

Fall 2016

# MUSICmatters

Quarterly News from Music for Minors



## Celebrating 40 Years of Service!

**W**e are excited to kick off our 40th Anniversary with the theme, *What does music mean to you?* Whether you are a professional musician or not, I'm sure that music has had an impact on your life. Maybe you sang along with your family on road trips. Maybe you played the clarinet in your high school marching band. Maybe you have season tickets to the opera. Whatever your connection, we know it's meaningful and we want to hear about it!

Over the course of the year, we will be sharing diverse voices with you. You will hear from alumni and current educators, students, parents, celebrities, principals, and other supporters in our Music for Minors community. Our founder, Grace Johnston, will share her thoughts and re-connect us to what we all share... a profound and unshakable belief that music brings us joy. And with that comes the mantle of responsibility to ensure that music be present in our schools. Reaching more schools and children every year has only been possible thanks to your continued generosity. Without even asking, your engagement clearly tells us what music means to you.

I had the pleasure of representing Music for Minors at the recent KDFC Discovery Day at the The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, an event introducing children to classical music. It was heartwarming to see so many families valuing and celebrating music together. I was moved to hear one mother remark, "I've witnessed

the power of music when seeing my daughter hear a violin played for the first time. It brought tears to my eyes!"

And as one of our Trustees aptly observed, "Music is so powerfully intertwined with our emotions and thoughts that a mere couple of bars can send us to heights or depths." Let the music take us into new territory! Whether you get involved in our social media campaign, attend the anniversary gala, support our

### Our Mission

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



*because it is like speaking with our emotions without words,*

One young student's answer as to what music means to her

alumni initiative, or have interest in providing investments for the future, we thank you for your passion for music and for Music for Minors.

*Sonja Palmer*  
Sonja Palmer,  
Executive Director

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

Connect with us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/MusicforMinors](http://www.facebook.com/MusicforMinors)



# Alumni Spotlight: Vicki Reeder

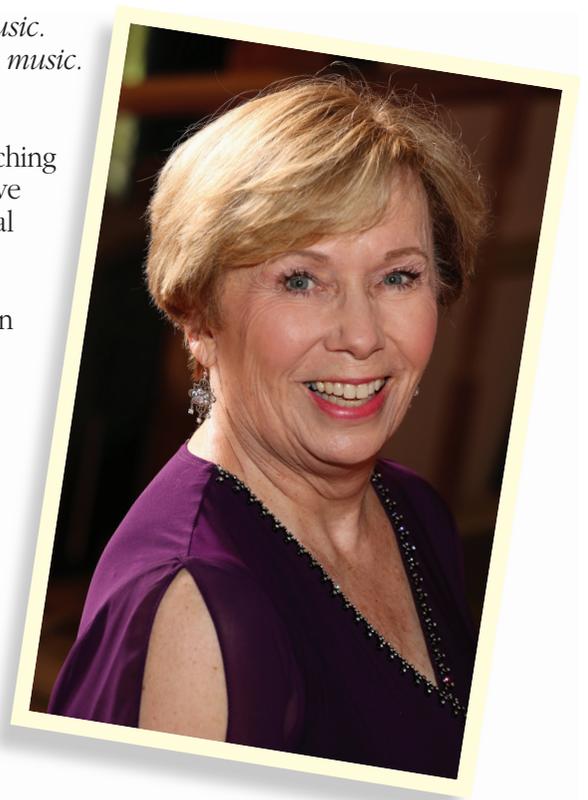
“**M**usic is part of my soul... When I'm in need of support, I go to music. It's so comforting. There's always a song in my brain. I think in music. I feel in music. Music is my happy place. It's poetry to me.”

Alumna Vicki Reeder was in the original class of volunteer educators trained by MFM in 1976. We are re-connecting with her and reaching out to all alumni during this 40th Anniversary celebration. MFM alumni have profoundly touched children's lives through their teaching, planting musical seeds that have grown and blossomed in a myriad of ways over the years. Alumni have also moved on and continued to do amazing things.

After docenting at Almond Elementary School for five years, Vicki's main activities have focused on women's and girls' equality issues and the performing arts. She has been the President of the Board of Bus Barn Stage Company (now renamed Los Altos Stage Company) since 1995. She helped to create, and still writes, directs, and performs in the *Follies*, the theater's annual musical-parody fundraiser.

