

BSO Artistic Leaders Visit OrchKids

It is always a treat to have guest artists visit our OrchKids sites, and that treat is a little sweeter when we are visited by the Orchestra's artistic leadership - BSO Artistic Partner Wordsmith and BSO Assistant Conductor Jonathan Rush! Wordsmith visited multiple musicianship classes at Clay Hill Public Charter School, The Belair Edison School, and Patterson Park Public Charter School. Students in each class learned about writing poetry and songs, and in turn performed their original creations! They wrote about falling in love with basketball, delicious ice cream (yummy, yummy!), being the coolest kid in town, and, perhaps the biggest surprise of all, not knowing what chocolate is!

Jonathan Rush met with our middle and high school students at Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle School, Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School, and Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School #215 to share his story and teach a few conducting patterns. He encouraged our students to go after their dreams no matter what obstacles are in their way. He told them to "...keep pushing even if people tell you no. It's in the push after the obstacle. If you get this obstacle and you keep pushing, I guarantee you you're going to make it because it gives you a better mindset." After these inspiring words, Jonathan taught a few conducting patterns and had students practice conducting to pop songs.

Additionally, both Jonathan and Wordsmith visited a Cross-Site Chamber Orchestra rehearsal to connect with even more students. Jonathan worked with student conductor Nyla Hill to provide some one-on-one instruction before her conducting debut at the Music in Full Bloom concerts (read more on page 3).



Wordsmith working with students at
The Belair Edison School



Jonathan Rush with Margaret Brent
Elementary/Middle School students

Performing Live: OrchKids!

As the flowers began to bloom in April, so did our students! After a winter full of recorded performances, our students were thrilled to perform for live audiences again. Read about some of the highlights below, including a trip to the King School in Connecticut, the Music in Full Bloom concerts which featured a chamber orchestra with students from five different sites, and the first ever in-person Saturday Academy recital!

Spring Concerts

Just days before the spring concerts were hosted at Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School and Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School #215, we got the green light to have a (limited) live audience! Our students were so excited to perform for their parents and families, and the energy from the audience was electrifying. Finally, music can do what it is meant to and bring people together!



These concerts give every student the opportunity to perform with their peers. The concert at Mary Ann Winterling not only featured students from that site, but also welcomed students from Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle School and Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts. You can watch the recording of the Mary Ann Winterling concert [here](#) and the Highlandtown concert [here](#).



King School Residency “Building and Connecting Communities Through Music”



El Sistema students from across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions came together at the King School in Connecticut to perform as a combined ensemble and create an original collective composition in only two days! The weekend culminated in a concert that featured this inspiring composition and a showcase by each program. The OrchKids showcase by Rickerra and Rashaud performing “Night” by Florence Price left the audience with goosebumps! You can view the collective composition performance on Facebook [here](#).

Saturday Academy Recital



At Saturday Academy, OrchKids students received private lessons from Peabody students to further develop their musical growth. This year, we were ecstatic to host the first in-person Saturday Academy Recital! 15 students from various OrchKids sites performed beautiful solo repertoire that they had been working on throughout the year.

Music in Full Bloom

OrchKids finished this year of after-school programming at Highlandtown and Mary Ann Winterling with a bang! These back-to-back concerts featured ensemble performances in addition to shorter pieces by students at their respective sites. Booker T. Washington's Brass Band rocked the stage with three astounding student compositions, while Highlandtown's Latin Ensemble got the audience moving with some audience participation. The cross-site Chamber Orchestra (with over 50 students from 5 different sites!) closed the concert out with a beautiful orchestral piece led by student conductor Nyla Hill and an exciting arrangement of Camilla



Cabello's "Havana." Additionally, at the Highlandtown concert, we welcomed musicianship students from the new after-school program at the Belair Edison School. These students had the audience wrapped around their fingers during the performance of their original compositions "Hey, Hey, Hey" and "Come to OrchKids Every Day."

We also recognized three outstanding OrchKids students by presenting them with the 2022 Marin Alsop Citizenship Awards. These students were nominated by their teachers for exemplifying the qualities of OrchKids Founder Marin Alsop, including leadership, courage, empathy, innovation, and service. Please join us in congratulating Jeimy Valerio (Highlandtown), Carter Griffin (Booker T. Washington), and Viahn Green (Mary Ann Winterling) on their awards!

Watch the concert at Highlandtown [here](#) and the concert at Mary Ann Winterling [here](#).

Thank you, Social Workers!

OrchKids' partnership with the University of Maryland School of Social Work is essential to serving students' well-being. This partnership, which began in 2019, connects students with social work interns during after-school programming. These four social work interns regularly attended after-school programming at Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School and Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School #215 to give students a necessary outlet and the support they need. They created a safe space for our students to talk one-on-one with knowledgeable, trustworthy adults. The social work interns also connected families with mental health resources so students were supported during and after programming. We are so thankful for our 2021-22 social work interns - Nick, Mica, Taylor, and Emily, and their coordinators from UMD - Erika and LaShonda, for their dedication to our OrchKids students. We are looking to expand the partnership next year to provide more students with necessary mental health resources and continue serving the whole student.



The UMD Social Work Interns
Top (left to right): Mica and Nick
Bottom (left to right): Taylor and Emily



OrchKids Founding Donors

Marin Alsop, BSO Music Director Laureate and OrchKids Founder
Robert Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker

OrchKids Title Sponsors (gifts of \$50,000+)

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and BGE

And with deep appreciation to all donors whose generosity makes OrchKids possible.
For information on how to make a contribution visit orchkids.org/support

2021-22 End of Year Statistics



1,897 students

served during school,
after school, and
in workshops



12,112 hours

of instruction



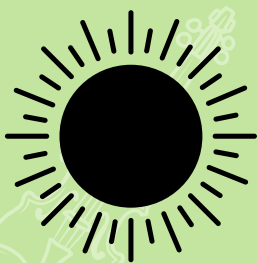
9 sites

across Baltimore



89% daily attendance

average attendance rate
at after-school sites



40 students

attending outside
summer programming
in 2022



2 graduates