

SOUND-OFF

Quarterly news from *Education Through Music*

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ETM to Honor Universal Music Classics President and CEO at 2014 Children's Benefit Gala

Elizabeth Sobol, President and CEO of Universal Music Classics, will be honored at this year's 2014 ETM Children's Benefit Gala. The Gala will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at Capitale, 130 Bowery, in New York City.

Elizabeth Sobol has been a long-time friend and supporter of Education Through Music for over 10 years. As the leader of Universal Music Classics, Elizabeth Sobol supports the work of ETM in bringing quality music education as a core subject to all students, regardless of talent or ability. As an advocate for ETM, she has worked with other key ETM supporters, including Joshua Bell. Bell will present her with the award.

As a classical pianist, Ms. Sobol has used her understanding and passion for music as a catalyst for her success in her professional career and in life. Through her support as our gala honoree, Ms. Sobol supports a legacy of transforming the lives of thousands of children through music. Education Through Music partners with inner-city schools to provide all

students with music as a core subject, and to create school communities that value the arts.

For a second year, Christine Baranski, star of the television show *The Good Wife*, will serve as emcee.

This year's gala will feature performances by students from ETM partner schools, along with ETM Board member and Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell.

Co-chairs of the event will be ETM board members Richard Bernstein, Executive Vice Chairman of commercial real estate firm Cassidy Turley, who was last year's honoree, and Rick Dobbis, founder of R-DOG and myKaZootv.

For more information about supporting the 2014 ETM Children's Benefit Gala, visit:

www.ETMonline.org/2014gala

To purchase tickets online, visit:

<https://2014gala.eventbrite.com> 



Elizabeth Sobol, President and CEO of Universal Music Classics is the 2014 ETM Children's Benefit Gala Honoree.

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Breakfast with the Band

Every winter, ETM unveils its newest ensemble members and programs at an event called “Breakfast with the Band/Orchestra.” The process begins in October during instrument rental night when interested students in eligible grades are invited with their parents to attend a discussion and demonstration of each instrument. Students are encouraged to consult with their ensemble instructor and parents before ranking their preferences and making their final instrument selection. Band and orchestra programs usually begin practicing in November, and by late-January are ready for their debut in front of their parents and peers.

The event typically runs for an hour and includes performances by sections of the band or orchestra and the entire ensemble. This structure enables the audience to hear the group’s collective progress, and to appreciate each instrument section—from percussion to flute—and their unique musical attributes. At partner school PS 76, for example, the flute section of the Bennington Band performed a segment of Katy Perry’s “Roar” while the clarinets played Adele’s “Rolling in the Deep” to the delight of their audience.

During the 2013-14 school year, ETM offers nine band and five string orchestra ensembles at its partner schools, including three entirely new band programs at PS/MS 7 and St. Mark the Evangelist School in East Harlem and PS 103 in the Bronx.

At St. Marks, ETM music teacher Rachel Bidwell created a breakfast-themed music program, which included songs like “Hot Cross Buns,” “Go Get the Bagels,” and “Bacon and Eggs,” that was a hit with parents who smiled and snapped photos from the school’s pews. Ms. Bidwell concluded the program by expressing her gratitude to parents: “Thank you for understanding how important music is to your child’s education.” Parental encouragement and support is evident, Ms. Bidwell stated, not only by “your attendance at the ‘Breakfast’ today but also by the students’ weekly improvement due to practicing at home.” Following the performance, students met with their parents in the cafeteria: “I really enjoyed it and I think you guys are going to sound great at the end of the year,” exclaimed one mother to her son—a saxophonist in the band—as they talked over breakfast pastries and orange juice. 🍞



ETM students participate in a Breakfast with the Band program at PS 76.

2014 Professional Development Series Launches for ETM Teachers

On January 8th, Education Through Music (ETM) held its first professional development (PD) workshop of the new year. The full-day “ETM Academy” is one in a series of four workshops being offered to partner school music teachers during the 2013-14 school year.

The January ETM Academy focused on helping music teachers develop effective classroom management skills. The session was led by guest presenter, Dr. Paul Beaudin, a former teacher, principal and superintendent in the New York City metropolitan area. The session, which was as philosophical as it was pragmatic, struck a chord with the music teachers: “[What] really rang true to me was when he [Dr. Baudin] said to tell students that they make their own decisions when it comes to misbehavior,” stated one music teacher, adding that “Paul Beaudin’s session was

extremely helpful. I feel much more confident in addressing problems and being consistent.”

Following Dr. Beaudin’s presentation, the music teachers had an opportunity to apply some of his lessons as they reflected on their recent winter concerts in a peer-to-peer breakout session. One music teacher described the day as “enriching professional development,” adding “Each person’s personality, teaching style and approach [is] different but all elicit response, participation and sincere performances.”

In an effort to increase face-time and follow-through with teachers, ETM also unveiled “Podium Time” in January as an extension of the ETM Academy. “Podium Time” gives each music teacher two opportunities to teach a cohort of students from one K-5 grade, and have their instruction critiqued.

