

YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 - 2023





The People's Music School is the largest completely tuition-free music school serving Chicago metropolitan area children, focusing on removing barriers to access for students who otherwise would not have the benefits of intensive music instruction.

Dear Community,

The first noun in our mission statement is access, the second is benefits, and music education comes third. Our mission requires us to be so much more than a free music school: We are an after-school provider, ensuring equitable access to high quality programming immediately after the bell rings. We are an education organization, with our program leading to gains in literacy, math and student engagement. We are a community institution, working with and empowering the families and communities we serve. Our students become so much more than musicians.

One of my favorite examples of our mission coming to life is the story of Bryce, a senior in our class of 2023. Bryce started as a seventh-grade tuba student in Fall 2018 at our Greater South Side site. Bryce grew steadily under Natalie Butler's skilled baton, blossoming over time into a promising young musician. In those first years, he built community, confidence, and skill.

In March 2020, everything changed. During the pandemic, his amazing mother Bertina worked as a caregiver for elderly individuals, a job that required her to work outside the home in a historically challenging moment. Bryce worked hard to stay engaged, but his mental health slumped. Seeing that he needed a boost, we changed Bryce's teacher to someone more adept at online instruction. With the encouragement and persistence of his mother and teachers, Bryce pushed through, entering the 2021-22 school year as TPMS's first honors SLAM student from our Greater South Side site.

Bryce has grown at TPMS not only as a musician but as a determined learner and self-advocate. In the words of his teacher, "If he didn't understand something, he would ask. And if he still didn't, he'd ask me to explain it again and again until he did." That growth mindset paid off: This year, Bryce was the only student at TPMS who advanced two music theory levels in a single year. This fall, Bryce enters Monmouth College on a music scholarship, scouted by a recruiter in the halls of TPMS. He hopes to study biology and become an ecologist.

Bryce's story illustrates our aspirations for our students fully realized. Because of our focus on eliminating all kinds of barriers to access, Bertina first found us in her own community and was able to circumvent the typical financial barriers to intensive music education for her son. Because of our focus on the benefits of a long-term journey, our faculty and staff never gave up on Bryce, doing everything we could to support his persistence. Bryce's musical training helped lead him to his chosen postsecondary path, where he will build a career in STEM. We are so proud of Bryce, and we can't wait to see where he goes from here.

In this annual report, you'll learn more about what makes our school one-of-a-kind for students like Bryce. You'll read about highlights from a tremendous year, including the breakthrough success of our new site at Hyde Park Academy High School. You'll learn about our leading-edge use of student data to inform our programmatic decisions, and our exemplary artistic partnerships. What I hope is clear from our stories is a laser focus on our mission: access to the benefits of transformational music education, for every Bryce in Chicago.

In service,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miriam Owens".

Miriam Owens
President & CEO
The People's Music School



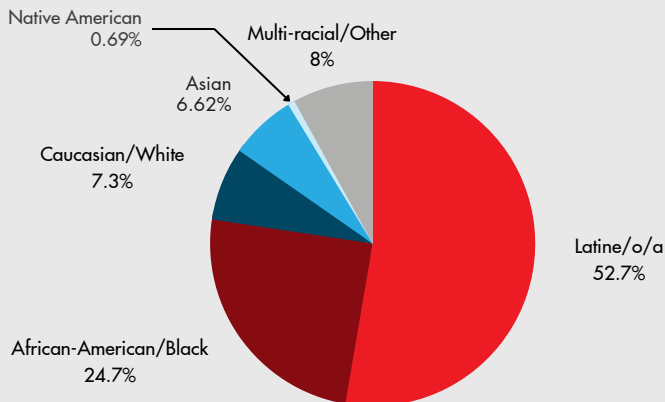
Bryce at the Gary Comer Youth Center, our Greater South Side site, in 2018



Bryce's Senior Photo

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to deliver access to the benefits of high-quality, tuition-free music education. Through intensive instruction and performance, our students achieve excellence in music that transfers to other areas in life. They grow musically, socially, emotionally and intellectually, and develop a foundation of responsibility, self-esteem, resilience and purpose.



