

## **November 2016 Report on the Class of 1957 Music in Schools Initiative**

**'57 Class Members of the Music in Schools Committee:** Peter Capra, Tom Chittenden, Merrill Clark, Rod Correll, Len Katz, Gus Kellogg, Bern Kosto, Malcolm Mitchell, Tom Perkins, Phil Richards, Morris Raker, Don Roberts, Bob Smith, Nick Tingley, Rob Walker, John Watling and Steve Wittenberg

### **New Haven Program:**

#### **Setting:**

- (1) “based on age, educational attainment, and race and ethnicity...the metropolitan area that looks most like the U.S. is New Haven, CT.” from Jed Kolke, Senior Fellow, U. of California, Berkley, Turner Center for Housing Innovation.
- (2) 26% of New Haven residents are under the poverty level, and, an even higher percentage exists in the African American and Hispanic populations.
- (3) Children from poor families tend to be ‘outsiders’. Sometimes their only meaningful group participation is represented by gangs.
- (4) The ‘in school’ portion of the ‘57 Music Initiative offers them not only a skill, but a chance to become ‘insiders’ without having to find out of school travel or to buy uniforms- things they often cannot do. Those who work with them in the music programs feel that this kind of involvement can save lives.

### **School Program:**

- (1) The core of the ‘57 Music Initiative involves ‘teaching artists’. They are graduate music students, also a few undergraduates, who spend 5-10 hours/week teaching in the New Haven Public Schools in collaboration with the public school music teachers.

- (2) Currently 84 teaching artists, (72 Yale School of Music students and 12 undergraduates) serve in 23 schools, (19 K-8, 4 HS). The 72 Yale School of Music students comprise approximately 1/3 of the Schools enrollment. The teaching artists give private and group lessons, coach ensembles, and give a general music education. In addition, they often serve as mentors to the children. In the last few years, the number of teaching artists has doubled, demonstrating the increasing enthusiasm of Yale students for community involvement. Their compensation is from our endowment.
- (3) 350-375 public school students are served each week during school hours. Another 220 are involved in the All City Honors Band, Orchestra and Chorus.
- (4) The All City Honors Ensembles represent a collaboration between the Class of '57 Music Initiative and Yale College. Although these ensembles are open to all New Haven Public School students, 95% of participants have been involved in some way in the the Class of '57 Music Initiative.
- (5) During fall and spring school breaks, there are intensive music programs targeting mostly beginners and involving approximately 100 students each time.
- (6) The total number of students served approximates 1,000, however the total number of students in the New Haven school system including all levels is 21,000. Although one cannot hope to reach all of them, there is more work that can be done. The success, (popularity among students, teachers and principals, as well as effect on attendance, behavior and possibly grades) of the program in the schools that are involved, is serving as a stimulus to others to prioritize music in their schools.
- (7) The '57 Music in Schools Initiative serves as one possible model for bringing music back into public school education.

### **Visiting Professor:**

For the third year our visiting professor is Sebastian Ruth, a MacArthur Fellow and founder of Music Works in Providence Rhode Island, an inner city

program which brings instruments, lessons and concerts to inner city children in Providence R.I. Professor Ruth has prepared a Coursera course entitled Music and Social Action. The course was commissioned by the School of Music using endowment funds and is the first Coursera course mounted by the School. It is available on the internet. He has been teaching the course to Yale students for the last 3 years. In addition to exploring people's innate drive to make music, students explore the philosophy behind music and art's contribution to society. Each student is asked to complete a project which demonstrates music's effect on some part of the community.

### **2017 Symposium**

The class of 1957 Music Initiative includes the commitment to have "a symposium at least every other year, to bring together music teachers, school administrators, public officials, and citizens to discuss how music education may best become an integral and important part of the curriculum of public schools." The first four symposia brought together talented public school music teachers, chosen in a national competition, and offered lectures, workshops and networking opportunities as well as a "Yale Distinguished Music Educator" award. The fifth symposium involved collaborations between an outside organization and a public school or school district. Again, collaborations were chosen competitively and included such known organizations as the Buffalo and Baltimore Philharmonic and the Santa Fe Opera, as well as smaller creative collaborations. With the '57 programs' 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up, it seemed time to try to realize one of the difficult goals envisioned at the inception of the program, namely, creation of a report and plan of action, which could serve as a national guide, toward inclusion of music in the general curriculum. To this end, the symposium will include "music educators, musicians and other arts practitioners, educational administrators, university researchers and those who train music teachers, community activists, foundation leaders, politicians" with hopes of working out a clearly articulated vision for the role of music in a 21<sup>st</sup> century education. A document will be created. It is hoped

that dissemination of such a document from Yale would help contribute to the return of music to the public school curriculum.

## **60<sup>th</sup> Reunion**

On the Friday afternoon of the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion (tentatively at 2 PM), in Sprague Hall, there will be a panel discussion of the Class of '57 Music initiative. The panel will include Michael Yaffe, Associate Dean of the School of Music, Ellen Maust, Arts Supervisor of the New Haven Public Schools, Ruben Rodriguez Ferreira, the Lead Teaching Artist of the '57 Music initiative, a parent of one of the school children involved in the program, a New Haven music teacher and an older student involved in or formerly involved in the program. This will be followed by a class meeting in the same auditorium. After the class meeting we will have a performance by the Music in Schools Initiative children with 29 schools involved and with an opportunity to talk with the children and their parents after the performance.

## **Endowment and Future Growth**

The Endowment is obviously a changing number given the changes in the market and the continued collection of outstanding pledges. The last available figure is from 6/30/16 and is \$6,977,000. The income the School of Music derives from the Endowment is calculated on a 12 quarter rolling average. Last year the Music School's income was \$317,000. This amount goes to pay teaching artists, the Visiting Professor and to fund the every other year symposium. The program is at a financial maximum. The Music in Schools Committee asked the program directors what their wishes would be for increasing the Endowment at the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. The Yale School of Music people would like very much to create a Yale Class of '57 Fellowship to be awarded to a music school graduate who would learn to run such a program as ours and would at the same time serve as a teaching artist. \$500,000 in additional endowment would fund this. With the increasing enthusiasm of the New Haven Public Schools, the Yale School of Music would like to add

additional teaching artists whose presence would allow the program to service more New Haven schools and pupils. Another \$1 million would fund this. Finally the Yale School of Music would like to create videos with stories about children participating in the program. This would be one way to disseminate the results of our program. Another \$500,000 would allow this. Thus \$2 million added to the endowment would help propel the program into the future. To participate, just give the following note with your gift:

Class name: Class of 1957, Music in Schools Initiative

Endowment name: Class of 1957 Music Education Endowment

Endowment number: 15714

### **Summary**

The Class of '57 Music Initiative has become a solid part of both the Yale School of Music's graduate education program and of the New Haven Public Schools' arts program. It is not only here to stay, but continues to grow. It has become a leader in the effort to return music to the general curriculum. An increase in the endowment would allow both an increase in Yale's involvement in the New Haven community and an increase in Yale's leadership in the area of the arts, nationally and even internationally.

It is the strong feeling of all of us involved in the Class of '57 Music Initiative that, to quote Ruben Rodriguez, our Lead Teacher, "music making allows people who have traditionally been marginalized or disenfranchised to come forth from the shadows and to participate in their communities, and it breaks down barriers for those who have not been able to participate in their communities in a safe and joyful way. Through music, we are able to return dignity to deprived individuals and their communities."

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen M Wittenberg MD '57

Chairman of the Class of 1957 Music in Schools Committee