local standards, including the NYC Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts. ETM teachers are held to the highest education standards and are measured against the New York City Department of Education's Measures of Student Learning assessment as well as ETM's own benchmarks.

ETM's Music Teacher Academy is offered to ETM teachers and is also attended by New York City Department of Education teachers. Teachers who have attended ETM professional development programs report a stronger sense of community among their music-teacher peers and greater job satisfaction. Many teachers found that their discourse with colleagues during ETM trainings was one of the most valuable elements to the professional development program.

"I really appreciate the time ETM devotes to my professional development," comments Khristine Raymond, music teacher at PS 91 in the Bronx. "I love that I am a part of a network of dedicated music teachers who come together throughout the school year to collaborate and share ideas about music strategies."


**New Tuition Assistance Program**

Education Through Music is excited to introduce a new education incentive program for its teachers returning to New York City classrooms

this school year. Participating teachers will receive up to \$5,000 tuition reimbursement annually to further their professional credentials. Full-time ETM teachers are eligible to participate in the tuition assistance program.

ETM encourages its music teachers to pursue graduate-level study in music education to enhance their knowledge and skills, as well as increasing their successful long-term employment at an ETM partner school. ETM's tuition assistance program is equivalent to a full semester's tuition for those teachers enrolled in a New York State graduate school program.

The new tuition reimbursement program will provide another opportunity for ETM teachers to develop and maintain the highest standards in teaching music education. "Attracting and retaining the very best teachers is core to our mission of providing high-quality music education at our partner schools," explains Katherine Damkohler. "With teacher shortages and declining enrollment in teaching preparation programs, investing in our teachers' future is more important than ever. Incentives like tuition reimbursement and our professional development program are just some of the ways ETM attracts and retains the top notch teachers who are at the core of Education Through Music's partner school program."

Anyone interested in joining Education Through Music as a music teacher may visit <http://etmonline.org/about/employment> to apply for a position and to learn more about the tuition assistance program. 

## Partner School Sponsored In Memory of Vinod Vemuri

A group of young professionals is sponsoring a new ETM partner, PS 277 in the Bronx, in memory of their friend Vinod Vemuri who passed away at age 25 on December 30, 2014. The funding goes toward running the school's music program for the 2015-2016 academic school year.

Puja Dave, a close friend of Vemuri, contacted Education Through Music about sponsoring an ETM partner school to pay tribute to Vemuri. Vemuri's closest friends wanted to celebrate something Vemuri cherished most—music.

"Education Through Music reflects Vinod's life, demonstrating the value music can have on a child and how music can influence and drive them," said Dave.

Music played an instrumental role in Vemuri's development as a young man. As a child, music helped Vemuri focus his attention and encouraged his academic growth. Throughout his life, Vemuri was a talented musician and in college, a passionate member of a dance troupe.


Many of Vemuri's friends were public school teachers who saw first-hand how indispensable arts education can be in giving students the motivation to succeed both in

school and in life. Dave and a group of Vemuri's friends decided to hold a fundraiser this spring to sponsor one of ETM's partner schools in Vemuri's honor.

It was important to Dave that the funds raised were used to establish a relationship with a school that Vemuri's friends can help grow into a thriving music program. The group will visit PS 277 later this fall to witness the impact of their generosity on the lives of the students at the school.

Dave's plan is to continue to advocate for ETM while fostering the growth of the music program at PS 277, commemorating the life of her dear friend. She shared, "Vinod lives on through the people he touched during his incredibly short time; he will forever be missed."

Dave's dedication to promoting one of Vemuri's most important interests is an inspiration and an indicator of the life-changing power of music education.

To learn more about sponsoring an ETM partner school, contact ETM's Development Department at 212-972-4788 or [development@etmonline.org](mailto:development@etmonline.org). 




*Vinod Vemuri had a passion for music as a child, that continued as he grew older. His friends remember his passion by sponsoring ETM partner school PS 277 in the Bronx.*


## ETM Welcomes Two New Board Members

ETM welcomes Howard Epstein and F. Morgan Rodd, Jr. to the Education Through Music Board of Directors.