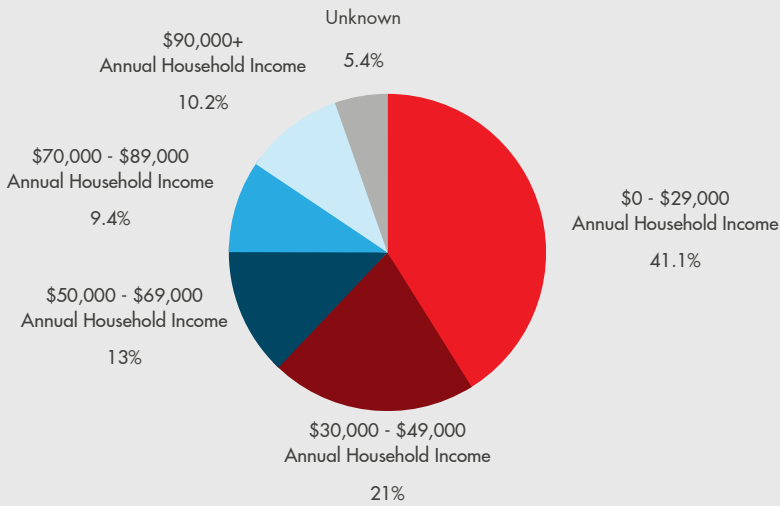
RACIAL DIVERSITY

OUR PROGRAMS

The People's Music School (TPMS) focuses our work where need is greatest, providing rigorous after-school music programming to 725 students who have financial barriers to access. TPMS's original community school in Uptown has persisted for 47 years. Over time, we have added partnerships with public schools in Chicago's underserved communities to expand student access and increase our portfolio of sites. Through the cultivation of musical learning and growth, our ultimate goal is to empower students with crucial life skills, support socio-emotional development, and provide transformational opportunities made possible through music education. By geographically working in the communities that we serve, TPMS also strengthens local communities and contributes to the transformation of Chicago's under-resourced schools.

Most students receive four hours of instruction weekly, including instrumental instruction, ensemble instruction, music theory, and performance opportunities. This degree of intensive music education produces valuable life skills, such as growth mindset, resilience, and improved literacy and math skills.¹ TPMS's intensive after-school music education programs are designed to drive these benefits and to eliminate barriers to access, including financial, geographic, linguistic, and cultural barriers.





SOCIOECONOMIC DIVERSITY

Young students at The People’s Music School begin their musical journeys with **General Music**, a program that teaches the foundations of music designed for elementary students grades K-2.

Music Theory curriculum at The People’s Music School trains students to think critically and apply new tools for creative self-expression. All students take a rigorous annual theory exam to assess progress.

Lessons, both private and group, offer students the opportunity to refine their skills, nurture their creativity, and demonstrate musical excellence. All students participate in an annual solo jury assessment to assess their musical progression.

Ensembles offer our students the opportunity to collaborate as young musicians, learn from their peers, and perform for live audiences. Every student has multiple opportunities to perform annually.

Our **Service, Leadership, Artistry, and Mentorship (SLAM)** honors program gives advanced, older students the opportunity to build on their skills of discipline, teamwork, critical thinking and self-assurance and apply them as they face new challenges and experience new opportunities.

¹ “Music-based mentoring and academic improvement in high-poverty elementary schools. Journal of Youth Development.”; “Planting the Seeds: Orchestral Music Education as a Context for Fostering Growth Mindsets. Front. Psychol.”

725 students enrolled

90% BIPOC students

21 instruments taught

1,500+ individual donors supporting TPMS

7,600+ hours of service provided by families

65+ teaching artists

4 hours on average of weekly programming per student

2,900+ learning hours per year

100% high school graduation rate

100% have financial barriers to accessing music education

2022-2023

HIGHLIGHTS



In October, five honors students in the SLAM program had the honor of performing for President Barack Obama at the Obama Foundation's fundraiser for the Obama Presidential Center.

The People's Music School opened its new Greater South Side program at Hyde Park Academy High School (right), embarking on a new path for innovative school partnerships. Read more about the collaboration on page 10.



World-renowned violinist Hilary Hahn (below) led a chamber music masterclass at Uptown Academy, where SLAM students learned about artistry and self-expression through music.



