

SOUND-OFF

Quarterly news from Education Through Music

Children's Music Composer Jim Papoulis Composes Piece for 2015 Children's Benefit Gala



The 2015 Education Through Music Children's Benefit Gala will feature the world premiere performed by ETM students of a song written by children's music composer Jim Papoulis. "Music Makes Me," is a contemporary, inspirational composition that celebrates the benefits of music education, and how music helps to develop children into well-rounded learners.

At last year's gala, students performed another piece by Papoulis, "Oye." While working in Mexico composer Jim Papoulis had the opportunity to work closely with young children from economically challenged areas. The children spoke little English but were easily reached through the music and rhythms. When the composer asked them if they had a message that they would

want to convey to the world in their song, their answer was very simple: to listen. The translation of "listen," or "listen up," is "Oye." This seemed like a wonderful, easy word to sing, and "Oye" is a result of those experiences.

"Music Makes Me" is the first piece Papoulis has written specifically for Education Through Music, and a portion of royalties from the piece will go to support ETM partner school programs.

Papoulis' work with Martha Wash earned him two top spots on the Billboard Dance charts, with "Listen to the People," and "Feel the World Dancing." Current projects include work with Aretha Franklin, Maroon V, Shania Twain, the Moscow Philharmonic, and the London Philharmonic.

This year's ETM Children's Benefit Gala will be held on Monday, June 8, 2015, at Capitale in New York City. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit:

www.ETMonline.org/2015gala. 



Students perform "Oye" by composer Jim Papoulis at the 2014 ETM Children's Benefit Gala. Papoulis has composed a new song, "Music Makes Me," that will premier at the 2015 ETM Children's Benefit Gala.

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ETM Associates Hold Annual Fall Benefit Concert

The ETM Associates, a group of young professionals who support ETM through fundraising events and initiatives, held the third annual fall benefit concert at Rough Trade, a record store and nightclub in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The evening featured performances by Jennah Bell, J Period, and the Dust Rays, and raised over \$10,000 to support ETM programs in New York City.

Thanks to the event sponsors and raffle donors: Luke's Lobster, Sweet Green, Slow & Low, Creme Yvette, Between the Bread NYC, Illegal Mezcal, Six Point Brewery, Dos Toros Taqueria, Brooklyn Winery, BAM, Off the Wall, Laundry Puppy, Franny's, Electric Picks, Grain Audio, Massage Williamsburg, Verboten and The Guggenheim Museum.

To learn more about the Associates, visit www.ETMonline.org/associates. 

Right: Attendees enjoyed food, drink, music and fun.

Bottom right: Jennah Bell performs.

Photos by Alyssa Blumstein




New ETM Board Member and Advisory Committee Members

ETM welcomes Aidan Fitzmaurice to the Board of Directors. Aidan is a co-founder of Brandtone (www.brandtone.com) a digital marketing company delivering consumer engagement marketing campaigns for major household brands. Aidan is a lifelong musician from a musical family.

In addition, Gloria Reuben and Dante DiLoreto, both long-time ETM supporters who are philanthropically engaged and visible in the entertainment community, have joined ETM's

Advisory Committee.

Gloria Reuben (www.officialgloriareuben.com) has been a friend to ETM for over a decade. Gloria is well-known as a film and television actress and is also very active as a recording artist – singing is her first passion.

Dante DiLoreto was ETM's Honoree at the May 2011 Gala and has remained involved and active with ETM since. Dante is a noted television and film producer known especially for executive producing *Glee* and *American Horror Story*. 

Teacher-Parent Choir Takes Off at Bronx PS 91

Education Through Music has 37 partner schools—many with at least one choir, and all with a focus on teacher and parent involvement—but having a choir made up of teachers and parents is a first!

Melanie Silvernail, an ETM music teacher at PS 91 in the Bronx, runs the choir, which rehearses on Tuesday afternoons for one hour each week. The group is only in its first year but has already given two concerts. Silvernail cites principal Ms. Nasjletti and assistant principal Mr. Caroccio as driving forces behind the idea to get the choir started. Ms. Nasjletti has always loved the arts, and at one time was even a backup singer for Vanessa Williams, while Mr. Caroccio also sang professionally before becoming a school administrator.

Silvernail says of the choir's beginnings, "Ms. Nasjletti thought that teachers needed the ability to show their artistic sides and came up with the idea. Parents got involved as a way to become more active in the school community." The choir currently consists of thirteen teach-

ers and two parents, but the group hopes to attract more parent involvement as the year goes on.

