

Project Update Fall 2010

Introduction

Several class members have served on the Music in Schools committee this past year. They are: Tom Chittenden, Rod Correll, Gus Kellogg, Malcolm Mitchell, Tom Perkins, Phil Richards, Don Roberts, Nick Tingley, Rob Walker, John Watling and Steve Wittenberg. Activities have included: (1) a semiannual meeting with Deans Blocker and Yaffe and program manager John Miller in New Haven, (2) work on the music-in-schools portion of the class website, (3) attendance at Music in Schools concerts in the New Haven area and (4) plans for fund raising as the 55th reunion approaches.

2010-2011 Class of 1957 Visiting Professor

The Class of 1957 visiting professor for 2010-2011 is Brian Lewis, the David and Mary Winton Green Chair in String and Pedagogy at the University of Texas. In addition to being a nationally recognized violinist, (actually studied with Dr. Suzuki in Japan), he has extensive experience in community involvement, having worked with literally thousands of children both in the USA and in Japan. Professor Lewis will be at the Yale School of Music 3 days every other week during the fall term and 4 weeks divided up into 3 sessions during the spring term. He will mentor Yale School of Music students who are involved in the program, (33 currently), teach a course on community engagement, (course is already over subscribed with a waiting list), mentor ensembles that do interactive concerts in the public schools and shepherd the string program at Lincoln Bassett school. Several of us had the pleasure of talking with him and watching him coach an ensemble. All of us found him very impressive. He firmly believes that art and music can save disadvantaged children who might otherwise flounder. His enthusiasm is truly infectious.

Activities in the New Haven Schools

John Daniels and Lincoln Bassett continue as the core of the program with John Miller, our overall program manager, concentrating on John Daniels and Professor Brian Lewis on Lincoln Bassett. Olivia Malin, our other program manager, has accepted a full time position as a teacher at the Mauro Sheridan School. She serves as an excellent liaison between the school and the program. The interim, (and we hope permanent), music supervisor in the New Haven Schools is Ellen Maust. She is an enthusiastic supporter of our program and has been a wonderful collaborator.

A new aspect of the public school program involves 8 'teaching artists'. Currently these are Yale School of Music students who are paid hourly and work up to 10 hours/week in various schools with close supervision from John Miller. Plans are underway, if we can raise the funds, for two postgraduate 'teaching artists' to take leadership roles.

The Music in Schools program is involved in one way or another in 23 New Haven and 4 Connecticut schools. The Connecticut schools contract for the program's services. Activities include band and string programs, music and book writing, music and film making and music and art programs as well as collaboration on an All City Chorus and an All City Band. In addition ensembles present interactive music programs at various schools. 12 Yale School of Music ensembles have applied to give these programs. They will be screened and those who are accepted will be mentored by Professor Lewis.

Planned 2011 Symposium

The next Symposium will take place June 8-10, 2011. The all expenses paid program has been extended to 2 days. Attendees will stay in the 'swing area' on the Yale campus, thereby cutting the cost and allowing for more interchange. The two major topics will be: (1) the role of music in the general curriculum - as part of this, a film/music project is underway in collaboration with one of our 2009 Symposium attendees from Oklahoma, incorporating alternating contributions over the internet, as the film unfolds. It will be premiered at the Symposium and will serve as a centerpiece for the 'music in the general curriculum' discussion. (2) the role of 'teaching artists' in public school music education. This could be school of music students, local orchestra members, or other community musicians. The emphasis will be on bringing community resources into the public schools. As noted above, we are already engaged in some of this and hope to expand our program.

New Haven teachers will attend one of the two days and have their own breakout sessions. This will serve to extend the benefits of the Symposium to our own community teachers, while avoiding too much focus on local programs and problems at what we expect to be a national symposium.

Invitations to class of '57 members and school superintendents have gone out. Every classmate should have received, what I hope you will agree, is a very impressive booklet and invitation. Since we had 450 applications for 50 positions two years ago, we anticipate a large response and a healthy competition. 37 states were represented in 2007 and the hope is to increase this up toward 52 in 2011. The application process this time will require direct participation by applicants in addition to recommendations. As follow up to our previous symposia, there has been increasing contact between previous attendees, the Music in Schools program and local, (around the country) interested '57 alumni.

Websites

There are links on both the Class of 1957 and the Yale School of Music websites. The YSM link includes information about the program, film clips of concerts and events. Plans are underway, if funding can be obtained, to develop extensive educational materials for distribution nationally and internationally. The Music in Schools part of the Yale School of Music website already receives 900 hits/day and we anticipate a much larger number as time goes on.

Funding

The value of the endowment as of June 30, 2010 was \$4,165,488. Income available for 2010-2011 is \$211,000. There is a prior year balance of \$166,000 which will be used for the 2011 Symposium as well as savings. There is somewhere over \$500,000 still to come in from pledges.

Summary

The Class of 1957 music endowment has seen steady growth both in concept and in achievement. Involvement in the New Haven public schools has strengthened the relationship between the city and Yale as well as serving as an incubator for pilot programs. The initiative is reaching around the country through Yale School of Music graduates, symposium attendees and the websites. The Class of 1957 has every reason to take pride in its endowment, which, under the skillful leadership of Deans Blocker and Yaffe and program manager John Miller, is making important contributions to public school music education.

Respectfully Submitted
Stephen M. Wittenberg, MD
Chairman Class of '57 Music in Schools Committee
October 15, 2010