

# 15 YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC



2023 Annual Report



# 15 YEARS OF...

COMMUNITY-BASED  
MUSIC-MAKING

EFFECTIVE  
TEACHING

PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH  
WORLD-CLASS  
ARTISTS

INSPIRING  
NEW YORK CITY  
CHILDREN



## A Letter from Our Founder and Executive Director



Dear Friends,

This year, the Harmony Program celebrates its 15th anniversary, and in this annual report, we highlight the path our students have traveled with us over the years – from beginners, to ensemble performers, to college graduates and professionals.

Over these many years, we have expanded our organization's reach while nurturing a corps of Harmony Program alumni, who are powerful ambassadors of our work. We share some of their achievements in this report, including academic scholarships, prestigious internships, and careers in the field of music. Together they represent the strength of our community which has grown during the past 15 years from a single class of 35 students to 70 classes, reaching over 1,000 children across four boroughs.

As we look to the future, the Harmony Program is committed to making music education accessible to more of our city's children. We know their paths through music lead from our classrooms and concert halls to life's other stages where they will arrive well prepared for whatever opportunities come their way.

We are deeply grateful to our generous supporters who have been an essential part of the Harmony Program's past and will help secure our future.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Anne Fitzgibbon  
Founder & Executive Director



# Our History

The Harmony Program was founded in 2003 by Anne Fitzgibbon as a privately funded project within the New York City Mayor's Office. After a successful pilot period, the Harmony Program was incorporated as an independent non-profit organization in 2004, and in 2008, entered into a temporary partnership with the City University of New York (CUNY) to foster growth and sustainability.

The Harmony Program is inspired by Venezuela's world-renowned system of music education, "El Sistema," which the Harmony Program's founder studied during a yearlong Fulbright Fellowship. Since then, the Harmony Program has adapted the model and philosophy of El Sistema to the unique needs of New York City's communities, emphasizing community-based instruction and the social value of ensemble learning.

# Our Mission

The Harmony Program harnesses the power of collective music-making to help children gain critical life skills and make meaningful peer connections. Bringing music education directly into underserved communities across New York City, the Harmony Program creates opportunities for children to develop musical proficiency and social-emotional skills within a supportive environment.

The Harmony Program began at a single location serving 35 children. By 2022, the organization had grown to 16 sites in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx and had served approximately 6,600 young people.

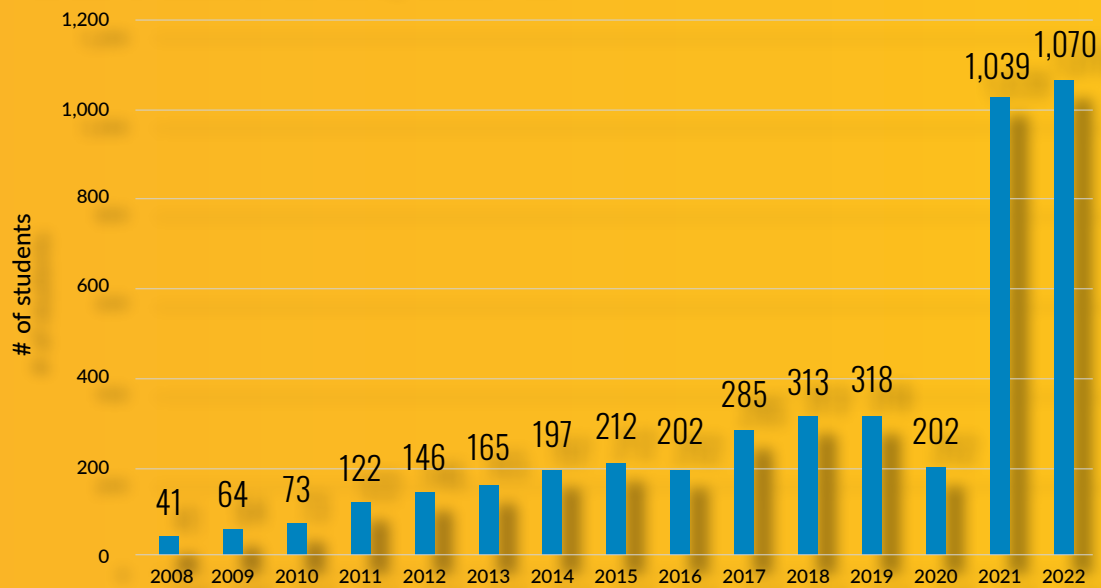


# Our Students

In the 2022-23 school year, we served students in sixteen Title I and underperforming public schools across four boroughs.