Howard Epstein is a long-time friend of ETM. He is the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Kari-Out Company. Epstein discovered his passion for the piano well after his school years. "My life has been filled with good fortune and opportunity. Now it is time to give back."

F. Morgan Rodd, Jr. is a venture capitalist and partner at Milestone Venture Partners, a New York-based fund. Rodd has a strong commitment to supporting education, and he's seen first-hand the impact of music education programs with his own son. 

## In Memorium: Thomas Sobol

ETM friend, supporter and Advisory Committee member Thomas Sobol died September 3, 2015 at the age of 83. Mr. Sobol was Scardale superintendent of schools and later, New York State commissioner of education. With his wife Harriet Sobol, he is the co-author of two books, *Your Child in School K-2* and *Your Child in School 3-5*, and he has published many articles. Mr. Sobol served as a valued member of ETM's Advisory Committee, and we are grateful for his service. 



# Country Music Association Brings A-list Stars to ETM Students & Teachers



*Keith Urban speaks with ETM students, teachers and staff. Urban performed live on the Today Show, and invited ETM students and teachers to the performance. Urban donated 20 guitars to the ETM program.*



*ETM students and teachers were invited to a VIP section on the Today Show Plaza to see Keith Urban perform.*

The CMA Foundation provided Education Through Music students, teachers and staff with a number of extraordinary opportunities to meet, interact with, and see country music stars perform over the past few months. Musicians Keith Urban, Kelsea Ballerini and Kip Moore all provided performances, interactive meetings and donations to support Education Through Music.

## **KEITH URBAN**

ETM students, teachers and staff arrived before the crack of dawn on Friday, August 7, 2015, to attend a taping of the Today Show, where CMA Foundation Ambassador Keith Urban performed live. A special VIP area at the front of the stage provided access to the ETM entourage, which could easily been seen on TV with bright purple shirts featuring the ETM logo.

Urban also donated 20 of his signature Urban Guitars for use with ETM's partner school programs.

## **KELSEA BALLERINI**

Teachers and staff were invited to see Kelsea Ballerini perform on September 9 at Bryant Park. Earlier in the day, Ballerini had been nominated for two CMA Awards, and had served as a host of the nomination announcements, along with Steven Tyler. After her performance, Ballerini

met with ETM teachers and staff, and signed a Bohemian guitar to auction.

## **KIP MOORE**

A third experience provided an opportunity for ETM teachers to meet and speak with singer and songwriter Kip Moore at the Iridium in New York City on September 21, 2015. Moore also invited ETM teachers to see him perform at the Iridium. 🎸



*ETM students from MS 566 show off their new Keith Urban guitars. Urban donated a total of 20 guitars to ETM partner schools.*





*ETM partner school teacher Ian Kanakaris, songwriter and CMA Board Member Brett James, ETM Teacher Kyle Quirion, ETM Teacher Julia Stacom, singer and songwriter Kip Moore, ETM teacher Jessica Hazelton and Jaren Johnston, lead singer of The Cadillac Three. Kip Moore performed for ETM teachers at the Iridium.*



*Country music sensation Kelsea Ballerini performed for ETM teachers and staff, on the same day she received two CMA Award nominations. She also signed a unique Bohemian guitar for a charity auction to benefit ETM.*

## Country Music Hall of Fame Provides Songwriting Program with Grammy-Award-winning Songwriter Liz Rose

The Country Music Hall of Fame, based in Nashville, Tennessee, provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for ETM students at MS 566 in the Bronx to write and perform an original song, under the direction of Grammy Award-winning songwriter Liz Rose. The students worked with

Rose via Skype to compose the song and write the lyrics, and then she visited the school in-person to practice the song.

The students performed the original song, "Everybody's Perfect," at the "All for the Hall" gala in New York City on October 6, 2015, which supports the

Country Music Hall of Fame.

ETM music programs expose students to a wide spectrum of music, including country music. "I like country music because of the tone of it," one student said. "It's kind of like reggae, but it's different because it's more calming." 🎸



*Grammy Award-winning songwriter Liz Rose performs with students from ETM partner school MS 566 in the Bronx.*



# Reaching More Students

*Education Through Music continues to expand its footprint in New York City*

Over the years, ETM has worked tirelessly to offer music education to inner-city students across the city. Today, ETM's program is enriching the curriculum of schools in all five boroughs of New York City. In the 2015-2016 school year, ETM added 12 new schools increasing its roster to 48 partner schools, serving over 25,000 students every week.