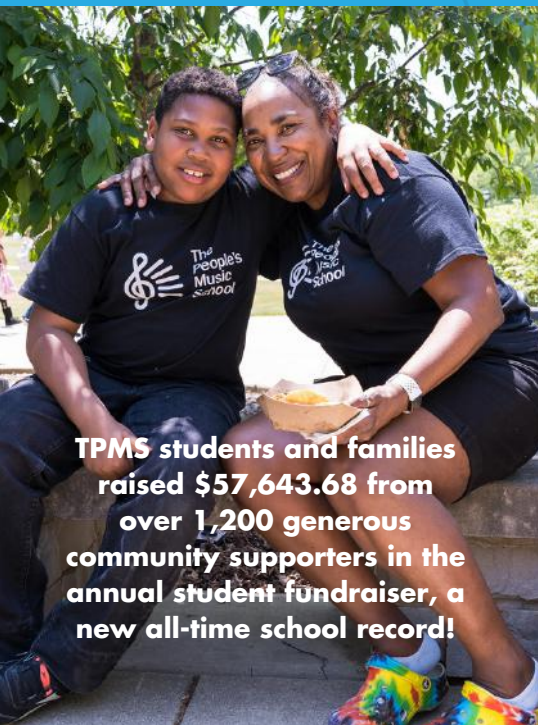
In December, The People's Music School appointed Miriam Owens (left) its President and CEO. Read more about Miriam on page 12.



Students at our Greater South Side program (right) enjoyed a masterclass by Tia Fuller, saxophonist in Beyoncé's touring band and inspiration behind Dorthea Williams in Pixar's "Soul."



Longtime partners and Grammy Award-winning ensemble Third Coast Percussion brought their critically acclaimed performance *Metamorphosis* (below) to our Greater South Side site, with hundreds of Woodlawn-area elementary school students in attendance alongside Hyde Park Academy High School students.



Big Night Chicago In Harmony raised \$468,000, uniting supporters of The People's Music School who are committed to the transformative power of music education.



TPMS students closed out the year with Performapaloozathon (right), our annual school-wide music marathon, featuring exciting collaborations with Chicago Sinfonietta, JCC Chicago, and Violins of Hope.



TPMS welcomed 24 new alumni from the Class of 2023.



**80% of students
who started with
us in FY23 returned
this fall.**

Above: Oboe student Andrik has been a student at People's for seven years. He is a member of the Service, Leadership, Artistry, and Mentorship (SLAM) program at Back of the Yards and plays oboe in the SLAM wind ensemble led by Dr. Megan Robbins.

Retention

The benefits of intensive music education are most pronounced in the context of a multi-year student journey. Simply put, our data shows that the longer students remain in our program, the deeper and more sustainable the impact, in particular given the learning disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in our student community.

We use internal data and external research to inform program design and interventions necessary to support students in persisting in our program as long as possible, setting ourselves apart from typical after-school programming. Students that persist in our program through their senior year graduate high school and go on to attend college 100% of the time. However, even students that stay with us for two to three years see dramatic increases in growth mindset and grit. Our goal is to create the conditions that give every student that joins TPMS an opportunity to persist in a long-term journey of growth and progress in our program.

This past year, we invested time and analysis in better understanding the drivers of student persistence and attrition. We analyzed quantitative data and interviewed families about their needs, learning three powerful insights that transformed our programming decisions:

Physical access is crucial: Students at our Greater South Side site who received guaranteed bussing to programming had a 10% higher in-year retention rate than those who did not. At our North Side sites, we found that the farther away a student lives from our site, the higher their likelihood of attrition. This insight has led us to deepen our investment in student transportation for our Greater South Side site, and for our other sites, to narrow the geographic radius of our targeted recruitment efforts, focusing on building cohorts of students from schools in close proximity to our community sites and strengthening our partnerships with local school principals.

Progression motivates: We both saw in our data and heard from families that when students don't progress musically, their motivation flags, and they are more likely to drop. Students who have remained at the same instrumental level for two years are at significant risk of attrition, whereas students that progress more quickly tend to persist.

Moments of truth matter: Families reported that in their journey, specific moments in their program experience significantly impacted their ability to persist. Instrument matching matters: If a student matched with an instrument they were excited about, this impacted their excitement to stay. Also, when students are in moments of academic transition, for example moving from 5th to 6th grade or 8th to 9th, they are more likely to reassess their activities for the following year.

These three insights enabled us to better prioritize our outreach efforts to families by proactively identifying students at high risk of attrition and intensifying our interventions in ways that motivated more students to persist. In this past year, we developed a dashboard analyzing these critical factors against all of our students, facilitating our Program Managers' ability to identify and intervene for the students most at risk of dropping the program during the year. In one example, we identified a 6th grade student that had multiple risk factors for leaving the program (6th grade, below average attendance, lack of progression). This student struggled to engage with our virtual programming during the COVID-19 closures, and these attendance and engagement challenges continued with the return to in-person programming. These challenges hindered his ability to progress musically and contribute to his ensemble. With this in mind, we initiated an in-person meeting with his family, and also designed a learning plan tailored to his needs, in particular focusing on incentives and rewards to keep this student engaged, motivated to progress, and connected to his community of peers. With these interventions, the student not only remained in the program for the year, but also grew into a leader within his ensemble.