Number of Students Served by School Year:



*"When we [played] 'Aura Lea,' I fell in love with it! It was my absolute favorite."*

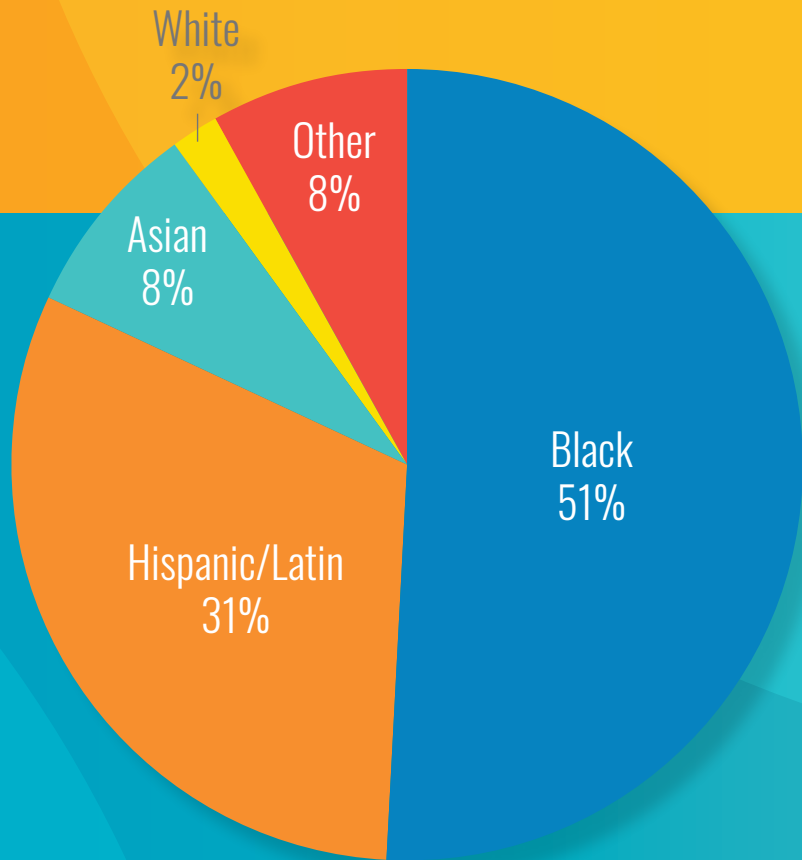
**Emanuel**  
Age 8, PS 315K in Midwood, Brooklyn

**1,070**  
students served in  
2022-23

**10%**  
reported having Individualized  
Education Plans (IEPs) or  
504 Plans

**80%**  
qualified for the Free/Reduced  
Price Lunch program

**42%**  
spoke a language other  
than English at home



*"When you learn something for the first time – and somebody's confused and you get to teach them – that just gives you the warmness in your heart, the same warmness as knowing how to play a piece."*

**Matthew**  
Age 10, PS 173 in  
Washington Heights, Manhattan



# Our Programs

The Harmony Program provides students with opportunities to advance from enthusiastic beginners to dedicated performers.

## Community-Based Instruction

The Harmony Program served 954 K-8 students at 16 schools with general music, recorder, choral, and instrumental instruction.

## Ensembles

The Harmony Program provided 52 students with the chance to play together in our Harmony Program Youth Orchestras and chamber ensembles.

## Scholarship Opportunities

We provided 50 students with audition preparation and tuition assistance for selective programs such as the Juilliard MAP program, Interlochen Arts Camp, and YOLA National Festival.

3,869

hours of school-year instruction

450

hours of private lessons

408

hours of online instruction

370

hours of summer camp

240

hours of ensemble rehearsals

## Diverse Repertoire

870

students played repertoire from African, Latin, and Asian diasporas

## Creative Expression

136

students created original compositions

## Service Quality

93%

of our school and community partners rated our work as "excellent"

## Musical Proficiency

82%

of students met or exceeded our overall musical expectations

## Social-Emotional Development

93%

of students met or exceeded our age-level expectations for self-esteem



# Our Programs



# Access to Excellence

429 students studied and performed with world-class artists through our cultural partnerships.



More than 70 beginner students had their first ensemble experiences at our annual Youth Orchestra Day event in Manhattan and the Bronx.



