

## Starting Early

OrchKids emphasizes the importance of starting students at a young age to immerse them in music as one would a language. By developing their ears and ensemble skills, this ensures that their instrument becomes an extension of their personality, body, and life. As such, students can get involved in OrchKids as early as Pre-K. Students in Pre-K through 2nd grade participate in our Musicianship Musicianship program, which includes Musicianship and Exploratory classes, to build a solid foundation of musical knowledge that is critical to setting them up for success when they begin learning how to play an instrument.

Musicianship and Exploratory classes focus on active music making. Rarely will you see these students sitting quietly and listening to a lecture. Instead, they are singing, playing various rhythms on percussion instruments like bells and egg shakers, practicing matching pitch or pitch direction, and participating in musical mirroring, a technique developed by Dr. Veronika Cohen where hand motions reflect musical events. Smiles and laughter fill these classrooms as students immerse themselves in the joy of music-making.



Mr. Liam leads his class through a musical mirroring exercise. Click [here](#) to watch the video



OrchKids Teaching Artist, Liam Cunningham, and Musicianship Assistant, Jay DeVaughn, introduce guiros to a 2nd grade class before passing the instruments around for students to play

OrchKids has also been active in building stronger pathways from our in-school musicianship program to our after-school program which starts with the introduction of bridge programming. Participation in bridge programming, such as the after-school violin program at the Belair-Edison School, will set students up for success for integration into our larger after-school programs and ensure that their access to instrumental music education continues long after 2nd grade.



2nd grader Ava Smith gets fitted for a violin

# John Tyler: OrchKids Creative Partner

We are thrilled to welcome John Tyler to OrchKids as our first-ever Creative Partner! John Tyler is a Baltimore artist, musician, producer, and Founder of the Love Groove Festival. At only 22 years old, John Tyler has released 4 albums, 2 EPs and produced over 100 artists in the DMV area. Over the past year, John Tyler led a number of engaging music production workshops at various OrchKids sites, including at our summer program. These workshops introduce our students to the world of music production and allows them to create their own piece of music in just 60 minutes.

Most recently, John Tyler led music production workshops at our after-school programs at Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School #215, Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts, and Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School. He

began the workshop by utilizing familiar hip-hop music to explain the many “onion-like” layers of music. In this case, the four main layers were the drums, bass, chords, and melody. Students then split off into groups where one group created the beat (drums and bass) with John Tyler while another two groups composed a melody.

At Highlandtown, one melody group continued building upon the layers idea and created a melody that began first with the trombone, then added harp, violin, bassoon, and flute. The other group created a group melody by first improvising some notes and then adding in rhythmic variation. In the group that created the beat, each student added their own flavor by adding a different instrument. One student added piano, another added the bass, another added some drums, etc. Listen to the beat those students created [here](#). Experiencing music-making this way encourages our students to branch out of their comfort zone and can cultivate interest in music production as a career. This exciting partnership is one of the many ways that OrchKids continues to evolve after 15 years!



John Tyler helps a student at Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School #215 create a beat in his music production workshop.

## Membership Benefits Announcement



Donations to OrchKids now contribute to your BSO membership benefits! This means that any donation made to either the BSO or OrchKids will contribute to your total donation amount and allow you to receive greater benefits. Learn more about all of the BSO Membership Benefits [here](#).

Bach - \$75	Invitations to BSO Open Rehearsals, 15% discount on single tickets to BSO performances, 4 tickets to the Annual Donor Appreciation Concert, and more!
Beethoven - \$150	All benefits of the previous level and invitations to Afternoon Teas with BSO musicians and leaders.
Brahms - \$250	All benefits of the previous level and 4 tickets to Chamber Music Interlude events.

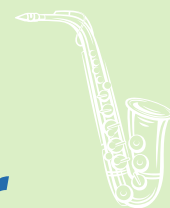


# Holiday Season Performances

The holiday season is a time when music constantly fills the air. Musicians are running from gig to gig spreading holiday joy through music, and OrchKids is no exception! With a number of community performances and our own Winter Spectacular concerts, our students were excited to show what they have learned so far this school year. From the Mt. Vernon Monument Lighting to the Highlandtown Toy Drive, students enjoyed performing for the Baltimore community. At our Winter Spectacular concerts, students of all ages shared their music in solos, small groups, and string and wind ensembles.



Left to Right: The Martinez Trio at Highlandtown, Primo High Brass (top) and Primo Cellos (bottom) at Mary Ann Winterling, and the Latin Ensemble at the Mt. Vernon Monument Lighting



**YOU'RE  
INVITED!**

## OrchKids 15-Year Celebration Concert

Mark your calendars and join us on May 17 for the first-ever OrchKids concert at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. There will be engaging pre and post concert activities, fun photo ops, special guests, and, of course, beautiful music performed by our OrchKids students. You won't want to miss this sensational celebration of OrchKids' 15th anniversary!

