ANOTHER SIZZLIN’ SUMMER FOR ORCHKIDS

Every summer, OrchKids hosts a three to four week, full-day summer camp for students who are enrolled in OrchKids after school program during the school year. This dynamic and holistic program provides our students with opportunities for continued practice and learning musically, as well as academically. And because it’s a summer camp, it also has to be FUN! So, in addition to music lessons and academic tutoring, OrchKids offers all kinds of fun activities and classes to keep our students engaged — as well as healthy snacks and meals to keep developing minds and bodies strong.

For our older OrchKids, we partner with various organizations to lead workshops and classes with topics that align with the interests of these middle/high school students. For example, this past summer volunteers from Black Young Professionals who are leaders in their fields, taught workshops about: Importance of Mentors/Networking; Presentation Skills /Interviews/ Resume building; Time Management/Productivity; and Leadership: How to lead and build a team. We are grateful to all of the caring professionals who invested their time and expertise in order to help our students grow — thank you!

In addition to helping stem summer learning loss, OrchKids is also committed to helping Baltimore City youth see new horizons and experience new people and places outside of their Baltimore City neighborhoods. Sending OrchKids students around the country (and globe) to participate in outside summer music programs has become a key component of our programming and provides a wealth of opportunities for the young people we serve. This summer, 42 OrchKids attended outside summer programs. Here is a breakdown of the different outside summer camps our students attended this summer:

- 10 students attended the prestigious Interlochen summer music program in Michigan
- 21 students attended the Archipelago Project's Music Leadership Academy, also in Michigan
- 5 students attended the National Take a Stand Festival hosted by the Los Angeles Philharmonic
- 3 students participated in a summer music program at Ithaca College in upstate New York
- 2 Students participated in University of Maryland’s summer music camp *NEW*
- 2 students attended Camp Encore/Coda in Maine
- 3 students attended the Indiana University Summer Music Clinic *NEW*
- 2 students attended the Allegro Strings summer program at the Peabody Institute
- 2 students traveled to Europe to participate in the Alpine Brass Festival

All of these amazing summer learning opportunities are ONLY possible because of our generous donors. None of this programming or travel could happen without gifts from people like you — THANK YOU!
HELLO FELLOWS!

OrchKids is excited to announce that we are piloting our first ever Fellowship program! Last year, we began developing ideas for a new String Fellowship program that will directly support OrchKids students and programming AND aim to attract even more high-quality string teachers to the Baltimore area — teachers who, also, have a passion for using music as a vehicle for social change. We are thrilled to welcome our first two String Fellows: Christy Grace and Lindsay Bobyak!

Through this two-year program, fellows will gain experience in the areas of teaching, administration and performance. Christy and Lindsay will teach both private and large group lessons, embracing OrchKids’ educational philosophy: to simultaneously foster both students’ excellence in instrumental skills (i.e. technique, learning standard repertoire) AND creativity (e.g. improvisation and composition).

Each fellow will also have the opportunity to build in-depth, non-profit management skills in an area(s) of their choice: development, education, operations or marketing. They will work closely with an OrchKids team member/mentor to help build these administrative skills through hands-on projects as they learn about the OrchKids model for social change through music.

As players, fellows will develop, curate, and perform at least two community engagement concerts per year, building entrepreneurial skills as they use their art to connect with the neighborhood. This program will also provide opportunities for fellows to interact with and learn from BSO musicians.

“I am humbled to begin this Fellowship with OrchKids and to have the opportunity to work with Baltimore’s youth. I am delighted to work with the entire OrchKids team to provide heart/mind/hands-on music experience for students to help build a more promising future in Baltimore city.”

- Christy Grace, plays cello and piano, originally from Indonesia

“I’m excited to be joining the OrchKids team as part of this inaugural year of the Strings Fellowship program to work towards advancing our community engagement through relevant performances and programming to connect with the neighborhoods we work with.”

- Lindsay Bobyak, plays violin and bass, originally from Colorado

O IS FOR ORCHKIDS... AND OPRAH!

Check out this great nod to OrchKids and our founder, Maestra Marin Alsop, in the October 2018 edition of O, The Oprah Magazine.
A NEW HUB FOR A NEW YEAR

For many years, OrchKids’ main hub site for its after school program in West Baltimore has been Lockerman-Bundy Elementary School. We are happy to announce that we have just recently moved all after school activities right down the block to another long-time OrchKids school site, Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School (MAWES). In previous years, MAWES hosted in-school musicianship and violin programming, and a small after school program for our youngest students (grades K-2, beginner/Marin Level students).

With OrchKids’ growth over the past 10 years on the West Side, we wanted to consolidate programming for all levels to increase mentoring opportunities between students, encourage more collaborations between teaching artists, and increase staffing efficiencies. At this new hub, Mary Ann Winterling, we anticipate serving over 180 students in grades Kindergarten through 12 after school and will host three different levels of programming: Marin Level (new students, Grades K-2), Primo Level (new students, Grades 3-5; returning students, Grades 2-5), and Middle School/High School Level (new & returning students, Grades 6-12).

The students who will be attending OrchKids after school program at MAWES will be coming from approximately 20 different Baltimore City schools. OrchKids team member, Mollie Westbrook, has been promoted to Senior Program Manager to lead the new hub site. MAWES administration and faculty have been extremely welcoming and are excited to have this expanded OrchKids programming, and we are so thrilled to be continuing to develop this special partnership throughout our second decade of OrchKids.

Lockerman-Bundy remains one of OrchKids eight school sites, and we will continue to provide in-school musicianship classes for their students, as well as continue to serve students who are enrolled in the after school program — after school students will be escorted down the block to MAWES on a daily basis. OrchKids’ doors are always open to our community and if you would like to have a tour of the program at MAWES, please contact April Dodge at adodge@bsomusic.org or call 410-783-8061.