This year, over 80% of the students who started last year with us re-enrolled this fall. We see this as not only a strong indicator of families' and students' interest in and dedication to our programming, but also a success of our own data-driven and community-centered efforts. 🎵

Spotlight On: School Partnerships



Above: Morgan, clarinet student at Greater South Side, speaks on stage at the winter concert about her experience being in the SLAM program at Greater South Side.

TPMS continues to invest deeply in partnerships with Chicago Public Schools in Chicago's underserved communities, repurposing underutilized spaces on school campuses for high-quality after-school programming. In this past year, we increased our enrollment by 20% at our community sites, serving over 350 students across three sites - Hibbard Elementary (Albany Park), Lara Academy Elementary (Back of the Yards), and Hyde Park Academy High School (Woodlawn).

TPMS collaborates with school principals, faculty, and other community-based organizations to strengthen and augment the school and community with high-quality, whole-child after-school music programming at each of its partner sites. The mission behind this approach is simple - **we believe that bringing our programming to where students are reduces barriers to access and allows our programming to reach students who otherwise would not be able to participate.**

We are particularly excited about the launch of our new school partnership for our Greater South Side community. After outgrowing our previous space at Bronzeville Classical Elementary School (another tremendous community partner with which we still collaborate), we launched a new partnership site this past year at Hyde Park Academy High School in the Woodlawn community of the South Side of Chicago. In July of this year, TPMS moved into the space at Hyde Park Academy High School, partnering with Chicago Public Schools and the school administration to transform the previously dormant 6,000 square foot music space on the campus into a thriving music and arts hub.

In launching this site, TPMS has forged connections with school leadership and local community groups, including the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community organization, to build out its vision of a community hub. Our goal is to be more than just a programming site. We seek to partner closely with the school and broader community to help connect local schools to the neighborhood high school, expanding access to our intensive programming.



Above left: Hyde Park Academy High School in Woodlawn. Right: GSS Discover String Ensemble rehearses in one of the new classrooms.

This initial vision came to fruition this year, with the site serving nearly 130 students in its first year and drawing attention from community and school leaders. The year culminated with a cutting-edge artistic performance by Grammy Award winning group Third Coast Percussion. The program, *Metamorphosis*, combined groundbreaking choreography by Jonboogz and Lil Buck of Movement Art Is with new music by Jlin and Tyondai Braxton, as well as Third Coast Percussion’s critically-acclaimed arrangements of Philip Glass’s *Aguas de Amazonia*. The performance, hailed by the Chicago Tribune as “one of 2023’s most inspiring cultural events so far,” brought 700 students to Hyde Park Academy from five schools across the community - the first time such schools had been brought together collectively at that site for an event.

We continue to build upon the momentum from this first year in Woodlawn, and are expecting significant enrollment growth again at the site next year. We are building new partnerships with surrounding schools, forging pathways to opportunity through after-school intensive music education. 🌸



Above: Artists Trent Jeray and Cameron Murphy are joined by Third Coast Percussion on stage for *Metamorphosis* at Hyde Park Academy High School. Photos courtesy of Matt Perlish Photography.

¹ Hannah Edgar, “Review: Third dancer’s the charm in unforgettable collaboration between Third Coast Percussion and Movement Art Is,” *Chicago Tribune*, March 3, 2023.

Miriam Owens, President & Chief Executive Officer

In December 2022, The People’s Music School appointed Miriam Owens as its President and Chief Executive Officer. Miriam had served on the organization’s leadership team since August 2021, joining as Chief Operating Officer. She became Chief of Development and Operations in April 2022, expanding the organization’s fundraising footprint while driving operational improvements.

Miriam entered the role with a wealth of senior leadership experience in the social and private sectors. Her career roots are in driving equitable outcomes in public education: she was a 5th grade science teacher in Brooklyn with Teach for America and a Program Manager at Raise Your Hand Texas, an education advocacy organization. Prior to joining The People’s Music School, Owens was a consultant at McKinsey and Company for eight years, where she was an Associate Partner. A leader in the firm’s Organization practice, Miriam served clients in areas including strategic planning, large-scale reorganization, professional learning at scale, talent management transformations, and inclusion and diversity.

