

Spring 2015

MUSIC matters

Quarterly News from Music for Minors



What Does Success Look Like?

In early May, the Music for Minors staff and Trustees came together in an annual retreat to reflect, confirm, and coalesce around a number of organizational priorities. The event was a huge success and we all left the day feeling even more excited and inspired to forge ahead. I'd like to share key results with you from one of our most important conversations:

What does success look like?

Not surprisingly, the three separate discussion groups came up with success indicators that overlapped. The list speaks so well to the great work we are already doing and what we look toward in the future, as well as the essence of true team spirit to make it all happen. Success for Music for Minors:

- The children we reach are enriched, confident, continue to engage in music, and have a love of music forever
- We are the top choice for music education by parents, schools, districts
- Our curriculum is considered the gold standard
- We attract the highest talent in educators, managers, leaders
- We continue growing in numbers served

- We have staying power; sustainable programs
- We build a sense of community in everything we do
- Donors consider us the best place for giving
- We receive high-level endorsements

As I write, I'm reminded of an accolade from one of our district stakeholders...that she considers Music



Our guiding vision is the belief in a world where all kids have music at school.

for Minors to be a thought-leader in the industry. With your continued partnership, we plan to build further upon this strong foundation to bring comprehensive music programs to many, many more children. Thank you for supporting our vision and believing in our success!

Saja Palmer

**To learn more or make a donation:
Contact us at 650.237.9130 or visit
www.mfm.org.**

Our Mission:

To nurture in children a lifelong love of music by providing quality music education programs in schools with our trained volunteer and professional educators.



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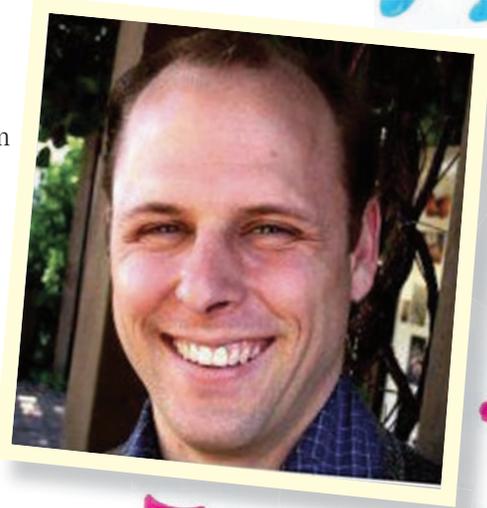


Welcome Ben Taylor!

We are excited to introduce Ben Taylor as our new Education Director. “I thrive on work that requires positivity and a collaborative spirit, and I enjoy developing a team dynamic that allows everyone to accomplish and sustain a high level of achievement,” says Ben. “I am eager to help Music for Minors, our educators, and all of our students reach their fullest potential.”

Ben comes to us from 10 years at the Santa Rosa Symphony where he most recently served as Director of Education. He is experienced in the design and implementation of a wide range of educational activities for youth, adults, partner schools, teachers, and young musicians. Ben has also developed music curriculum, supervised teaching staff, and worked directly with students at the Symphony as well as in community choruses and churches. Ben’s teaching

has included vocal and instrumental performance, composition, theory, and songwriting with children as young as seven. Ben is also a composer in his own right, with a Master of Music in Composition, and has written works for many different genres from rock and jazz to chamber music. We congratulate Ben on a time of new beginnings... he and his wife are proud parents of Seamus Patrick Taylor, born May 10th.



Donor Spotlight: Mike English

Support comes to Music for Minors in many ways. Your generous gifts of funds as well as volunteer time and expertise are invaluable as we work together to bring more music to more children. One dedicated supporter is talented graphic arts professional, Mike English, who contributes countless pro bono hours to ensure that we always look our best. Since 2010 he has been the person behind the design of our communications and marketing materials. Mike brings his 40-year background providing numerous consumer and high-tech businesses with his creative services. To name just a few, his clients have included Apple, Clorox, Convergent

Technologies, 24-Hour Nautilus Fitness Centers, Volvo, Porsche Cars North America, and Snap-On Tools. Throughout his career, Mike says that he has most enjoyed developing graphic materials for music and theater groups. “The people involved at Music for Minors are always vibrant, motivated and excited to do the best they can. They are well prepared, know exactly what they want, and are always a pleasure to work with,” Mike comments, “And they seem to appreciate having someone who knows his way around the design process.” Mike’s support for the arts has also involved Midsummer Mozart Series, Chamber Music San Francisco, Theater on San Pedro Square (San Jose), and Bay Area Choral Guild. After 30 years in the Bay Area, Mike now lives with his wife Pam in Truckee.

