

# SOUND-OFF

*Quarterly news from Education Through Music*

## New Summer Professional Development Program Supports 50 ETM Teachers

A new ETM Academy Retreat held in Cleveland and Oberlin College, Ohio, on August 10 -15, 2013, brought together over 50 ETM teachers for intensive summer professional development. The workshop was made possible by a grant from the Nord Family Foundation.

"A key component of the Education Through Music model is to provide students with the best teachers possible," said Katherine Damkohler, executive director of Education Through Music. "Through professional development, we

ensure that teachers are learning the best practices in education, and maintaining and building their skills. We are so grateful to the Nord Family Foundation for supporting this workshop."

Over 50 teachers participated in the workshops, including ETM teachers from New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Cleveland and the local surrounding area. Training was provided by Education Through Music program staff, as well as music education experts from the Cleveland area. Planning and preparation for the workshop

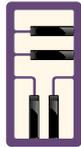
was led by Program Director Peter Pauliks. Lesson planning, grade-level benchmarks, curriculum mapping, classroom structure and management, integration, and assessment were all covered by ETM program staff Nicholas LaFleur, Meryl Cullom, David Wilson and Catriona O'Dwyer.

Percussionist John Owens of Cleveland presented a drumming workshop. Teachers also met with Dr. Laura Joss and Dr. Herbert Marshall, professors of music education at Baldwin Wallace University.

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*ETM teachers participate in a drumming workshop as part of an ETM Academy Retreat held this summer in Cleveland, Ohio. Photo: Jason Atkinson*

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# ETM Summer Academy Retreat

*Continued from front page*

The Ensemble workshop, led by Dr. Joss, provided the opportunity for the teachers to conduct, and then receive critical feedback to improve their teaching methods.

Teachers also were provided with the ETM Resource Guide. The newly-updated Guide provides grade-level benchmark guidelines for teachers, ties learning to Common Core standards, and ensures the highest quality of learning for ETM students. Several sessions were provided to the teachers to demonstrate how to implement activities in the classroom, for both early childhood and middle grades.

Teachers also had the opportunity to enjoy a trip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. A short

workshop was held at the museum.

The teachers who participated in this new professional development rated it extremely highly. "This experience has been so valuable," shared one participating teacher in a workshop evaluation. "The things we have experienced were very applicable and pertinent to our every day teaching lives."

"I feel much more prepared to teach a general music class for the first time," shared a new ETM teacher.

"I learned so much about the craft of teaching - not only through the programs and sessions offered, but also through being surrounded by so many fantastic and inspiring teachers, 24 hours a day," shared another teacher. 📱



**Top Left:** The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was enjoyed by ETM teachers during a field trip.

**Top Right:** Teachers watch a presentation during one of the workshops.

**Bottom:** ETM Teachers were exposed to five days of professional development workshops this summer as part of the ETM Academy Retreat.

## ETM Students from PS 103 Perform at Country Music Awards Announcements in Times Square

Students from PS 103 in the Bronx performed at the annual Country Music Association's Awards press conference, as part of the announcement of nominees, in Times Square on September 10, 2013.

The students opened the announcements at the Best Buy Theater with the song "Home" by Dierks Bentley. Last year, the country music artist visited the school and met with students.

Following the high-profile performance by the students, the nominee announcements were made by singer Sheryl Crow and the popular duo Florida Georgia Line. 📺



*Students from PS 103 in the Bronx are joined on stage by ETM program staff, and musicians Florida Georgia Line and Sheryl Crow.*

Photo courtesy of the Country Music Association

## ETM Associates Host Second Annual Benefit Featuring Questlove

The ETM Associates, a group of young professionals who support ETM with events and fundraisers throughout the year, held a second annual benefit event on Wednesday, October 22, featuring DJ Questlove. The event was held at Converse Rubber Tracks Studio in Brooklyn. The event raised nearly \$10,000 to support ETM programs in New York City.

The event included a VIP pre-party with a VIP tour of the Converse Rubber Tracks studios, a performance by DJ Questlove, followed by DJ Figgy, a raffle, and a photobooth.

Co-chairs for the event were Associates members Dan Zaccagnino and Divya Jayachandran.

