

# MUSIC matters

Quarterly News from Music for Minors



## Our Mission

To nurture in children a lifelong love of music by providing quality music education programs in schools.



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[www.facebook.com/MusicforMinors](http://www.facebook.com/MusicforMinors)

## Angels of Music

It's been many years since I first heard her exquisite voice but its beauty still resonates. I'm honored to announce that my colleague and dear friend, Lisa Vroman, is this year's Music for Minors Celebrity Sponsor, and that she will be performing at our Carnival fundraiser on February 6th. Though most well-known for her role as Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera*, her voice will be heard throughout the year amplifying our shared vision of music for all children.

This mission is close to Lisa's heart, given the importance of music education in her own life as a child, with her family, and still today. She is as committed to the highest quality in musical performance as she is to ensuring high quality music education in schools. Indeed, Lisa is an inspiration.

Lisa is among many Angels of Music in our midst... from schools giving music a vital place in the curriculum, to parents insisting that music be made available to their children, to our educators who bring passion into the classroom every day, and finally, to donors who give so generously year after year to ensure that nothing stands in the way of *all* kids receiving music as part of their education.

Because of you, music education is gaining momentum. More children are experiencing music at school than

ever before. This year's developments include:

- Expanded music education from 24 to 30 weeks of instruction in the San Carlos School District.
- Inclusion of our first schools in the East Bay: Moraga School District.
- An additional 3,000 students reached through a pilot test with the Oak Grove School District, licensing our curriculum delivered by district music teachers.



Lisa Vroman with the Evansville Children's Choir

You, our donors, are supporting core programs in 800 classrooms benefiting a total of 23,000 children today. You are guides and guardians of music education, and your continued and deepened support will keep the music playing and further its reach for years to come. Thank you for being Angels of Music!

*Sanja Palmer*

To learn more or make a donation:  
 Contact us at 650.237.9130 or visit  
[www.mfm.org](http://www.mfm.org).

# Season of Giving

In this holiday season, we appreciate your keeping Music for Minors in mind! The gift of music is a gift that lasts a lifetime. Donations are welcome (online at [www.mfm.org](http://www.mfm.org) or via mail to 1100 Industrial Road, Suite 10, San Carlos, CA 94070), and we would also love to see you at Carnival in Vienna on February 6th! Here are other paths to consider:



## Buy a Subaru

We have been selected as Carlsen Subaru's Hometown Charity for the 2015 "Share the Love" event. For every new vehicle purchased or leased during this period (November 19–January 4), Subaru will donate \$250 to the purchaser's choice of participating charities.

## Town Crier



## Holiday Fund

## Give to the Los Altos Town Crier Holiday Fund

We are honored to be included in a special group of local nonprofits benefiting from this seasonal campaign, now in its 16th year. Your participation can help make this its most successful year ever! [latcholidayfund.org](http://latcholidayfund.org)

## Look into Employer Matching Funds

You might have the opportunity to double your donation to Music for Minors! Many Bay Area employers provide matching funds for their employees' charitable contributions. Check with your human resources department for more information.

**We would like to say a special thank you to Ceci Ogden**

outgoing Director of Development and Communications, for her exemplary work and undying dedication for over a decade—contributing so deeply to the impact Music for Minors is having in thousands of lives. From all of us, *thank you!*

## Introducing Amy Bryan

**A**my Bryan brings a wealth of talent, energy, and know-how to her new role as Director of Development and Marketing. "I am thrilled to be joining the Music for Minors team and to be helping champion such important work," she says. "The incredible legacy of this organization is exciting! I'm looking forward to continued growth and new collaborative partnerships that will help us reach even more students and ensure that access to music education is available to every school possible."

You can't help but be moved by Amy's enthusiasm, based on a conviction that grew out of her experience growing up in nearby Sonoma County. She credits her participation in excellent choral music programs throughout high school as being life-altering. Her belief in the power of music to benefit young lives has led her to work with a variety of arts nonprofits, including the San Francisco Boys Chorus, Cazadero Performing Arts Camp, Chanticleer, and The Walden School. Amy's focus has been in the areas of fundraising and marketing. She has been responsible for diverse initiatives, comprising grant-writing, event management, crowdsourcing campaigns, and donor cultivation and relations, as well as communications and marketing strategies and social media management.



## Educator Spotlight

**A**s Music for Minors kicks off an exciting new school year, we would like to present our outstanding group of educators: 65 exceptional, energetic, and dedicated individuals. They bring our mission to life with such vibrancy in over 800 classrooms each and every week. Once again the sound of children singing fills elementary school hallways, along with the steady beat of rhythm sticks, strains of Prokofiev, Mozart, or Copland, and the first uncertain notes of a third grader playing her recorder.

Our educators have advanced

degrees in music and vocal performance; extensive teaching credentials and background; and expertise in such enriching areas as special education, music education, songwriting, children's theater, and dance. We are also excited to have many performing artists in our midst, ranging in genres from funk to classical to hip hop, rock, jazz, and opera. Collectively, their instruments comprise piano, drums, bass, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, violin, viola, and cello.