ETM partner school teachers have been divided into four “Podium Time” groups, which will meet over eight weeks, to prepare their lessons. Teachers will create a grade-appropriate lesson involving a song, and teach it within 15 minutes. While one teacher is instructing their “class,” the other teacher in their group will be observing with a rubric and looking for effective teaching techniques. Each session will be videotaped and teachers will be allowed to view it before their second meeting with the same group of students. During the second meeting, teachers are given 15 minutes again and expected to polish the material from the prior week’s lesson.

“Podium Time” will give ETM music teachers the opportunity to learn from their mistakes, gain greater peer feedback and be able to assess and correct their methods to improve instruction quality. 📺

ETM and Grain Audio Announce New Partnership

ETM announces a new partnership with Grain Audio (www.grainaudio.com) to support music education in inner-city schools.

ETM and Grain Audio will partner in a several ways. First, Grain Audio donated \$10,000 worth of audio equipment for use in ETM partner schools. Grain Audio will provide additional marketing support to help increase ETM’s reach and exposure to new audiences and supporters.

In addition, ETM and Grain Audio are offering the HANDheld wireless speaker to ETM’s supporters at a retail price of \$249. For each wireless speaker sold to an ETM supporter, Grain Audio will make a contribution of \$68 to Education Through Music.

To order the Grain Audio Packable Wireless System (PWS.01) in support of ETM, visit: www.grainaudio.com/ETM or www.etmonline.org/store.

“We are honored to be partnering with ETM. The incredible work they are doing touching children’s lives through music is both inspiring and result oriented,” said Mitch Wenger, President of Grain Audio. “They have a real impact and are truly doing incredible work. Grain Audio is thrilled to be partnering with this amazing organization.”

“Grain Audio’s exceptional commitment to making a difference in

thousands of students lives in New York City through music education is so important to helping us provide the highest quality education to all children,” said Katherine Damkohler, Executive Director of Education Through Music. “ETM shares a common core belief with Grain Audio of meeting the highest of standards possible in the work we do. We could not ask for a better partner.” 📺



Education Through Music Winter Concerts



ETM Partner schools held holiday concerts throughout the months of December and January. Here are a few scenes from some of the holiday concerts, which provide an opportunity to students to showcase what they have learned half-way through the school year to parents and the rest of the school community.



Student Success Story: “Music Inspires Me”

Beginning as early as 3rd grade, April* demonstrated a high level of interest and achievement in her music class. After receiving in-school music instruction for the first time while attending PS 76 in the Bronx, April landed one of the lead roles for her school’s 4th grade musical, *Castaways*.

Prior to performing in the musical, April struggled with stage-fright, but learned to channel her nerves and build confidence with the help of her music teacher, Ms. Jessica Parr: “The show *Castaways* helped me uncover that there is nothing to be afraid of, [you] just have to get out there and enjoy what you do.” That same year, April was selected to perform at the Education Through Music (ETM) Gala at the Waldorf Astoria, which was another transformative experience that fueled her passion for music.

By 5th grade, April had joined the school band to learn the clarinet. April was excelling in all subjects due in part to the skills and work ethic she was developing through her general music and elective band classes. “Music has helped me to focus more,” she says. “I have to listen to other musicians when they play, follow along, and make sure I’m playing the correct notes and at the right tempo. This experience helps me in the classroom to concentrate and focus [regardless of the distract-

tions around me] on what the teacher is instructing.” April even incorporated musical elements into her study habits by developing techniques that make the experience of learning fun. “When I’m studying vocabulary,” she says, “I sing out the words and it helps me to study better. I also play jazz music while I’m doing homework and I find myself reading along at the music’s tempo.”

April went on to attend ETM partner school MS 180, and was able to continue developing her clarinet skills. As an 8th grader, under the direction of her band teacher, Mr. Kevin Heathwood, she not only challenged herself musically, but also her peers by serving as the President of the band.

During her final year at MS 180, April decided to apply to LaGuardia Arts High School where she would be able to throw herself into her music practice – and she was accepted! She recently finished her first semester as a freshman instrumentalist. April studied sight singing and wind instrument courses and loved that these classes offered a safe, constructive space for her to learn from her peers, gaining greater feedback on technique and ensemble playing: “It has been a great experience so far...I have learned a lot, and it’s been wonderful being surrounded by so much talent.”

Education Through Music promotes the use of music education to help students reach their fullest potential in school and life. April is a testament to the power of music education, and exemplifies our hope of providing students with the tools they need to grow to be thoughtful, creative and engaged leaders and members of their community. 🎵



**The student’s name was changed to protect her privacy.*



Check out the 2014 NYC Spring Music Festival, supporting ETM!
www.NYCSpringMusicFestival.com

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honoring

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President of Universal Music Classics, and a passionate advocate
for music education for inner-city children of New York.

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014
6:30 pm

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For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.ETMonline.org/2014gala