

Music in Schools Initiative: Ivy Award Dean Michael Yaffe; Rubén Rodríguez-Ferreira; Rachel Glodo

Individuals and initiatives that have helped strengthen and expand town-gown ties were honored at the annual Seton Elm and Ivy Awards reception on April 25, 2018. This year New Haven librarian Xia Feng and educator Judy Puglisi were given Elm Awards. Ivy Awards were presented to **Yale's Music in the Schools Initiative**, Peabody Museum director David Skelly, tennis coach Alex Dorato.

The Music In Schools Initiative was created in the late 1990s when members of the Yale Class of 1957 came together and began a project focused on music education in primary and secondary schools. Based on the values of dignity and inclusion, at its core is the belief that every student should have access to a robust and active music life.

The Initiative has a multi-pronged approach to reaching hundreds of New Haven Public School students both in and out of school time. During the school year, over 60 Yale School of Music teaching artists, in collaboration with New Haven Public School music teachers, lead group lessons for over 400 youth, work one-on-one with individual students, and assist with activities like music theory and ear training. After school, over 200 New Haven students participate in the All-City Honors Ensembles. This program, led by Yale School of Music teaching artists and New Haven music educators, provides opportunities for students to participate in eight different choir, orchestra, and band ensembles which provide public performances at Yale School of Music and New Haven Public School venues.

The Morse Summer Music Academy, an intensive four-week program, convenes over 100 local students at Yale for five hours of daily classes, rehearsals, and lessons. One of the hallmarks of the Academy is its numerous performance opportunities: during the four weeks, Morse students participate in over thirty concerts across Yale's campus and in the New Haven community.

New Haven Public School students and teachers are, and have always been, at the heart of all programming for the Initiative, with mentoring and active music-making permeating every aspect of the shared experiences. The Music in Schools Initiative team understands that these tenets will lead to the outcomes they envision — a sense of personal worth and dignity, respect and tolerance of different points of view, and inspirational and aspirational feelings and goals. The talent, enthusiasm, hope, and joy seen in participating youth and their families have united the many diverse populations of New Haven. In the closing concert of the Morse Academy this summer, Yale University's Sprague Hall was nearly filled to capacity with proud parents and friends all cheering children playing beautiful music on an international stage.



Center left to right: Rachel Glodo, Michael Yaffe, and Rubén Rodríguez-Ferreira receive the Elm award for their work with the Music in Schools Initiative. For sharing the passion and joy of music, President Peter Salovey and Board of Alders President Tyisha Walker-Myers present an Ivy Award to Dean Michael Yaffe, Rubén Rodríguez-Ferreira, and Rachel Glodo who are accepting on behalf of the Music in Schools Initiative.