

Education Through Music



VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2

USING MUSIC AND THE ARTS TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

WINTER 2008-2009

Student Concerts A Success!

December was filled with the sounds of student performances. For many children at ETM's new partner schools, this was their first ever opportunity to perform in front of an audience. For others, the concerts have become something to which they look forward each year. ETM asked three teaching artists to share their experiences in preparing and producing the winter concerts.

Racquel Borromeo, PS 121, Bronx:

PS 121 had a very successful winter concert. Highlights included *Canon* (based on *Canon in D*) by combined general and special education classes, 3rd-graders who just began recorder this year playing a hip-hop arrangement of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, and 4th- and 5th-graders singing and accompanying themselves... they are natural instrumentalists! Just like the parents and faculty members, the kids were amazed that they did [so much] by themselves. I've heard more parents asking about middle schools where their children can continue to study music.

Dan Blankinship, PS 155, Manhattan:

I wanted to expand beyond the typical repertoire while remaining appropriate to the spirit of the season. With the ground-breaking election of Barack Obama on everyone's minds, I decided to include a few politically-oriented songs and titled our presentation *Winter Concert: A Season of Change*. As we had done a unit on rock 'n' roll in the fall, I included two Beatles songs and one Bob Dylan song. And so as not to miss out on the holiday spirit, we threw in *Blue Christmas*, as performed by Elvis Presley, and the hip-hop classic *Christmas in Hollis* by Run-DMC. I incorporated more instruments into



*Students at PS 38 eagerly await their performance.
For more concert photos, see pages 4-5.*

this concert than ever before, including handbells, recorders and Orff instruments. I was really happy with how the teachers encouraged their students to dress up for the show: the classes doing the Dylan song tie-dyed shirts especially for the occasion, and the classes doing the Run-DMC made up some gold glitter necklaces, a little homemade bling if you will. They brought the house down as the concert closers.

Ulises Solano, St. Athanasius, Bronx:

Our principal hoped to have a program around the theme of generosity, and we kept coming back to the idea of

performing *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. The school librarian, Gisella Scheera, is a trained singer and stepped into the role of Amahl's mother, and the other roles were sung by students. The school was blessed with a donation of Orff instruments, so I was able to arrange large Orff ensembles and choruses. The kids have been greatly motivated by what they were able to accomplish. Parents have called the school and talked about how much they enjoyed the concert... They were impressed their kids could do an opera. Some parents said they always dreamed to see a live opera, but never had a chance or the money to afford it; *Amahl* gave them that chance. For me the biggest satisfaction was how much the kids have learned to appreciate and love classical music since I began working at the school. In January, I taught the 5th grade a Bach piece on recorder. Instead of the anticipated skepticism, I heard comments like, "Wow, this is so beautiful," and, "This is cool."

For more from these teaching artists, visit www.ETMonline.org.

Marilyn Horne Joins Advisory Committee

World-renowned mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne joined ETM's Advisory Committee in February. The singer, who has performed in approximately 1,300 recitals over her 50-year professional career, has become familiar with ETM over the past decade due to the educational activities of the Marilyn Horne Foundation.

As part of its broader mission to encourage, support and preserve the art of the vocal recital, the Marilyn Horne Foundation's educational activities

include providing concerts by young singers and pianists to a number of ETM's partner schools each year. Children are prepared before each concert and have an opportunity to ask questions of the artists. These have proved valuable experiences to introduce ETM's students to art songs and classical singing.

ETM has enjoyed collaborating with the Marilyn Horne Foundation since 1999, and we are thrilled to have Marilyn Horne take on this new role with ETM.

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In Memoriam

Stephen Herx

ETM Director of Programs from 2004-2008

Stephen Herx, ETM's Director of Programs from 2004-08, passed away on January 7th at the age of 49, after a long battle with cancer. He was surrounded by family and friends.

During his time with ETM, Steve devoted himself especially to training, supervising and mentoring our teaching artists, as well as supporting classroom teachers and developing curricula and resource materials. He continued to stay in touch with ETM following his resignation last June.

Steve studied voice at the Mannes College of Music, received his BS summa cum laude from SUNY-New Paltz and took Master's courses in Public Administration at Baruch College. Additionally, he wrote three influential articles on the

life and career of Polish soprano Marcella Sembrich (1858-1935), which were published in *Opera Quarterly* (Oxford University Press) and *Record Collector* (London).

At the family's request, ETM has created "The Stephen Herx Fund," which will support selected projects at ETM that were important to Steve, primarily related to teaching artist training. Donations may be made to "Education Through Music" with "The Stephen Herx Fund" indicated in the memo or other accompanying instructions.

We will miss Steve immensely and are so grateful for the time we had with him and for his dedication to strengthening ETM's programs.