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*ETM Staff members Kristen Pappas, Gordon Green, Leslie Gordon, and David Wilson with ETM teachers Leah Potteiger and Tom Conti-Carroll at the Questlove event held by the ETM Associates.*

## Peter Cincotti Performs for ETM Fundraiser



*Singer-songwriter Peter Cincotti performed at ETM's fall Fundraiser.*

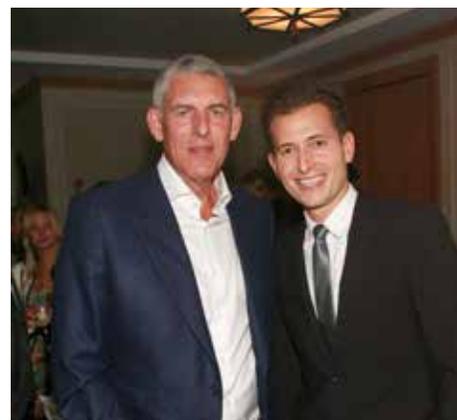
On September 23, 2013 Education Through Music hosted a private event at 15 Central Park West to introduce our program to a new group of friends and supporters. ETM was also proud to use the evening as an opportunity to acknowledge the support of some of our loyal patrons. The evening, an intimate cocktail party, included a brief introduction of the program by ETM's Chairman of the Board, Michael Schaefer, and a performance by singer-songwriter Peter Cincotti.

The event was hosted by ETM Board Member Karen Karlsrud and her husband Raymond Mikulich, as well as Cristina and Chris Cuomo, Julianna Margulies and Keith Lieberthal, and Sting and Trudie Styler, among others. The event was attended by some of New York's most prominent philanthropists, financiers, and arts advocates, including former CEO of Recorded Music for Warner Music Group Lyor Cohen, Co-Chairman of

powerhouse music group Downtown Records Terence Lam, Vanity Fair correspondent Amy Fine Collins and socialite Ghislaine Maxwell.

Before performing a medley of songs, Mr. Cincotti captivated the room as he spoke of his experience visiting MS 180 in the Bronx—an ETM partner school. Mr. Cincotti shared that he was impressed by ETM's comprehensive music education program at MS 180, which includes use of a music technology lab that enables students to have a more hands-on music-making experience. The best part, however, Mr. Cincotti, remarked was hearing from the students who were curious and thoughtful, and asked questions about his background in music and life as a musician.

It was evident to Peter after his visit, he stated, that ETM's music program was helping to shape and change lives, and creating a vibrant school community that is nothing short of "inspiring." 🎵



*Singer-songwriter Peter Cincotti with music executive Lyor Cohen.*



*ETM Board member Karen Karlsrud with Ghislaine Maxwell.*



*Amy Fine Collins of Vanity Fair.*



## Seven New Schools Partner with ETM

In an effort to increase the number of students we serve, Education Through Music continues to expand its New York City Partner School Program. ETM has added seven new partner schools, and helps provide music instruction to over 15,000 students in 28 schools in New York City during the 2013-14 school year. The new partner schools include: PS 42, PS 294, PS 357, PS 359 and MS 566 in the Bronx and PS 154 and PS 175 in Queens.

As in the past, the process of selecting new partner schools has involved finding engaged principals who support music education and its role in a child's academic career. Young schools like PS 294, PS 357 and PS 359, in particular, seek to introduce a high-quality music program that can grow and develop alongside their schools, and create a school community that values the arts. These schools currently plan to add 1-2 grade levels each year until they reach capacity.

In addition, to these new partnerships, ETM has launched elective band programs open to students in 5-8th grade at three returning partner schools: PS 103 in the Bronx, PS/MS 007 and St. Mark the Evangelist, both in Manhattan.

"ETM is thrilled to continue to expand our model to reach more students," says Katherine Damkohler, Executive Director of Education Through Music. "We look forward to both implementing the model at new partner schools and building sustainable programs at our returning schools." 

## Stamford, CT School District Utilizes ETM for Professional Development

On August 22, ETM Director of Programs Peter Pauliks, ETM Field Supervisor David Wilson, and music teacher Leah Potteiger led a full-day professional development workshop for approximately 50 K-12 music teachers in the Stamford Public Schools District in Stamford, CT. The professional development workshop, "Striking a Chord with the Common Core," focused on examining and incorporating the Common Core Learning Standards into music curriculum. Former principal of ETM Partner School St. Thomas the Apostle, Cathleen Quinn also joined the workshop to help present an overview of the Common Core and to provide a principal's perspective.

The workshop provided teachers with concrete examples, strategies and working-group sessions that explored how to integrate the Standards into music lessons without compromising musical aims. The Common Core requires teachers to use close reading strategies, for example, which can be easily incorporated into music lessons. When a music teacher presents a class with a score and asks her students to independently draw information from that score they are engaging in a close reading exercise. Rather than providing students with extensive background information, the close-reading approach requires students to build on past lessons and to dig for information and meaning from the text provided.