A native Texan and proud Latina, Owens is also a lifelong musician. She studied piano from grades K-12, and at Harvard spent four years in the women’s a cappella group The Radcliffe Pitches, serving as Music Director and Stage Manager. She is currently the lead singer in the rock cover band Model-J. She holds an AB from Harvard University, an MS in Education from Teacher U at Hunter College (now Relay Graduate School of Education), and an MBA



Top: Miriam speaks at People’s annual fundraising gala, Big Night. Below: Miriam (right) at the Uptown Academy winter concert with percussion SLAM student Nico and his mother.

from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. In her first year as President and Chief Executive Officer of The People’s Music School, she became a member of the Economic Club of Chicago and a Fellow in Leadership Greater Chicago’s 2024 cohort. When she’s not at People’s or rocking out with her band at Montrose Saloon, Miriam is at home, probably gardening, with her two sons Abe and Andy and husband Robert. 🌸



Voice Student Avril Finds Community at People's



Scan to watch a vlog of Avril's Summer Ambassador experience at Berklee's Inspire: Five Week!

"I've seen a radical change in her as a person and a musician: a complete transformation."

- Laura Peñuelas, Avril's mother

Class of 2023 honors voice student Avril De la Cruz showcases excellence in every sense of the word. She participated in The People's Music School's SLAM advanced voice program, performing at the annual Big Night gala. Her outstanding musicianship sent her to Berklee College of Music's Aspire: Five Week, a prestigious summer program for the country's most talented young musicians. This fall, Avril will begin her journey as a Biochemistry student on the pre-med track at the University of Illinois Chicago and plans to sing in the school's choir.

Seven years ago, at the beginning of her People's journey, Avril was a very different person. "Music found me at a time when I was at my lowest: elementary school," she says. Seeing their daughter struggling to find confidence and community in school, her parents decided to enroll her in free music classes at TPMS. After a year in the program, things started to change for Avril. "Her voice teacher asked her if she would rather sing or play an instrument," says Laura. Choosing voice, Avril's "love for music was born."

"Throughout the seven years I was a part of this program," says Avril, "I found a community of people that supported me in all of my endeavors. I worked with teachers who were inviting, treated me with respect, and nurtured my creativity. Most importantly, I found my spark. Singing became my escape: my outlet for self expression."

Avril has not only grown as a musician at The People's Music School, but she has grown as a person. At TPMS, "I was able to regain the confidence I had lost in my youth and further develop other skills I now use in my everyday life," says Avril. Her mother sees the transformative impact, too. "Avril is now a person with a high self-esteem," says Laura. "She is someone who is motivated and strives for excellence in everything she does."

Avril thanks the music education she has had for getting her where she is today. The People's Music School "allowed me to find my second family; the friends I care for most, and the mentors who have guided me through the long journey into young adulthood," she says. "The impact music has had on my life is unimaginable, and I will always be eternally grateful for it." 🎵

Forming Bonds through Music: The SLAM String Quartet



SLAM String Quartet meets with Hilary Hahn backstage at Symphony Center, April 2023

When a student enrolls at The People’s Music School, they embark on a transformational musical journey. For violin student Yeimi, viola student Joselyn, and cello students (and siblings) Julia and Kevin, this journey began at as young as 8 years old. As they grew up with The People’s Music School, each student advanced through our curriculum and earned a spot in our advanced SLAM program. This year, their journeys were marked by forming the SLAM String Quartet, as they earned several unique opportunities to perform and demonstrate true musical excellence as a group.

Yeimi, Joselyn, Julia, and Kevin met each week as a quartet and to practice and perfect Schubert’s iconic Cello Quintet in C Major. Coached by Senior Manager of Artistic Engagement David Sands, the quartet began rehearsals in the fall. “Based on the goals they set for themselves, it was clear that these four students were ready to embark on an advanced approach to performing chamber music,” says David.

Over the course of the year, the SLAM String Quartet earned incredible opportunities to perform and demonstrate true artistic excellence. In December, the quartet performed in a masterclass hosted at TPMS by

world-renowned violinist Hilary Hahn. A three-time Grammy award winner and one of our time’s greatest violin soloists, Hahn is currently an Artist-in-Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The quartet, joined by violin teaching artist Jonathan Hodges, worked with Hahn and learned about the many ways we can express ourselves through the music we play.

The SLAM string quartet returned in the spring with an outstanding performance of Schubert’s Cello Quintet, this time at Symphony Center. The group greeted attendees with their piece in the rotunda as a prelude to Hahn’s brilliant performance of Bizet’s Carmen with the CSO.