Walter Handelman

ETM Board Member from 1991-2009

Walter J. Handelman, a valued member of ETM's Board of Directors, passed away on February 2nd at the age of 77. He was elected to ETM's Board in 1991, the year of ETM's founding, and had served as an officer since 2000, in the roles of 2nd Vice-Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Walter ran a private law practice in White Plains,

NY. He also kept up his music by playing clarinet in the Westchester Band.

Walter provided valuable assistance to ETM over the years, tapping on his legal expertise, his vast experience in serving charitable, religious and other non-profit organizations, and his love for music and education.

We are grateful for his guidance and good spirit. He will be missed.

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ETM Welcomes Five New Board Members

ETM's Board of Directors has five new members, thanks to elections at its past two meetings. Anthony Lo Cicero joined the Board in September, and Matthew Carolan, Richard Davies, David Stiepleman and Katy Weinberger became Directors in December.

Anthony F. Lo Cicero is an attorney at the intellectual property law firm Amster Rothstein & Ebenstein in midtown Manhattan. Mr. Lo Cicero has a wealth of experience in all areas of intellectual property law, including patent litigation and counseling, trademark and brand protection and enforcement, and providing intellectual property expertise to varied industries. He has served as lead counsel on behalf of a number of major corporations. In addition to actively practicing law, Mr. Lo Cicero lectures frequently. He is a graduate of Polytechnic University and Brooklyn Law School.

Matthew A. Carolan is a Marketing Communications Coordinator. In his spare time, Mr. Carolan is a freelance musician and an adjunct philosophy teacher at the Suffolk County Community College

and at Dowling College. He has a master's degree from St. John's University and Fordham University, as well as a bachelor's degree from St. John's University.

Richard P. Davies is Assistant General Counsel at World Headquarters for Avon Products, Inc., where he focuses on corporate transactions, corporate governance and compliance. He received a B.A. from Brandeis University and a J.D. from the University of Southern California.

David E. Stiepleman is a Managing Director and Deputy General Counsel of Fortress Investment Group. He received a B.A. from Amherst College and a J.D. from Columbia Law School.

Katy L. Weinberger is a Senior Brand Manager at Colgate-Palmolive Company in Manhattan. In her spare time, she volunteers with NY and NJ Cares and plays the oboe. She received her bachelor's degree in German from the University of Michigan, and a master's degree in Business Administration and Marketing from the University of Illinois.

ETM Students Perform at Co-op City Event Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.

Students from ETM partner school PS 68 were invited to perform at New York City Councilman Larry Seabrook's Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Luncheon in Co-op City in the Bronx.

After seeing PS 68's students perform selections from their Holiday Concert, Councilman Seabrook requested that the school's chorus and string players perform "We Shall Overcome" at the January event. Nearly 1,000 people attended the luncheon, including Senator Charles Schumer, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, City Comptroller William C. Thompson Jr., City Councilman John C. Liu, and boxing promoter Don King, who gave the keynote address. Mr. King was so impressed by the students' performance that he immediately made a \$2,000 donation to PS 68 in support of the program.

ETM thanks Councilman Seabrook for inviting the students to perform, Don King for his generous contribution, PS 68 principal Cheryl Coles for her commitment to music education, and the children for their hard work and their performance.

News and Highlights

- ♦ ETM was the subject of a story on Weekend Today in New York with Lynda Baquero on Dec. 20. Part of the *Visiones* series that airs every Saturday, the segment featured Teaching Artist Gwendolyn Dorell's 1st and 2nd grade music classes at PS 102 in East Harlem. We thank Gwen, Principal Sandra Gittens, and everyone at PS 102 for their support.
- ♦ ETM partner schools' holiday concerts were featured in a number of

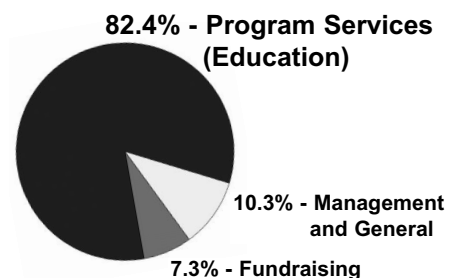
neighborhood publications during December, including the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and The Bronx Times.

- ♦ The Marilyn Horne Foundation continues to sponsor concerts at ETM's partner schools. This year, the concert programs are aligned to the 5th grade curriculum. Singers and pianists have already performed at PS 43, PS 69 and PS 76 in the Bronx, and PS 102 in East Harlem. Four other partner schools will receive concerts this spring.

2007-08 Financial Statements Available

ETM's Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 2008, are available. Please contact our office to request a copy.

Expense ratios for the year were:



Students Share Excitement, Enthusiasm and Skills at Winter Concerts



Teaching Artist Josh Fleischmann conducts students at P.S. 38 in East Harlem.