More than 200 students attended one of our four borough-based summer camps.



Five students participated in chamber ensembles; a trio performed at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's selective Young Ensembles Concert.



28 students participated in our All Stars Orchestra and performed in two concerts alongside musicians of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Orpheus

CMS  
Chamber Music Society  
of Lincoln Center

Juilliard

Interlochen  
ARTS ACADEMY

YOUNG  
CENT  
ARTISTS

THE HARLEM  
CHAMBER  
PLAYERS

parlando

22 students attended selective summer programs.

Interlochen  
ARTS CAMP

YOLA National

Manhattan  
School of Music

Lincoln Center's  
Mostly Mozart 50

The Elisabeth Morrow School

USDAN SUMMER CAMP  
FOR THE ARTS

CR  
CH

BYMP  
BROOKLYN YOUTH MUSIC PROJECT

IMS  
INSIDE MUSIC SCHOOLS

# Teaching Artists

Quality teaching lies at the heart of our impact. Our accomplished teaching artists have studied at the nation's top music departments and conservatories and have performed at some of the world's most prestigious venues. Among our 68 mentors, teaching artists, and substitutes, **40% identified as people of color, 15% as LGBTQIA,** and **3% as disabled.**



**Veronica Riner, violin**

Named Assistant Concertmaster of the Center Symphony of Manhattan

*"There is a special kind of magic involved in watching students discover their own power and potential. I get most excited to see students start to teach themselves and learn from each other."*

**Melvin Rodriguez, voice**

Won first place in the 2019 MET Opera Auditions, Puerto Rico district

*"Harmony Program has helped me look at education in a different way. Music education should be a possibility for everyone; it gives you ways to expand your imagination and creativity while learning something new."*



Harmony Program teaching artists receive:

Paid professional development by experts in a variety of fields

Classroom teaching experience

Year-round support from a dedicated team of faculty mentors

Access to a formal network of peer educators

This school year, the Harmony Program offered teaching artists 75 hours of paid training. Topics included the following:

Culturally Relevant Pedagogy

Pacing and Classroom Management

Working with School Partners

Increasing Persistence and Resilience in the Music Classroom

Effective Evaluation of Students

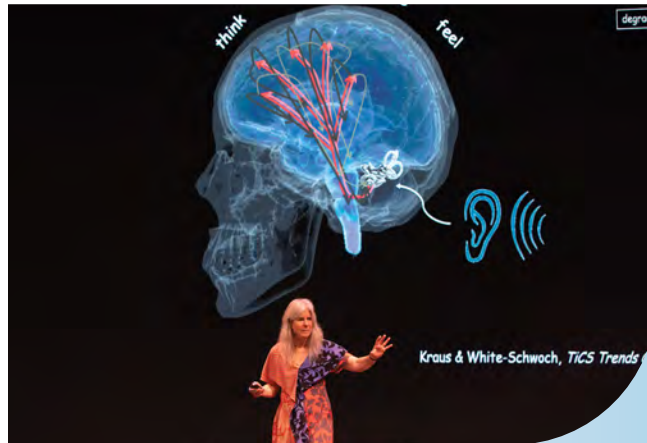
Neuroscience of Music Learning

Understanding the Emotions Behind the Behavior



# News and Advocacy at 15 Years

The Harmony Program continually promotes its vision of a city where music is part of every child's education.



In January 2022, the Harmony Program hosted a discussion on music and brain development, featuring Dr. Nina Kraus, Professor of Neurobiology at Northwestern University.



In September 2022, the Harmony Program presented at the annual Women Lead Festival, a gathering of 150 prominent women in business, nonprofits, science, and the arts.



In October 2022, NY1 featured Founder, Anne Fitzgibbon, in its "Women Wednesday" segment, and a performance by Harmony student, Michelle Puebla, and her teacher, Veronica Riner. Watch the video [here](#).



In October 2022, Founder, Anne Fitzgibbon, spoke at the 45th Annual Conference of the Fulbright Association about her Fulbright experience studying Venezuela's national youth orchestra system, "El Sistema."



In November 2022, WPIX highlighted the Harmony Program's 15th anniversary year in a conversation with Founder, Anne Fitzgibbon. Watch the video [here](#).



In December 2022, WNBC highlighted the Harmony Program's efforts at PS 315K in Midwood, Brooklyn. Watch the video [here](#).