The group closed out the year with a virtuosic performance of Schubert at Performapaloozathon. This time, two sets of siblings graced the stage - Julia and Kevin (cello) and Yeimi and her brother and TPMS alumnus Jonathan (violin). The months of hard work on the piece was evident, and the group’s ability to communicate musically was palpable. For the quartet’s violist, Joselyn, the performance was truly special. “I may not have a sibling on stage right now,” she said in her pre-concert remarks, “but after the amazing year our quartet has had, I definitely feel that I have made friendships that feel like family.”

“At the beginning of the year, the quartet had the goals of learning to trust each other, bringing out dynamics, and demonstrating consistent eye contact,” says their chamber coach David Sands. “By the end of the school year, the quartet not only accomplished each of these goals, but they went on to serve as ambassadors of excellence, from which other TPMS students could learn and model themselves after.”

This fall, Julia and Joselyn will enter their freshman years at University of Illinois - Chicago, Yeimi will enter her senior year of high school, and Kevin will enter high school. While the quartet may be in different parts of their journey at People’s now, they will always have the unique shared experience of performing as a quartet and as a family. 🎻

Below: Hilary Hahn’s chamber music masterclass at Uptown Academy, December 2022. Bottom: SLAM String Quintet composed of siblings Yeimi (violin) and Jonathan (violin), Joselyn (viola), and siblings Kevin (cello) and Julia (cello) performs Schubert’s Cello Quintet at Performapaloozathon.



Scan to watch the SLAM String Quartet’s performance of the Schubert Cello Quintet!



From top: SLAM musicians Julia, Kevin, Joselyn, and Yeimi during their first years at TPMS versus now.



Spotlight On: Lohengrin Foundation

The People's Music School expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the Lohengrin Foundation for its unwavering and strengthened commitment to our Greater South Side program at Hyde Park Academy High School. Peter Ascoli, President and Founder of the Lohengrin Foundation, proudly acknowledges their investment in our mission to make music education accessible to all. "We are happy to partner with The People's Music School by supporting its commitment to expanding free music education to communities on the South Side of Chicago. The Lohengrin Foundation's partnership with The People's Music School exemplifies our commitment to arts education and leveraging the power of the arts for enjoyment, as well as to help youth build critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, all of which are essential for success in many professions and activities," says Peter.

With the generous increase in financial support from 2022 to 2023, the Lohengrin

Foundation has opened doors to music education for over 127 students in our Greater South Side program, who otherwise would not have had access to such opportunities. This funding has allowed us to enrich the music education experience for these students significantly. Through state-of-the-art technology on class sets of laptops, students were able to engage in musical exploration and composition activities. Moreover, students had the incredible privilege of participating in a masterclass conducted by the Grammy-nominated saxophonist Tia Fuller. Such extraordinary experiences have become possible due to the continued and deepened support from the Lohengrin Foundation.

Thanks to the Lohengrin Foundation's generosity, The People's Music School has been able to enrich the lives of students in the Greater South Side, fostering their love for music, nurturing their talents, and providing them with opportunities they would not have had otherwise. 🎵

Our Supporters

“The inspirational growth and development I've seen in our students, fostered by TPMS's unwavering dedication and passion, have opened new horizons of creativity, confidence, and personal growth. Their journeys have touched the lives of those around them, creating a ripple effect of inspiration and hope that is evident throughout our community. I wholeheartedly applaud the TPMS partnership for its unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a strong sense of belonging.”

HILIANA LEON

Principal,
Hibbard Elementary School



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“Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras is proud to continue our impactful collaboration with The People's Music School (TPMS). Over the years, CYSO has provided string workshops, audition masterclasses, and steelpan camps to TPMS students, and we have welcomed referrals by TPMS to bring TPS students into CYSO's onsite programming. As an audience member at their most recent Performapaloozathon, CYSO Community Engagement Manager Karen Mari and I enjoyed a day of high level performances by TPMS students. TPMS is an essential contributor to Chicago youth music education, and we look forward to many more years of connection!”