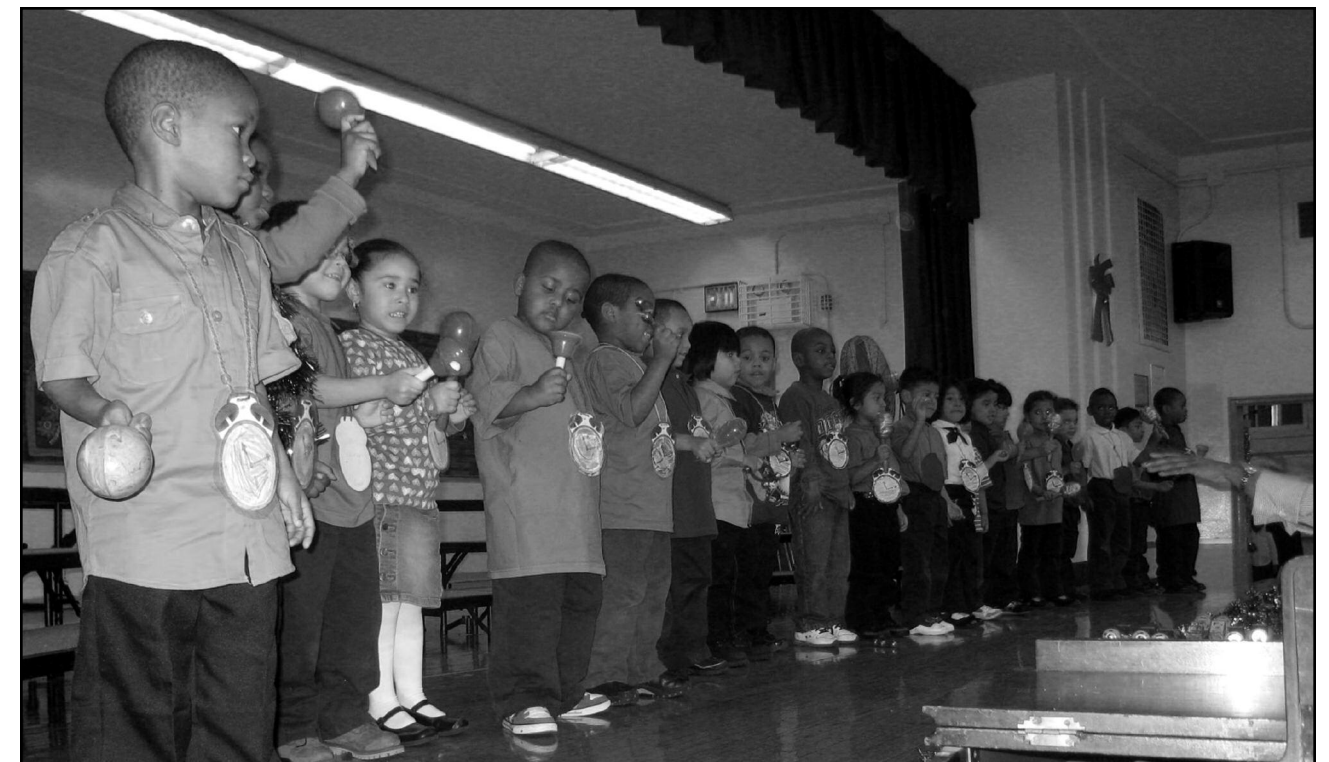
Teaching Artist Jennifer Byers conducts student singers and violinists at the Bronx's P.S. 69.



St. Mark the Evangelist School's students are clearly excited to be performing in Harlem.



St. Brendan School students in the Bronx keep their eyes fixed on their conductor, Teaching Artist Phil Tambakis (not pictured).



Students at East Harlem's P.S. 102 inspire the audience with their rhythm skills.

2008-09 Annual Fund Supporters

ETM thanks the following donors for their generous contributions to our annual fund, as of February 28, 2009.
If you wish to join this list, please return the form on page 7, or visit www.ETMonline.org to make your donation.

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ETM Associates Host Wine-Tasting Benefit



ETM Associates Steering Committee Members Jeremy Halbridge, David Munczinski, Kristin del Rosario, Charlie Ballard, Sarah Keh, and Jennifer Goff.

On January 27th, the ETM Associates hosted their first benefit of 2009 at Moore Brothers Wine Company. Over 50 guests sampled wines and chocolate and helped support ETM's program at PS 256 in Brooklyn,

the Associates' adopted school for the 2008-09 school year.

ETM thanks Moore Brothers, Purple Cow Truffles, Gold Star Trading Corporation, and the ETM Associates for making the event possible.

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