In December 2022, the Harmony Program presented at the Nonprofit New York annual conference.



In February 2023, NBC's TODAY Show produced a segment on Harmony Program Board Member and NY Philharmonic Principal Clarinetist, Anthony McGill, and his commitment to the Harmony Program. Watch the video [here](#).

# 15 Years of Changing Lives Through Music

2003



Anne Fitzgibbon founds the Harmony Program as a privately funded project within the New York City Mayor's Office.

2012



The Harmony Program hosts El Sistema founder Jose Antonio Abreu on his visit to New York City.

2015



The Harmony Program partners with music publisher, G. Schirmer, to create the "Living Harmony" series of original repertoire for beginner musicians, with commissions by André Previn, John Corigliano, Gabriela Lena Frank, and Jeff Beal.

2020



The Harmony Program launches Harmony at Home, a series of virtual lessons, featuring world-class artists, including Joshua Bell, Anthony McGill, Imani Winds, and others.

2007



Founder and Executive Director, Anne Fitzgibbon, travels to Venezuela on a year-long Fulbright Fellowship to study "El Sistema."

2013



The Harmony Program launches its first summer camp, establishing year-round programming.

2016



The Harmony Program establishes its first instructional program in the borough of Queens.

2022



The Harmony Program launches an Alumni Corps, connecting students to industry partners, including SiriusXM and iHeartMedia.

2008



The Harmony Program enters into a temporary partnership with the City University of New York (CUNY) and launches its first instructional site.

2014



The Harmony Program is selected as the beneficiary of the Warner Music Prize and establishes a partnership with the Warner Music Group.

2018



In celebration of the Harmony Program's 10th anniversary, NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio declares April 25th "Harmony Program Day" in New York City.

2023



The Harmony Program expands to serve 1,000 children across four boroughs of New York City.



Paquito D'Rivera,  
Saxophonist, Clarinetist  
& Composer, 2017



Joyce DiDonato, Mezzo-Soprano, 2019



Norm Lewis, Broadway Actor, 2022

# 15 Years: Gala

The Harmony Program's 15th Anniversary Gala, held at Sony Hall, was hosted by CBS National News Correspondent and Anchor and Harmony Program Board Member, Adriana Diaz. The program featured live performances by students and alumni, joined by Ben Jackson Walker, star of Broadway's *Juliet*; Arnaud Sussmann, violinist with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; Melissa Muñoz, trumpeter; and Saffron Chung, pianist. The evening also celebrated corporate honoree, Sophie Kelly, of Diageo for her professional commitment to advancing social change.



Joshua Bell,  
Violin Soloist &  
Conductor, 2018



Wynton Marsalis, Trumpeter,  
Composer & Educator, 2016

André Previn, Pianist &  
Composer, 2015



Chris Thile, Mandolinist & Host,  
"Live from Here", 2020



Anthony McGill, Principal Clarinet,  
New York Philharmonic, 2018

For the past 15 years,  
the Harmony Program has held  
an annual gala featuring  
collaborative performances by  
our students, alumni, and  
world-class musicians.



**Justin Laurenceau, Flatbush**  
**Trombone**

Performed under Gustavo Dudamel  
in the International Encounters Festival  
in Mexico City



**Megan Simon, Bedford-Stuyvesant**  
**Cello**

Works as Music Agent Trainee at the  
United Talent Agency



**Thanddnes Palmer, Flatbush**  
**Trumpet**

Studied in Juilliard's Music  
Advancement Program



**Romina & Renata Moreno, Washington Heights**  
**Cello**

Graduated from the Frank Sinatra School  
of the Arts

# 15 Years Later: Harmony Program Alumni

The best measure of our impact is the progress  
of our students.



