

Summary of Music in Schools Committee Meeting 9/25/13

Attending:

For **Yale School of Music** - Michael Yaffe, Ruben Rodriguez and Jessica Johnson.

For **New Haven Public Schools** - Ellen Maust- Arts and Music Supervisor.

For the **Yale Class of '57**- Peter Capra, Tom Chittenden, Rod Correll , Chloe Correll, Gus Kellogg, Morris Raker, Nick Tingley, Rob Walker, Jan Wohlberg and Steve Wittenberg

New Haven Program:

- (1) This past year there were 40 YSM students serving as teaching artists, i.e. working 5-10 hours/week in the New Haven Public Schools with New Haven music teachers. This year the number is increasing to 47.
- (2) The teaching artists worked in 26 schools helping NH Teachers with 32 band/string programs and impacting 375 students weekly.
- (3) In the past few years , in no small part due to MIS, the Number of middle school instrumentalists rose from 1600 to 2600.
- (4) The teaching artists are carefully chosen from those who apply and thoughtfully trained before going into the schools. They are paid \$25/hour with half the cost coming from the University and half from MIS
- (5) The All city Chorus has 65 students, the All City Band 57 and the All City Orchestra 21. These ensembles serve as an opportunity for the more accomplished students to go on with their music.

- (6) The John Miller instrument fund has \$15,000 currently. John's family holds a fund raiser every year which raises approximately \$3,000. In addition we recently received a gift of 3 cellos and 2 violins from Francis Morris Violins in Gt Barrington MA.

Visiting Professor

This year's visiting professor is Sebastian Ruth. Sebastian is a Mac Arthur genius fellow who, after graduating Brown University, founded Music Works, an inner city program in Providence Rhode Island devoted to bringing music to inner city children. Not only do they work out of a store front in the community they serve, they also live in that community. The program is built around a quartet in which Sebastian plays the viola. Their concerts are free, their rehearsals open,. They commission pieces which are meant to appeal to the people in their community. They supply students with loan instruments and teach them individually and in ensembles. Music Works budget has built to approximately \$ 1 million over the approximately 8 years of its existence.

Sebastian's involvement with Music in Schools involves teaching a course at the Yale School of Music entitled Music and Service. The class is 2 hours every Monday afternoon, with pre-class readings and in-class discussion. Approximately 18 students are signed up. I attended a session and came away whirling with ideas. I think Sebastian will be a real inspiration to YSM students, making them think way beyond the isolated world in which many of them live.

2013 Symposium

- (1) The third Music in Schools symposium was held between June 6 (arrival date) and June 9 (departure date) 2013. It thus allowed 2 full days of activities. The subject was the role of music in school reform.
- (2) 50 teachers chosen from 250 nominees represented 28 states. The quality was very high. Our partners, the New Haven public school music teachers also participated as they have in the past.
- (3) Some of the topics included, "School Reform in the Modern Era: Contexts, Responses and the Impact on the Arts" ---"Current Issues in School Reform and Advice for Music Teachers"--- Rehabilitating Sisyphus: Collaboratively Realizing a vision for Music in Learning and Life" ---"Partnership programs in New Haven and Atlanta". The keynote speaker at the awards dinner was Anne Midgette, music critic of the Washington Post. As Before, the teachers chosen were awarded a certificate reading "Yale Distinguished Music Educator" by Dean Robert Blocker.
- (4) A follow-up questionnaire supported the feeling that the program was very successful. I'll quote a couple of comments,

"This was an amazing experience. My head is swollen with information and ideas...I feel this experience will have a profound impact on my teaching and leading. I am overwhelmed with gratitude"

“The symposium was certainly a highlight of my 31 year career and definitely the best professional development I’ve experienced.”

Financial Information

While there was no attempt to solicit further funds from the class of '57 however when we questioned YSM representatives, it was apparent that additional endowment (say another million) could target two goals.

- (1) Training more YSM students to be ‘teaching artists’ and putting them to work in the New Haven Public Schools. There may even be some vulnerability to the current number of teaching artists if the University, due to budgetary restraints, cuts it’s 50% subsidy of each of the teaching artists to e.g. 30%
- (2) Dean Blocker has raised 50 million dollars for the renovation of Hendrie Hall. His goal is \$52 million and he would love to include a class of '57 media room for long distance teaching of public school music students.

Summary

The Music in Schools program has become an integral part of the Yale School of Music. The program continues to have a very unique relationship with the New Haven Public Schools, is committed to exposing Yale School of Music students to the importance of community outreach and to

spreading innovative ideas in music education around the country and perhaps the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen M Wittenberg MD