JENNIE OH BROWN

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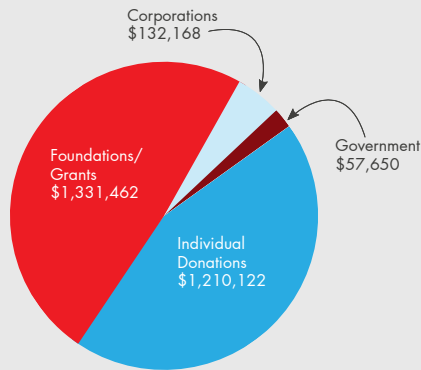
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Rossana Rodriguez
Rossman Palfrey and Megan
Robbins
Rotimi Olusanya
Roy Torres
Rudi Rodriguez
Ruquiyah Wilson
Ruth Rod
Ryan and Elyse Gac
Saeed Abbasi
Sallie Mowles
Sally Swiss
Sam Bernstein
Samantha Eastberg
Samuel Santillan
Sandra Barry
Sandra Ramsey
Sandra Rodriguez
Sandra Ventura
Santiago Gonzalez
Sara Farias
Sarah Christianson
Sarah Kamara
Sarah Sarpong
Sarah Trax
Sean Roberts
Sean Walsh
Sean Zhang
Segundo Cambi
Selena Roberts
Selena Shaw
Seniorities Bracey
Shai Shemesh
Shalia Johnson
Shalonda Greaves
Shannel Crump
Shannon Redding
Shannon Smith
Shantiece Rodriguez
Shaquan Dupart
Shareeta Rent
Sharon Samuels
Sheila Quirke
Sheila Thomas
Shelby Oliver
Shelly Taone
Shenika Dupart
Sherrill Tillis
Sherry Anapol
Shondra Siler
Silvia Quito
Simon Mendiola
Slavica Simic
Sonia Velasco
Sonja Sumerlin
Sophia Farias
Stacy Ruffin
Starsha Monroe
Stefanie Alvarez
Stefany Casales
Stephanie Franklin
Stephanie Jackson
Stephanie Lata Sami
Stephanie Maradiaga
Stephanie Max
Stephanie Nilson
Stephanie Phuong
Stephanie Ricoy
Stephanie Winfield

Stephen Redenbaugh
Steve Reinfrank
Steven Gray
Steven Velazquez
Stormy Chartrand
Suleiman Wadi
Sunil Mathews
Susan Ang
Susan George
Susan Graff
Susan James
Takeisa Sledge
Tamara Steele
Tamara Townsend
Tammy Doerksen
Tanisha Harris
Tania Ciske
TaNita Weathers
Tanya Lovett
Tara Pinto
Tara Samuels
Tashia Brown
Tawana Williams
Teresa Herrera
Teresa Thompson
Terrence Hardaman
Thomas Hughes
Thomas Pelgenl
Thomas Trandel
Tibisay Garcia
Tiffany Moore
Timothy and Kelli Bell
Timothy Coukart
Toinette Flowers
Tom Crozier
Tomica Jenkins
Tony Santana
Tracy Smith
Travis Matics
Trinece Lindsey
Uel Kolesar
Val Mosley
Valentina Cordero
Valerie Wadycki
Valisha White
Vanessa Owusu
Vanessa Vidal
Velanie Adams
Veronica Bedolla
Veronica Bonebrake
Veronica Narvaez
Vicky Pearlman
Victor Somoza
Victoria Santiago
Victoria Watkins
Victoria Williams
Victoria Wittmer
Viorel Haeman
Viridiana Rojas
Vivian Redwood
Von Hernandez
Wakako Sato
Wannetta Brooks
Wei Hsueh
Wendy Aceituno
Wendy Rodriguez
Wendy Sanchez
Whitley Howard
Whitney Bright
Wilbert Crutcher
Willie Tiggs
Winnie Chartrand
Winnila Baldwin
Wm Jason McInnes
Wynn Root
Ximena Ayala
Yaritza Rodriguez
Yasmarie Correa
Yeanette Bernal
Yei Narvaez
Yeimi Alday
Yelitza Valbuena
Yessenia Barron
Yidekhell Machado
Yolanda Fernandez
Yolanda Houston
Yolanda Knight
Yolanda Leon
Yoliver Rodriguez
Ysamali L Araujo
Yvonne Flores-Garcia
Yvonne Wang
Zenabu Abdulla
Zenaida Rivera
Zenaida Velazquez and
Rosa Paz

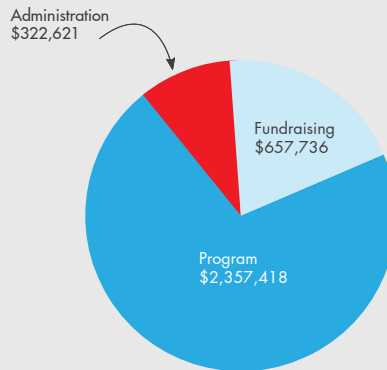
“This year, I had the opportunity to mentor the advanced students at the People's Music School and prepare them for a showcase performance at the Merit School of Music. The quality of the students and the level of preparation were very high. People's Music School is making a significant difference as they work to expand access to high-quality music education, and they are achieving remarkable results.”