**Tamika Merise, Flatbush**  
**Cello**

Works as Publicity Coordinator at  
Def Jam Recordings



**Luigi Auquilla, Harlem**  
**Violin**

Performed in the Bernstein Centennial  
Celebration at Carnegie Hall



**Ryan Hau, Brighton Beach**  
**Double bass**

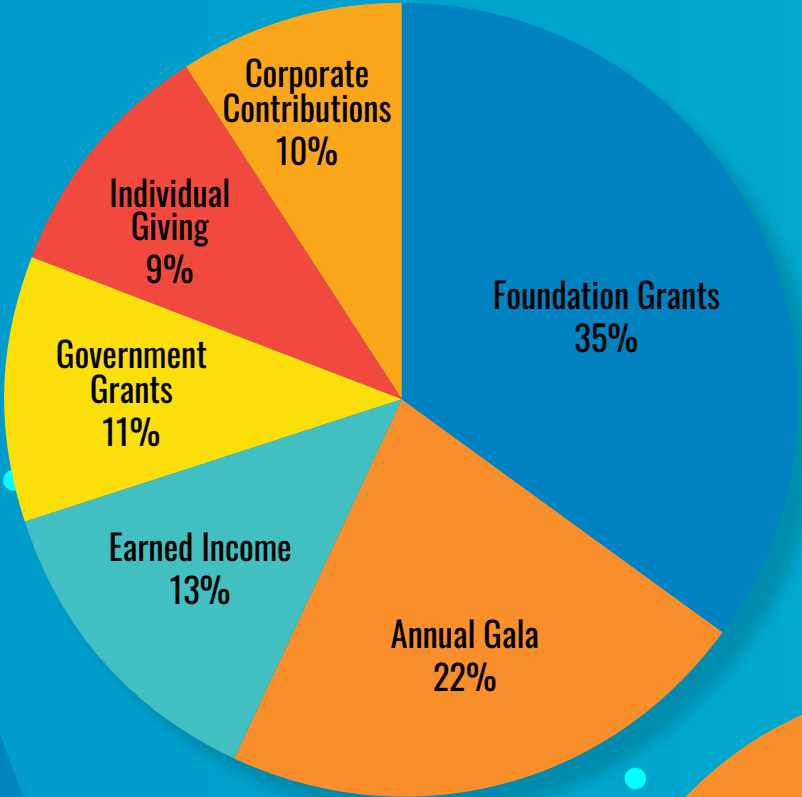
Attended Juilliard's Pre-College Division



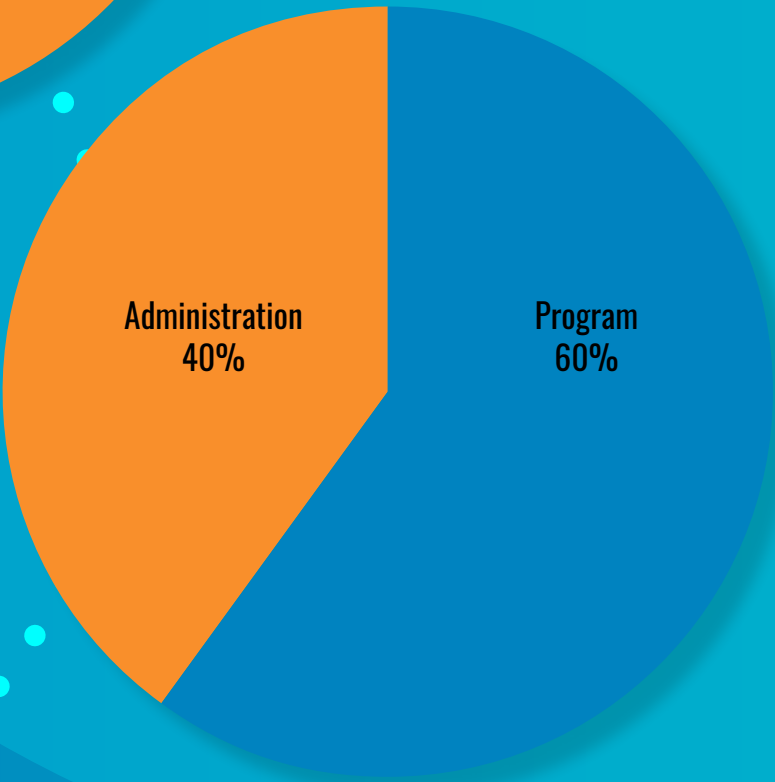
**Izabella Pozo, Canarsie**  
**Viola**

Performed with the Mostly Mozart Festival  
Orchestra at Lincoln Center

# Financial Information, FY 2023



Revenue  
(\$1,902,281)



Expenses  
(\$1,990,790)



# Our Supporters

The Harmony Program extends its deep appreciation to all of its supporters. Their generosity is vital to our ability to serve students and families with high-quality programming.

## INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Alpha Kilo  
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Amazon Smile  
Anomaly  
Ann Theodore Foundation  
Associated Chamber Music Players  
Benanav Family Foundation  
BlackRock  
Bloomberg LP  
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## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

National Endowment for the Arts  
New York City Council Member, Amanda Farias  
New York City Council Member, James F. Gennaro  
New York City Council Member, Christopher Marte  
New York City Council Member, Julie Menin  
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs

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## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

Christina Abossedgh  
Michelle Abreu  
Carol and Richard Agins  
Ray Allen  
Amanda Alvarez  
Anna Bager  
Anonymous  
Emma Assin  
Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo  
Sean Baik  
Michael Barbieri  
Jonathan Barry  
Jonathan Barz  
Afrodite Barz  
Jonathan Barz  
Margo Bayroff  
Daniela Bedoni  
John Beinecke  
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Jamie Bernstein  
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Steve Blomgren  
Marian Bossard  
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Jesse Brooks  
Susan Brot  
Mitchell Buchbinder  
Heather Buck  
Hammad Butt  
Shehryar Butt  
Nick Buzzell  
Moe (Maureen) Byrne  
Pier-Olivier Calestagne  
Carmela Califano  
Krystal Califano  
Allison Cane  
Keith Carpenter

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Maeve Chandler  
Rita Charon  
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Elena Rotondo Engeldrum  
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Susan Gon-Hanrahan  
Sabana Gonzalez  
Stacy Goodman and Glyn Vincent  
Kevin Gore  
William Gorfein  
Mary W. Graham  
Lesley Grand  
Michele Greco  
Abner Greene  
Scott Group  
Alane and Howard Gruber  
Michael Guo  
Nancy Hager  
Leanne  
Frances Harrington  
Michelle Haun  
Suzanne and Douglas Henck  
Chelsea Hicks  
Chantel Hopper

Tin Hsien Tam  
Ryan Hu  
Chung-Ying Huang  
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Jessica King  
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Felice Kobrick  
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Anil Kripalani  
Keri Jackson Kunzle and Adrian Kunzle  
Shannon Kurashige  
Sydney Langdon  
Anna Last  
Katie Lawrence  
Emery LeCrone  
Jordan Lee  
Liz Lee  
Mark Lee  
Youngro Lee  
Kimberly Lehmann  
David Leibowitz  
Kirk Lenga  
Samuel Levander  
Jackie Levine  
Marcia Levitz  
Valerie Lewis  
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Eric Litman  
Michael Lowe  
Ed Lowenthal  
Timothy Ly  
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David McDonald  
Anthony McGill  
Megan McGill  
Michael McGuire  
Betsy McIntyre  
Elise McKinney  
Maurice McNeill

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Abra Metz-Dworkin and Evan Gogel  
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Bonne and John Mogulescu  
Alexandra Morris  
Dorothy Morris  
Nick Morris  
Michael Nader  
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Aayush Neupane  
Jenny and Roy Niederhoffer  
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Esther Yermus and Stephen Farb  
Sharon Yip  
Nicole Yoshikane  
Martin Yudichak  
Strauss Zelnick  
Krista Zembsch  
Jean Ziperski

Music brings joy to life—  
and Harmony brings joy to  
music education. Its programs  
open the world of serious  
music-making to young  
people from underserved  
communities throughout  
New York City.

The Pinkerton Foundation  
is proud to support Harmony's  
caring and committed  
teachers who instill a love of  
learning that pays off in the  
concert hall, the classroom  
and beyond."

- Rick Smith, President & CEO,  
The Pinkerton Foundation

At the time of publication,  
the Harmony Program holds  
the following accolades:



# Support the Harmony Program

When you contribute to the Harmony Program, you provide students with instruments, books, and instruction. You help provide teachers with the tools they need to make a difference in the lives of their students. And you help us do more than ever for the families and communities we serve.

Donate online at:  
[harmonyprogram.org/donate](https://harmonyprogram.org/donate).

If you would like more information about supporting the Harmony Program through instrument donations, volunteering, in-kind gifts, planned giving, recurring gifts, corporate sponsorship, matching gifts, or gifts of stocks and securities, please contact us:

[donate@harmonyprogram.org](mailto:donate@harmonyprogram.org)

Harmony Program  
156 West 56th Street, 3rd floor  
New York, NY 10019  
646-457-4291

# Harmony Program Leadership

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Anne Fitzgibbon, Founder and Executive Director	Anthony McGill
Adriana Diaz	George Melas
Evan Gogel	Roy Niederhoffer
Kevin Gore	Elijah Seton
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