

Summary of Music in Schools Committee Meeting Oct 22, 2012

Attendees: From YSM -Associate Dean Michael Yaffe and Lead Teacher Ruben Rodriguez

From Yale Class '57- Peter Capra, Tom Chittenden, Rod Correll, Gus Kellogg, Malcolm Mitchell, Tom Perkins, Phil Richards, Bob Smith, Nick Tingley, Steve Wittenberg

I. Follow-up to AYA Award

As you know the Class of 1957 won the AYA's 2011 award for "Outstanding Volunteerism and Leadership" for its Music in Schools program. As a follow-up the Class was invited to designate a classmate to join Associate Dean and Program Director Michael Yaffe in leading a breakout session at the 2012 AYA convention. Don Roberts, who was among the program's originators, and instrumental in the funding of the Endowment, is going to represent the Class at this event.

II. Current Vision of Program

(a) Continue to build on the outstanding relationship between YSM and NH public schools in order to create a model that will hopefully stimulate others nationally

(b) Imbue in YSM students the importance of involvement in their communities- something Dean Blocker calls "cultural leadership"

(c) Train interested student to become 'teaching artists' who can work effectively with public school music teachers

(d) demonstrate the relevance of music to the general curriculum

III. Current New Haven Program

(a) This fall 45 YSM students are serving as 'teaching artists' in the NH public schools, each working approx 5 hours/week. The program pays them for this work.

(b) These 'teaching artists' have undergone intensive training to maximize their impact in the schools

(c) An additional 25 Yale undergraduates volunteer 1 hour/week under supervision

(d) 32 public schools asked to be included in the program this year as opposed to 12 last year

(e) Ruben Rodriguez, the lead ‘teaching artist’ has spoken with the parents of the public school students to make them aware of MIS offerings and to point out what similar music training would cost if obtained privately

(f) There is now an All City Honors Chorus, an All City Honors Band and an All City Honors Orchestra, all of which will perform at Sprague Hall on May 11, 2013

(g) Whereas in the past All State competitions were almost completely dominated by suburban children, there is now a significant contingent from the NH public schools. These are students who were trained in the MIS program

IV. Collaboration with Outside Organizations (not discussed in any detail at the meeting)

Both the Yale School of Music and the New Haven Public Schools have noticed that outside organizations (New Haven Symphony, Neighborhood Music School, New Haven International Music Festival and Music Haven) often ask YSM or the NH Public Schools to support grants devoted to music education. Many times one organization is doing something very similar to another organization, yet the grants are separate. YSM, represented by Michael Yaffe and Ruben Rodriguez, together with the NH Public Schools, represented by Ellen Maust, have invited all these organizations to sit down together in order to look at the music needs of public school children and plan collaborative programs to advance the cause of public school music education. The strong relationship between YSM and the public schools makes a good platform for drawing the others into collaborative efforts.

V. Professorship

(a) This year, Associate Dean and Program Director Michael Yaffe, who has a vast experience in community outreach is giving the course in community outreach to YSM students. This is a credit course.

(b) Dean Yaffe’s core teaching will be supplemented by guest professors as appropriate to the topics covered.

VI. 2013 Symposium

(a) The Symposium will be held between June 7 and 9 2013

(b) The Theme is “Music at the Center of School Reform”

(c) Letters seeking nominations are about to go out to school superintendants and ’57 classmates.

VII. Promoting Communication Between Former Symposium Attendees

(a) An honest attempt was made to stimulate communication using short relevant articles, sent to the entire list/serve and '57 classmates and asking for discussion

(b) Early response was minimal and soon stopped completely- i.e. this attempt failed in all likelihood due to the busy lives of the teachers

VII. Research on the Impact of the Program

(a) The New Haven School District collects standardized data on such things as attendance, behavior, graduation, grades...

(b) There is a plan to begin mining this data with a view to trying to assess the impact of MIS on those children who participate in the music program

IX. Endowment

(a) As of June 30,2012, the endowment had \$5,337, 930 plus \$250,000 in outstanding pledges from the 55th reunion

Conclusions

The Music in Schools program has become a vital and enduring part of the Yale School of Music. Associate Dean Michael Yaffe, the Program Director, and Ruben Rodriguez, the Lead Teaching Artist, have shown vision in guiding the program and skill in carrying out its goals. The '57 Committee on Music in Schools has grown and attendance at twice per year meetings in New Haven is strong, as is the enthusiasm of the group and the thoughtful contributions of it's members. We remain grateful to Dean Robert Blocker for his continued guidance and enthusiastic support. I think we can all be proud of this unique class project!

Respectfully submitted

Stephen M Wittenberg MD