Among the list of schools, several have been partnering with ETM for nearly 20 years, including PS 68 in the Bronx and St. Ann in Manhattan. ETM is grateful to its longstanding partner schools and we welcome our new schools as they embark on exciting new school year.

## 2015-16 Academic Year ETM Partner Schools

### MANHATTAN

P.S./M.S. 7 (K-8)  
St. Ann (K-8)

### BROOKLYN

P.S. 75 (PreK-5)


### QUEENS

P.S. 110 (K-5)  
P.S. 154 (K-5)  
P.S. 175 (K-5)  
P.S. 213 (PreK-5)  
P.S. 244 (PreK-3)  
P.S. 343 (The Children's Lab School) (PreK-K)  
St. Thomas The Apostle (K-8)

### BRONX

P.S. 8 (K-5)  
P.S. 42 (K-5)  
P.S. 43 (K-5)  
P.S. 48 (K-5)  
P.S. 64 (4-5)  
P.S. 68 (K-5)  
P.S. 72 (K-5)  
P.S. 76 (K-5)  
P.S. 87 (K-5)  
P.S./I.S. 89 (K-8)  
P.S. 91 (K-6)  
P.S. 96 (K-5)  
P.S. 103 (K-5)  
P.S. 109 (K-5)  
P.S. 169 (K-5)  
P.S. 179 (K-5)  
P.S. 182 (K-5)  
P.S. 195 (PreK-5)  
P.S. 277 (PreK-5)  
P.S. 294 (K-5)  
P.S. 357 (PreK-1)  
P.S. 359 (K-3)  
P.S. 369 (PreK-5)  
P.S. 392 (PreK-1)  
P.S. 481 (PreK-K)  
P.S. 483 (PreK-K)  
P.S. 567 (PreK-3)  
P.S./M.S. 194 (K-8)  
P.S./M.S. 498 (K-8)  
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I.S. 181 (6)  
M.S. 355 (6-8)  
M.S. 529 (6-8)  
M.S. 566 (6-8)  
St. Anselm (K-8)  
St. Angela Merici School (PreK-8)  
St. John's School (PreK-8)

### STATEN ISLAND


P.S. 39 (PreK-5) 

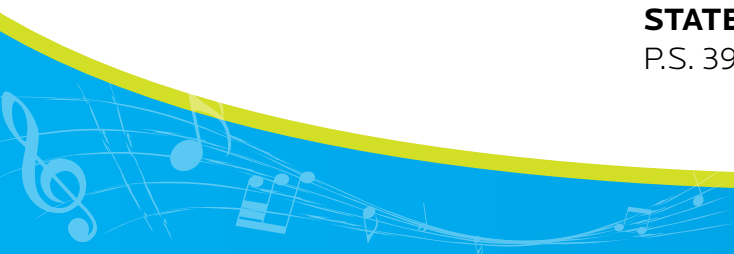
# Join the Music Teacher Alumni Association

Education Through Music launches a new Music Teacher Alumni Association to connect current and former ETM teachers who have taught at its partner schools over the last 25 years.

As ETM successfully implements its program at its partner schools, ETM music teachers "graduate" to in-house teaching positions at those schools. ETM is proud of the fact that each year the New York Department of Education hires roughly six ETM music teachers. The Music Teacher Alumni Association keeps ETM teachers connected through reunions, special events and professional programs designed to foster continued partnership and collaboration.

Music teachers Leah Potteiger, Jessica Parr, and Kevin Heathwood, who have taught at ETM partner schools for many years, will be leading the formation of the new group.

To learn more about the benefits of the Music Teacher Alumni Association, contact [info@etmonline.org](mailto:info@etmonline.org) or call 212-972-4788. 



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ETM thanks the following donors for their generous contributions between June 20 and August 31, 2015. If you wish to join this list, please return the enclosed envelope, call 212-972-4788 or visit [www.ETMonline.org](http://www.ETMonline.org) to donate.

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