

## April 2014 Music in Schools Meeting

The semiannual meeting of the class of 1957 Music in Schools Committee was held at the Yale School of Music April 28, 2014.

Class of 1957 members included: Peter Capra, Rod Correll, Tom Chittenden, Len Katz, Gus Kellogg, Malcolm Mitchell, Morris Raker-with Jan Wohlberg, Phil Richards, Bob Smith, Nick Tingley, Rob Walker, John Watling and Steve Wittenberg. Although Tom Perkins and Don Roberts could not attend we recognize their ongoing contributions.

The Yale School of Music was represented by Associate Dean Michael Yaffe- Director of the Music in Schools program, Ruben Rodriguez- Lead Teaching Artist in the Program and Kate Gonzales- Assistant to Dean Yaffe.

New Award- The Yale School of Music has established a new award honoring the outstanding teaching artist each year. The award will be “The Malcolm L Mitchell and Donald M Roberts Class of 1957 prize for a graduate teaching artist in the Music in Schools Program”. It reflects Malcolm and Don’s critical roles in establishing the program.

### Work in the New Haven Public Schools

- (1) 33 New Haven Public Schools are involved with MIS in some way
- (2) 20 of these schools are served by ‘teaching artists’- YSM students working 5-10 hours/week in a school teaching everything from individuals to ensembles
- (3) There are currently 47 teaching artists serving 400 students each week- teaching artists receive 2 training sessions before they start and meet with Ruben Rodriguez weekly to discuss their school experiences- they are also observed and even filmed at times
- (4) Public school students who achieve often move to one of the all city ensembles- the numbers below reflect participation by MIS students
  - All City Honors Band- 45 wind ensemble and 29 band students
  - All City Honors Chorus- 47 students
  - All City Honors Orchestra 29 students

## June 2015 Symposium

A symposium is being planned for June 2015. Since Music in Schools success has been in great part due to the unusually well working partnership with the New Haven Public Schools, it seemed time to focus on partnerships between public school music programs and professional music organizations. (high profile examples include Carnegie Hall and the NYC Public Schools and the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Unified School District) Many less visible partnerships exist around the country. Applications for this Symposium will be in pairs, looking for promising partnerships, with a representative from the public and one from the private organization. We will be looking for 35-40 pairs and the workshops will focus on the constituents of successful partnerships.

## Visiting Professor

This year's Visiting Professor is Sebastian Ruth, a MacArthur fellow and founder of Community Music Works, an inner city program centered in Providence Road Island. Professor Ruth is dedicated to the idea that music can serve communities in many ways and his program is breaking conventional notions of the role of art and artists. During the fall semester he taught a course called "Music in Service" and this spring he is teaching a course called "Music and Civil society-Exploring Possibilities". During the meeting he spent an hour with our group and basically gave a mini version of the seminars he conducts with YSM students. He challenged our assumptions about what constitutes art and where art fits into the fabric of the community. I think it is fair to say that all of us were riveted and convinced that he could have a profound influence on the YSM students he teaches.

## Publicizing Music in Schools

Kate Gonzales, a Yale College graduate and assistant to Dean Michael Yaffe has instituted a weekly Music in Schools newsletter which is raising awareness of the MIS program throughout the Yale Community. It reaches Yale University public relations, the

weekly University bulletin, facebook, twitter. Included in the newsletter is an article called Teaching Artist of the Week which profiles Yale School of Music students who serve as teaching artists.

### Evaluation of the Music in Schools Program

Music in Schools has contracted with a couple, Jill and Robert Beck. Jill is a dancer and recently retired President of Lawrence University. Robert is a sociologist. They will study 4 groups of public school students in order to try and assess the influence of MIS on both emotional development and cognitive learning ability of the students. This is a 2 year project and results will hopefully be available by the time of the next symposium.

### Fund Raising

At present, the University funds 50% of the teaching artists work in the schools. This support will be withdrawn over several years because of budgetary restraints. Approximately \$700,000 of additional endowment would be needed to make up this short fall. In addition MIS would like very much to hire another YSM graduate as an assistant to Ruben Rodriguez, the Lead Teaching Artist. This would be a part time position and would require about \$300,000 of additional endowment. Finally, a Class of 1957 room in the new Hendrie Hall dedicated to long distance interactive learning would require another \$1,000,000 in endowment. In summary, \$2,000,000 of additional endowment would go a long way toward assuring stability and allowing exciting extensions of the program.

### Conclusion

Music in Schools is firmly embedded as part of the Yale School of Music. It is having a profound effect on the students who participate. Some graduates have been noted to change their titles to such things as, "clarinetist and teaching artist". Applicants to the school are often excited about the opportunity to reach out and teach in the community. At the same time, there is

increasing, although often anecdotal, evidence of the positive effect of MIS on public school children. We're hoping the ongoing study will help to make this evidence more scientific. We can all be proud of the program.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen M Wittenberg MD