As the choir director, Silvernail teaches the parents and teachers the same concepts the students are learning. She says, "At the beginning of the year, teachers were telling me that they didn't know half of the musical ideas and vocabulary that their students were learning. I thought it would be wonderful to not only teach my students the curriculum but to also teach the adult choir." Some recent songs have included the classic "Lean On Me" and a new holiday song that student choirs were also singing, called "We Wish You a Happy Holiday"

Silvernail says that many of the teachers came into the choir saying "I'm not a good singer." She told them, "Join the choir and I'll prove you wrong—anyone can improve." She reports that after a few months of practice, the members have really bonded through sharing this musical experience and the group is sounding beautiful together! 🎵

Podium Time for ETM Teachers

Throughout the school year, ETM provides professional development to ETM music teachers, including "Podium Time," an opportunity for music teachers to share best practices and exchange pedagogical approaches under the guidance of ETM Program Staff. Music teachers are invited to present a 15-minute mini lesson to a group of students whom they have never met, all while being observed by their colleagues. ETM program staff members lead group discussions with all teacher participants at the end of the evening. In addition, each lesson is video taped, analyzed, and evaluated to strengthen each teacher's practice. 🎵



ETM Music Teacher Andrea Palma leads a class of elementary school students through a music lesson as part of ETM's "Podium Time."

Runners Needed!

Run the NYC Marathon and Support ETM

Education Through Music has secured a limited number of spots in the 2015 TCS New York City Marathon, through the Community-Level Charity Program.

Be a part of Team ETM! Run the TCS New York City Marathon on November 1, 2015, and help raise money to support education for disadvantaged children. Each runner commits to raising at least \$2,500 for ETM; this can be satisfied through a combination of personal donations, donations from family and friends, company matching donations and others.

We make fundraising easy for you by providing you with the tools you need to raise dollars toward your commitment goal:

- Customizable personal fundraising web page to send to family and friends.
- Fundraising resources (sample letters, fundraising ideas, tips, etc.)
- Dedicated staff to provide professional fundraising guidance.

All members of Team ETM will have access to the Tier 1 program of NYRR's Online Training Program.

For more information, or to sign-up, visit www.ETMonline.org/marathon. 🎵



ETM Partner School Concerts Bring Holiday Cheer

This holiday season ETM's partner schools presented winter concerts, showing off their new musical skills to family and their school communities. The students had been preparing for the concerts for over two months, and the preparation showed—all songs were performed from memory, and many included multiple dance moves or rhythmic clapping or percussion instrument patterns. The songs ran the style gamut from waltzes to hip hop to polka with many schools singing pieces in both English and Spanish.

The students came dressed in their holiday finest; some choruses were a sea of red, white, and green shirts, while others featured singers looking spiffy in dresses and vests and ties. Many songs included handmade props, such as paper gingerbread men and antlers; percussion instruments like rhythm sticks and jingle bells; and fun costume items like top hats and silly "mouse glasses."

There were definitely some future conductors in a few schools' choruses—several singers got so caught up in the music that they couldn't help but wave their arms in time with the beat of the song—and we saw some enthusiastic dancers as well! A few songs stood out as real student favorites: "Penguin Polka," "Blitzen Boogie," "Hip Hop Elves," "Mousie in the Snow," and "I Want to Be an Elf" left singers smiling, while "A Kitty for




Students at PS 498 in the Bronx perform for their school's holiday concert.

a Present" had parents and other family members laughing out loud at the line "If I can't have a kitty for a present, I will take a chicken."

Many students who participated in concerts this holiday season were singing in a chorus for the first time this school year, and for many, this marked their first experience with music education. That these students were able to learn so quickly speaks both to their hard work in class and to the strength of ETM's teachers and teacher training program. New ETM Bronx partner school PS 89 students seemed to really enjoy singing with teacher Christine Raymond while dancing and clapping in time to the music and, for "Penguin Polka," proudly sporting handmade paper penguin vests. Other new partner schools PS 91X, PS 109X, PS 179X, PS 369X, PS 531X, Saint Angela Merici

School, PS 325K, PS 244Q, and PS 343Q presented equally enthusiastic programs, and returning schools sounded wonderful as well; all students succeeded in getting us in the holiday spirit!

Teachers and students alike are looking forward to building on the skills emphasized in the winter concerts to prepare for their spring concerts in the coming months. We can't wait to hear what they have in store!

To schedule a time to visit an ETM partner school and see the music program in action, email us at info@etmonline.org. 





PS 169 has been an ETM partner school since 2009.



PS 357 students show off their dance moves in "A Gift for Santa." This Bronx school is in its second year as an ETM partner.



PS 72 is in its fifth year as an ETM partner school.



A partner school since 2013, MS 566 is one of five middle schools partnering with ETM in 2014-15.



PS 182 is one of 26 ETM partner schools in the Bronx.

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ETM thanks the following donors for their generous contributions to our annual fund and to specific program areas between Sep. 1, 2014 and Jan. 20, 2015. If you wish to join this list, please return the enclosed envelope, call 212-972-4788 or visit www.ETMonline.org to donate.

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MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015

6:30 pm

Capitale, 130 Bowery, New York City

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.ETMonline.org/2015gala