“I’m very lucky to have found my association with Music for Minors, and value it highly,” Mike concludes, “As long as they want me around, I’m happy to help with whatever I can.”



Sonja visiting with Mike on a recent trip to Tahoe.

Excellence in Teaching

We are hearing from principals and teachers that the greatest value of Music for Minors—along with an outstanding curriculum and strength in program management—lies in the excellence of our educators. They are an exceptional team who bring extensive teaching backgrounds, as well as a deep knowledge and love of music into the classroom each week. With an impressive array of credentials and postgraduate degrees, many of them are also teaching artists. Amongst our educators are professional vocalists, drummers, bassists, violinists, clarinetists, guitarists, songwriters, pianists, an award-winning conductor, and even a harpist. At the close of each school year, we acknowledge and celebrate our full group of 65 music educators. We also pause to honor two who have been especially inspirational:



Lisa Perry Grace Johnston Award:

In Recognition of Exceptional Service Nurturing in Children a Lifelong Love of Music

Lisa has been a passionate volunteer music educator at Adelante Spanish Immersion School in Redwood City for over five years. She initially sought to enrich her own children's education, but has continued to demonstrate her commitment by bringing music to all kindergartners at the school. In addition to her much-anticipated Chinese New Year lessons, complete with a dragon parade, this year Lisa directed a group of students in performing at the school's annual fundraiser, Fiesta on the Hill. Lisa's positive attitude and high energy make her classes a favorite with students and teachers alike. Her spirit of fun is contagious and makes Music Day the Best Day for all.

Ariel Estébez G.G. Fitzmaurice Award:

In Recognition of Exceptional Leadership and Professionalism in Music Education

Ariel has been teaching for Music for Minors since 2011. During her first year, Ariel commuted to her classrooms on a bicycle, rain or shine, carrying a backpack overflowing with percussion instruments. Although she has since acquired a car, her dedication is still apparent. An avid teacher, professional vocal performer, and Glee conductor, Ariel shares her passion for music with enthusiasm and dynamism. In fact, the demand for the Glee program was so tremendous that the school added another grade. One classroom teacher sums it all up by stating, "Ms. Ariel continues to be an inspiration. We enjoy every single class session and the learning progress of the students is exceptional!"



What Classroom Teachers Are Saying...

The Music for Minors program helps to build a love for learning in school.
—Kindergarten teacher, Foster City

There are many students who would never otherwise have the opportunity to experience music in a learning environment. I have a few kids that are in Special Education or having other difficulties, and they come out of music with a happier disposition to face the day.
—2nd grade teacher, Sunnyvale

My students learned to work together to create something wonderful. They also developed an appreciation for music from other cultures.
—3rd grade teacher, Redwood City

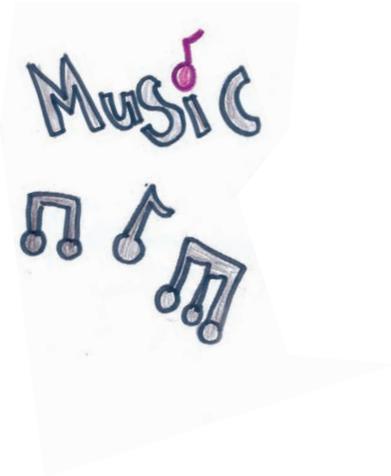
Even my most quiet, shy students were singing and moving to the music by the end of the year. A definite confidence booster!
—1st grade teacher, San Jose

The Music for Minors program is not only enjoyed by our children, but is something the community has requested for many years. Since the start of this program, we are seeing positive influences in improved academic performance and school engagement of all our students. Thanks to all those who have contributed to our Title 1 school being able to have music. I would like to see it continue as it is not only enrichment, but a necessity.
—Michelle Reghitto, Principal,
Terrell Elementary School, San Jose



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Your Dollars at Work...

Every \$50 gift brings a year of music to one child. Every \$1,500 gift brings a year of music to an entire classroom. We underwrite all of our music education programs from 10 to 100 percent, depending upon need. While PTAs and education foundations contribute what they can afford, additional funding is necessary so that schools can retain music or start new programs. Your support makes these music programs a reality for our children.