

October 27 Meeting of '57 Music in Schools Committee

Classmates Present: Peter Capra, Tom Chittenden, Merrill Clark, Rod Correll, Phil Richards, Bob Smith, Nick Tingley, John Watling and Steve Wittenberg

Yale School of Music: Michael Yaffe, Ruben Rodriguez and Kate Gonzales

New Haven Public Schools: Ellen Maust (music and arts supervisor)

New Haven Program:

Ruben Rodriguez spoke eloquently about the program. The numbers include 42 'teaching artists' (YSM students) working in 21 schools and serving over 300 children each week, with more requests both from YSM students and New Haven schools than can be met with the present resources. This year's All City Honors Ensembles have started with 215 New Haven public school students (and counting), in 8 ensembles (band, orchestra and choir). Additionally, they are continuing a program they started last year during the winter and spring school vacation weeks- an intensive week-long workshop for beginner music students in the Fair Haven neighborhood. This year it will expand to the Dixwell neighborhood as well as Fair Haven.

All this involves a great deal of planning and supervision. The program has funded a part time assistant for Ruben, Rachel Glodo (Yale college graduate with a degree in musicology from Northwestern) but more funding enabling additional personnel could help to meet the ever growing partnership between MISI and the New Haven Schools. This partnership,

with its unusual degree of trust is indeed a model for a variety of actual and possible programs around the country.

Ruben spoke about the demographics in the New Haven schools, i.e. 26% under the poverty level, and an even higher percentage in the African American and Hispanic population. The teaching artists are carefully trained and monitored and have basically become real '**life mentors**' for the children. There are many examples of the profound effect that participating in a musical ensemble, "**active music making**" under the guidance of these mentors, has changed the lives of the children and their families. Ruben gave one dramatic example of a child whose parents were drug addicted, and at times incarcerated, yet who, through her musical participation, has done so well that she is probably in line for a scholarship to an elite Ivy League college.

The group also discussed the effect on the 'teaching artists' and Phil Richards suggested a panel for the next reunion focusing on what graduates of the program have done when they left YSM and developed their own programs. Basically, the dramatic effect of the program on both public school children and YSM students gives us many possibilities for potential presentation at the 2017 reunion.

Beck Study:

Rob and Jill Beck completed a 2 year study of the effect of participating in music programs on the life skills of students. Several positive effects were identified and the study has been given to Ellen Maust, the supervisor for music in the New Haven Schools. Ellen has used the findings to help with the professional development of several of her teachers.

2015 Symposium :

This symposium featured partnerships between an outside organization and the public schools. There were approx. 78 applications. 38 partnerships representing 19 states were chosen. Several of us attended the symposium and can attest to the energy, enthusiasm and creativity of the participants. YSM has a particular interest in staying in touch with several of the participants. I have personal experience with a Springfield partnership that was one of the honorees. They have called it the 'best professional experience of their lives' and have launched ideas gleaned at the symposium as well as gotten grants that they feel would not have come without this recognition from the Yale School of Music.

Visiting Professor:

Sebastian Ruth is again teaching his class on Music and Civil Society as well as finishing the first Coursera course to be commissioned by the Yale School of Music. This will be launched in January.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen M Wittenberg MD

Chair- Class of '57 Music in Schools Committee