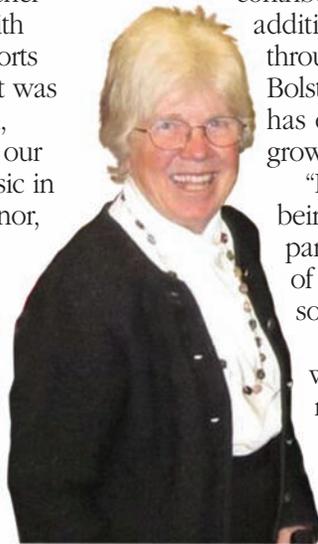
Ben Taylor, Director of Educational Programs, sums it up by saying, "The broad array of experience and talent amongst our educators is a boon not only in the unique ways they bring the Music for Minors curriculum to the classroom, but also deepens our pool of resources in further curriculum development and gives us wonderful opportunities to diversify our training regimen." For detailed educator profiles, visit our website ([www.mfm.org](http://www.mfm.org)).



# Donor Spotlight: Rachel Wagner

Children just light up for music time!" Rachel Wagner recalls her volunteering days with fondness as she explains why she supports Music for Minors. Her early involvement was sparked when she sang alongside Grace Johnston, MFM Founder, in the church choir. Rachel was in our very first group of volunteers trained to teach music in 1976, and her multi-faceted contributions—as a donor, teacher, and Board member—have spanned four decades.

Interspersed with years of teaching music in Los Altos and Menlo Park schools, Rachel had stints living abroad with her family in both Belgium and Germany. Returning to the Bay Area each time, Rachel always re-connected with MFM, lending her talents, time, and dedication to the mission she still holds dear. Developing the Resource Room was a long-term and lasting



contribution she has made, and Rachel took on such additional responsibilities as Board Treasurer throughout a challenging period for the organization. Bolstering Music for Minors through tough times has only increased Rachel's delight in the healthy growth that has followed.

"It's amazing to see how many kids are now being served!" says Rachel, "I am honored to be part of the Music for Minors story and am proud of the tremendous difference we are making for so many families."

"Music for Minors is a special group of people who are giving something unique to the community," she notes. Of course Rachel herself exemplifies this tradition. Thank you for your enduring love of music and children that continues to have an impact on thousands of young lives!



Have you liked the Music for Minors page yet?



Check us out at [www.facebook.com/MusicforMinors](http://www.facebook.com/MusicforMinors)

Calling all former MFM students and volunteers!

We'd love to hear from you and find out what you're up to. Please email us at [alumni@mfm.org](mailto:alumni@mfm.org).



## Announcing our 2015 Celebrity Sponsor: Lisa Vroman

Lisa Vroman is our Celebrity Sponsor for the year, and will be performing at our benefit event on February 6th. From Broadway to classics, on stage and in concert, Lisa has established herself as one of America's most versatile voices. She appears at prestigious venues around the world and will be sharing one special evening with us right here at the Los Altos Golf and Country Club. In addition to her starring role in *The Phantom of the Opera*, Lisa's resume includes principal roles in productions of *Die Fledermaus*, *Les Miserables*, *The Music Man*, *The King and I*, and *Kiss Me Kate* (to name but a few).

Lisa is also using the impressive power of her voice in support of music education. "Every child needs the chance to engage in music," she asserts. She believes that music helps connect us to one another, can build self-confidence, and above all, engenders joy.

A regular guest soloist with theater and opera companies, as well as such symphonies as San Francisco, Cleveland, Seattle, and Hong Kong, Lisa has sung for several U.S. Presidents and for Queen Elizabeth. And she will sing for you!

"If you can attend only one such event this year, this is the one!" urges Trustee Bill Hockett, "This gold standard vocal performer lifts Music for Minors up and beyond the ordinary...I fully expect a sellout."

Treat yourself to Lisa Vroman's stellar performance while enjoying fine dining and festivities with fellow music lovers, all while supporting music education in our local elementary schools. Top it off with an after-party featuring a swinging live dance band, Project Forte.

Tickets available online at [www.mfm.org](http://www.mfm.org) or by calling us at 650.237.9130.



Photo: Michael Blank



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A hand-drawn sign on a white background. At the top left is a small red heart. Below it, the word "LOVE" is written in large, pink, block letters. Below "LOVE", the word "MUSIC" is written in a similar pink, blocky font, but with a more rounded, cursive-like style.

A large, ornate chandelier with many hanging crystals. The crystals are clear and faceted, catching the light. The chandelier has a gold-colored frame. The background is dark blue.

# Join Us!

## Saturday, February 6, 2016

6:00–11:00 PM • Los Altos Golf and Country Club

Tickets available online at [www.mfm.org](http://www.mfm.org)

For more information call 650.237.9130

# Carnival in Vienna

featuring Broadway star, Lisa Vroman

A Fund-A-Need Benefit – Music for Minors