In addition, teachers were able to see a Common Core-infused lesson, as demonstrated by Mr. Wilson and Ms. Potteiger, and were asked to blow a siren whistle whenever a technique was used. For the lesson, a piece of repertoire "Dansi Na Kiumba" was

used—chosen specifically because it could easily be adapted to different grades and lesson objectives. Teachers were also shown an example of a lesson that lacked Common Core techniques to help emphasize the differences. "By the end of the activity, teachers demonstrated a better understanding of how the Common Core is already present in much of what they do," stated Pauliks.

While the Common Core marks a pedagogical shift in teaching, particularly in Math and English Language Arts, the skills and expectations outlined are achievable through music instruction. The workshop, thus, also helped teachers to develop strategies so that they can be advocates and build support for music education at their respective schools. The workshop helped teachers to articulate how their lessons help reinforce key academic concepts and support learning in other areas. In groups by grade level, the teachers gathered to synthesize the workshop's different sessions by creating "word walls" with cross-curricular words like "sequence" and to create lesson plans so that they had something tangible to use for the upcoming school year. "Teachers felt very empowered by the end of the day and the feedback was extremely positive," said Pauliks.

ETM would like to take these types of professional development workshops on the road more often as there is a lack of professional development available to music educators across the country, and hopes to expand its consulting and advisory efforts over the next few years. 

## Cardinal Dolan Visits St. Ann School

On October 16, his eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, visited ETM Partner School St. Ann in East Harlem. Cardinal Dolan's visit was part of an initiative by the Inner City Scholarship Fund (ICSF), which provides tuition assistance to students, to highlight a thriving inner-New York City Catholic school community. Under the direction of ETM Director of Programs Pete Pauliks and with accompaniment on piano by Field Supervisor Catriona O'Dwyer, St. Ann's seventh and eighth grade students welcomed Cardinal Dolan with a performance of "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother."

During his visit, Cardinal Dolan thanked Principal Josephine Cioffi for her dedication to the Catholic tradi-

tion of educating the whole child. Following the students' performance, Cardinal Dolan remarked: "Sister Josephine is a sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary—and it is evident that there is a lot of heart in this school." Sister Josephine then cited Education Through Music's involvement as a testament to the school's commitment to advancing both students' academic achievement and their personal wellness.

St. Ann School has partnered with Education Through Music since 1997 to ensure that every child in grades pre-Kindergarten through eight receives the general music instruction they need to be creative, compassionate and critical thinkers. The program has grown to include

additional enrichment opportunities including a special choir and a string orchestra for students in 4th-8th grade, which have performed at benefits for ETM and ICSF, among other community events. 



**Above:** Cardinal Dolan and St. Ann Principal Josephine Cioffi watch as students in the ETM program perform.  
**Left:** ETM Program Director Peter Pauliks conducts ETM students at St. Ann's.

## Joshua Bell Connects ETM to the Miss America Organization

ETM Board Member, and Grammy-Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell, who served as a judge at this year's Miss America pageant, will serve as a liaison in the coming year, to utilize his partnership with the Miss America Organization to help raise support for Education Through Music. The new partnership was announced at the pageant on September 15th, with the crowning of the new Miss America 2014 Nina Davuluri. As part of the partnership, Education Through Music will involve Miss America in helping to raise awareness for music education as part of a core curriculum which enhances students' reading, writing, researching, art, speaking and other skills. Miss America will visit an ETM technology lab which enables students to create music, and will participate with ETM students in a new PSA campaign "Music Taught Me..." 



## Israeli Chamber Project Performs for Students at MS 180 in the Bronx

Members of the Israeli Chamber Project (ICP) performed for MS 180 students in the Bronx on October 16, 2013. Performing for the students was three members of the ICP: pianist Assaff Weisman, clarinetist Tibi Cziger and violinist David McCarroll. The Chamber musicians per-

formed Bela Bartok's *Contrasts* for clarinet, violin, and piano.

Prior to the performance for the students, the musicians explained the concept of how a chamber group does not have a conductor, so the group of musicians must rely on other cues to keep them playing together.

After the performance, several groups of MS 180 students played for the ICP. The ICP members then provided pointers and feedback to the students for the best ways for the students to improve, both as individual musicians, as well as how to perform better in a group.

"We are very excited to welcome the Israeli Chamber Project to perform and meet with students," said Katherine Damkohler, executive director of ETM. "Performances and interactions like these help to expose our music students to a wide range of musical experiences."

The school visit by the Israeli Chamber Project was coordinated by ETM Board member Richard Bernstein. 



*The Israeli Chamber Project performs for students at MS 180 in the Bronx.*

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and a  
**singer.**”