JAMES SANDERS
Violinist,
Chicago Sinfonietta

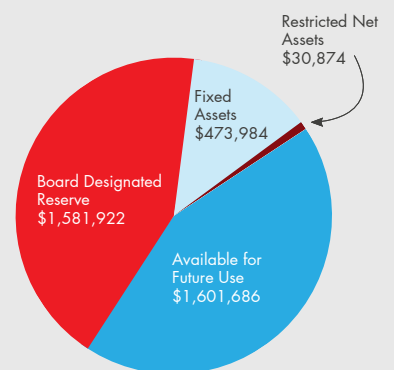
Financials



FY23 OPERATING REVENUE



FY23 EXPENSES



FY23 NET ASSETS

Our Board

Juanna Blackwell
TRANSFIX

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Driehaus Capital Management LLC

Uma Chandrasekaran
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Kevin Dolan,
Secretary
Retired

Ellen Feldman
Community volunteer

Gary Hart
Mowery & Schoenfeld

Emerald-Jane "EJ" Hunter
myWHY Agency

Joe Idaszak
Brookfield Asset Management

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Federal Home Loan Bank

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Salesforce

Julie Lopez
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

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Vice Chair
BlackSheep General Store

Nancy Power
Ariel Investments

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Goldman Sachs

Laura Sutphen
The Golin Group

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Community volunteer

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Better Future Advisors LLC

Cici Zheng
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* indicates Lifetime Trustee

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Hyunmin Kim

Dan Malnar

Eric Menna

Allison Payne

Micah Rensch

Allegis Sant

Natalie Teichman

Austin Terris

Heather Williamson,
Associate Board Chair

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Alejandra Aquino
Alexis Bennett
Ashley Bennett
Abby Black
Joel Block
Natalie Butler
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Nico Carter
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Elizabeth Chun
Jamaal Crowder
Kelly Dennis
Laura Duggan
Anatolia Evarkiou-Kaku
Kaitlin Foley

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Omkara Gil Guaraco
Simon Gomez
Elena Grijalva
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Istvan Loga

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Julia Minkin
Krystal Miranda
Emily Munn-Wood
Oliver Munoz
Rossman Palfrey
An Phan
Felix Ponce
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Nicholas Ritter
Megan Robbins
Sandra Rowland
Allison Rye
Hugo Saavedra
David Sands

Corey Sansolo
Adam Shohet
Julia Slater
Anthony Stewart
Nyle Taylor
Kenni Ther
Michael Thompson
Felipe Tobar Blanco
Lena Vidulich
Serena Voltz
Annamarie Wellems
Wes Woodward
Daniel Zheng

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Program Coordinator

Natalie Butler
Dean of Learning and Teaching

Kathryn Cederborg
Program Coordinator

Kelly Dennis
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Ellie DePastino
Marketing & Communications Manager

Jessica Esteves
HR Associate

Ariel Garcia
Community Manager

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Elena Grijalva
Program Manager, Greater South Side

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Chief of Finance

Chelsey Jones
Institutional Giving Manager

Jack Kartsotis
Program Coordinator

Grecia Landin
Program Manager, Albany Park

Stephanie Londoño
Program Manager, Uptown Academy

Miriam Owens
President & Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer Riskind
Director of Individual Giving

Megan Robbins
Senior Manager of Learning and Teaching

David Sands
Senior Manager of Artistic Engagement

Michael Thompson
Development Coordinator

Felipe Tobar
Learning and Teaching Associate

Minji Will
Program Coordinator

Marc Wilson
Chief of Strategy and Partnerships

How to Get Involved



SPREAD THE WORD

Tell a friend, follow and boost us on social media, or host an event! We always need more people to know about the great work happening here.

DONATE

Every dollar you give to The People's Music School goes towards eliminating barriers to access in music education and enriching young lives in Chicago.

ATTEND AN EVENT

Head to our website to see our calendar of upcoming concerts, recitals, community programming, and more. We can't wait to see you!

JOIN A COMMITTEE OR TASK FORCE

Composed of expert volunteers, members of our People's community, and members of our Board of Directors, our committee and task force members serve as advisors and experts that guide our work. Learn more about our committees and how to inquire about involvement.

VOLUNTEER

We have nearly 30 performing events per year, and we always need help! Volunteering at an event is a great opportunity to get to know our close-knit community.

**100% tuition-free.
100% life-changing.**



The
People's
Music
School

931 W. Eastwood Ave. Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 784-7032 | peoplesmusicsschool.org
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