Among Vicki's early musical memories are tender ones of her father sitting on the edge of her bed singing her to sleep, as well as raucous ones with her family of eight singing their hearts hearts out, squeezed into the station wagon with her godfather's family of four on camping trips. Her grandfather was a musician, her father loved singing jazz standards, and her uncle is still doing gigs at age 90. She grew up loving Ella Fitzgerald and takes voice lessons to this day. She's always felt the music in her heart and expressed it with her own unique spirit. Music is in Vicki's DNA.

How about you? Share your story with us at [alumni@mfm.org](mailto:alumni@mfm.org).



# Educator Spotlight: Kyoko Yamashita

“**M**usic is a basic part of who I am. It brings much happiness and lifts me up whenever I'm feeling down. When I'm stressed, music relaxes me and energizes me when I need it. Only positive things happen when you sing, listen, play an instrument, or dance. Music really is a tool to help you through life. If you have it, it's amazing and wonderful; if you don't, you're so unlucky!”

Kyoko Yamashita is an MFM Super Educator with a special story. Because of her passion for music education, she became a volunteer in her son's class seven years ago. Teaching music was such a good fit for her that she decided to become a professional educator, taking on many additional classes and schools. Today she still wears both hats, teaching four full days a week. Kyoko's continuing dedication has launched hundreds of children on the path to a lifelong love of music.

Growing up in Tokyo, she started piano and percussion lessons in kindergarten, excelled in the after-school Yamaha program, and later sang vocals and played keyboard in a high school pop band. In college Kyoko took up the clarinet and played with a wind ensemble; and for the past six years, she's been singing with the Peninsula Community Gospel Choir.

She naturally brings an affinity for many musical genres as well as a multicultural flair to her classes, not only teaching songs in Japanese, but weaving in the spectrum of languages spoken by her students. She always encourages children to help her teach songs from their own cultures so they can be featured as experts and enjoy some moments to shine.

“Although English is not my native tongue,” says Kyoko, “I'm able to connect and bond with the children through music.”

ありがとうございます

Thank you Kyoko!

We get Excited when  
you Come for music class.  
You fill our hearts and  
we love to sing with you.

-Leo.

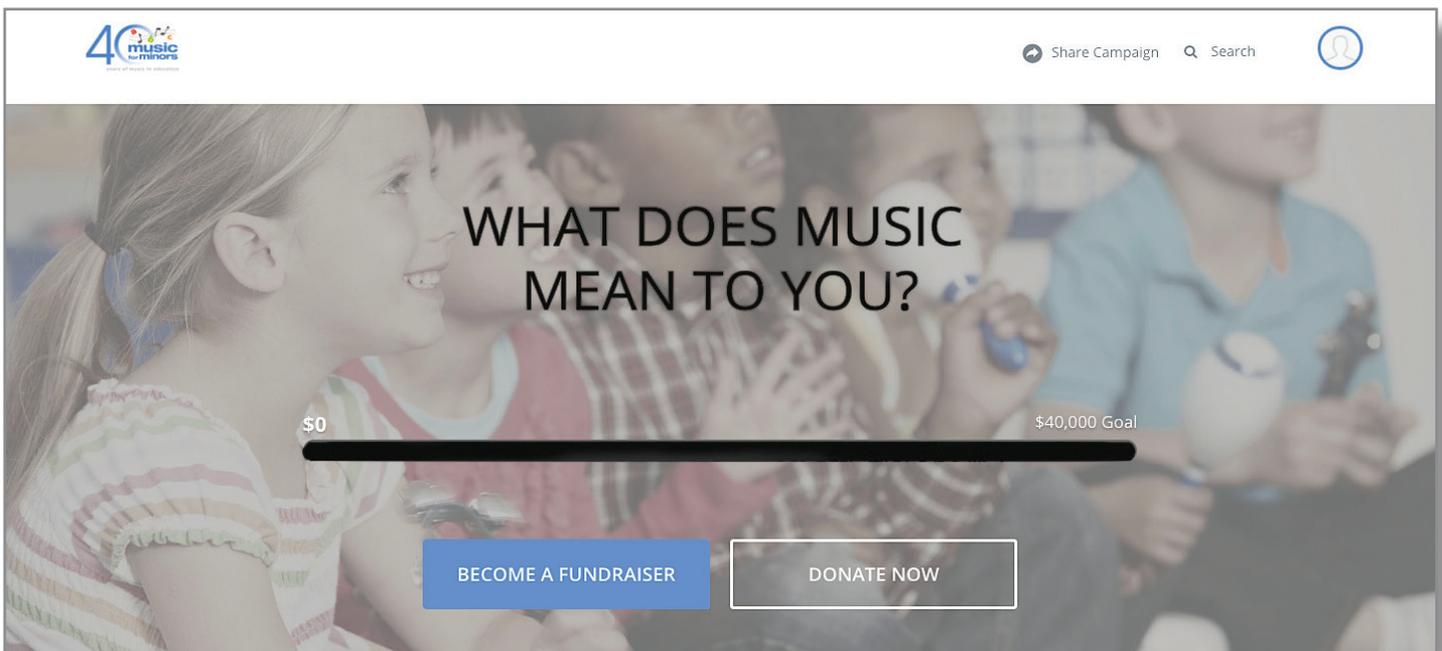


# What Music Means...Pass it On!

**O**n November 15th, we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary by launching our first peer-to-peer fundraising campaign. (What does peer-to-peer mean? Think: Ice Bucket Challenge!) We want you to join us, by setting up a page and sharing what music means to you. There is nothing more inspiring than hearing a personal story. It's a simple, user-friendly process – and our staff is here to help you. Once your page is set-up, you'll be able to share it via email and social media, and your networks will have an opportunity to support you with a donation, or join you by creating their own page, and sharing what music means to them! It's like a musical chain letter – share your story, then pass it on!

We want the message of the importance of music education to spread far and wide, and we need your help to do that. If 100 of you participate by creating a page, think of the reach we'll have! And if 100 more of you participate by making a gift, we will be well poised to meet our fundraising goal of \$40,000 in 40 days for this campaign.

To get started, just [visit \*\*fundraise.mfm.org\*\*](http://fundraise.mfm.org) and follow the step-by-step instructions. It takes less than five minutes to create your page and we will be sending out support messages and helpful tips along the way. You can also email us ([elizabeth@mfm.org](mailto:elizabeth@mfm.org)) with any questions, and we will get you started. We can't wait to hear all of your inspiring messages!



The screenshot shows a fundraising page for '40 music for minors'. At the top left is the logo for '40 music for minors'. To the right are links for 'Share Campaign' and 'Search', and a profile icon. The main content area features a background image of children playing instruments. Overlaid on this is the text 'WHAT DOES MUSIC MEAN TO YOU?'. Below the text is a progress bar showing '\$0' on the left and '\$40,000 Goal' on the right. At the bottom of the page are two buttons: 'BECOME A FUNDRAISER' (in blue) and 'DONATE NOW' (in white with a black border).

## Start Spreading the News

**B**roadway star Lisa Vroman is back! She is returning to help celebrate our anniversary and create a very special opportunity for local students. Lisa and Executive Director Sonja Palmer are teaming up with the San Carlos Children's Theater to audition kids in grades 1-8 to participate in a musical theater review production that will culminate in a performance (with Lisa) at our **40th Anniversary Gala on March 11th**.

"The experience of working with a world-class artist can be life changing," remarks Sonja. "And I'm just blown away by Lisa's enthusiastic, continuing support for the MFM community. Her involvement makes an historic anniversary year even more extraordinary!"

Los Altos Golf and Country Club will again provide the elegant venue, and we hope that you will consider joining us for what promises to be a memorable musical evening.



## Carlson Subaru Rocks

We are honored to have been selected as a Carlson Subaru's Hometown Charity for the 2016 Share the Love event. For every new vehicle purchased or leased from late November to early January, Subaru will donate \$250 to the purchaser's choice of participating charities.



*years of music in education*

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## Save the Date! Saturday, March 11, 2017

Los Altos Golf and Country Club • For more information: 650.237.9130 • [www.mfm.org](http://www.mfm.org)



Celebrating 40 years of transforming children's lives through music