Making Music, Building Community

This year’s Music Matters Luncheon stories and music demonstrated how students of all ages bond over shared music learning experiences. You are the MacPhail community. You played your part in making the luncheon a wonderful success, THANK YOU!

State Education Bill Passes

Park Center High School
Faces of MacPhail
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Letter from CEO

MACPHAIL CENTER FOR MUSIC

DONOR NEWS OF NOTE
SUMMER 2019

STATE EDUCATION BILL PASSES

Line Item Provides Funds for Online Music Education

“The MacPhail Online School Partnership (OSP) has been a real game-changer for our school. I couldn’t imagine not having it as part of our curriculum. We have several students continuing to play in college as their confidence, interest and level of musicianship has grown exponentially thanks to MacPhail OSP.” —Pam Diem, Kerkhoven Murdock Sunburg (KMS) Band Director

Pam is the sole KMS band director for students in grades 5-12; her instruction responsibilities include 4 concert bands, a jazz ensemble, marching band, pep band and drumline. MacPhail provides supplemental online music learning experiences for KMS students. And for Pam, MacPhail provides peer support. “I feel like I am now part of a department. I have colleagues and support that I would not otherwise have. These peer relationships have made me a better teacher.”

The MacPhail OSP program started live-online instruction for rural Minnesota students in 2011. KMS was our first trial partner and today is one of MacPhail’s 13 online high school partners and 8 early childhood online music partners. Currently, OSP receives funding through grants from the Otto Bremer Foundation, Carl and Aune Lind Family Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, and Joseph and Carol Stoebner.

Over the past few years, MacPhail started looking to the Minnesota legislature as a potential source for funds to help MacPhail provide supplemental music learning in rural schools. This past May, we were delighted when Governor Tim Walz signed a two-year omnibus E-12 education finance bill that included $100,000 grants for both 2020 and 2021 in support of online access to MacPhail music education in rural schools. These grants will support online early childhood music for pre-k classes, supplemental and enhanced support for individual instruction and school ensembles, and professional development for educators.

With a firm commitment for funding for the next two years, it will be exciting to take online school partnerships to the next level. This opens doors for more students and educators in rural Minnesota schools to access MacPhail’s exceptional online teaching community.

Photo: MacPhail Teaching Artist Greg Keel works with a saxophone sectional at KMS High School.
PARK CENTER HS PILOT PROGRAM

This spring MacPhail launched a small pilot program with the Park Center Ib World School. Working closely with Wade Schroeder and Mary Gagon, Park Center HS Band and Orchestra Directors, Roque Diaz, MacPhail Director of School Partnerships, created 40 hours of programming to bring instrument specialists and sectional support to Park Center students.

MacPhail teaching artist Chi-Chi Bestmann worked with orchestra students and found, "the program worked really well because we reinforced what Mary was telling the students on a regular basis. We also taught ideas and techniques that Mary didn’t always have time for, bringing lightbulb moments into their regular rehearsals."

"The students felt comfortable with me," LA Buckner observed, "it was inspiring to see students from diverse backgrounds engaged in music." Park Center is one of the most diverse high schools in the state with roughly 80% of the student body being of color. Sixty-six percent of students receive free or reduced lunch.

The pilot was made possible through the Ophelia Copes Fund. Established by Diane and Darryl Sannes and Rachel Scherer, the Ophelia Copes Fund memorializes Ophelia’s life-long dedication to teaching piano to youth in her community. Ophelia, a 1935 graduate of MacPhail School of Music, taught piano out of her Brooklyn Center home for over 60 years. Ophelia passed in 2014, four days after her 104th birthday.

FACES OF MACPHAIL

MacPhail is proud to offer several performance scholarships to students based on performance excellence. Two recipients of performance scholarships are wonderful examples of how MacPhail helps prepare students for a life in music.

Samuel Joseph Schulte, 19, recipient of the Mary Ann Kimball Vocal Scholarship, says that his relationship with teaching artist Mikiyoung Park helps him in the audition process. "She’s taught me the attitude you have to have as a performer," he explains. "I sometimes mess up as it happens. She reminds me ‘Don’t apologize.’ She’ll say, ‘professional singers make a mistake, but they don’t let the audience know it.’ That’s huge for me."

Lucy Dunne, 16, is a piano student of Nancy Daley and a member of the Suzuki and Crescendo programs. The recipient of the Theodore Bergman Piano Scholarship, her advice on auditioning is simple: “Remember that music isn’t winning or losing. It’s about expression and sharing.”

Samuel and Lucy are profiled in our upcoming Faces of MacPhail series. We’re excited for you to learn about them and how they’ve made the joy and beauty of music a central part of their lives. Look for all of the new profiles, debuting soon on macphail.org and our social media @MacPhailMusic.

MACPHAIL WELCOMES NEW MUSIC FOR LIFE MANAGER

Meet MacPhail Music for Life™ (MML) Program Manager, Kristyn Rupp. Kristyn, a trained music therapist, violinist, and MacPhail Suzuki student parent, joined MacPhail in March. MML is many things including classes, partnerships and individual instruction for those 55+. According to Kristyn, “shared MacPhail experiences like the Voices of Experience and Giving Voice Choruses bring camaraderie and a sense of community to our adult students.”

Busy getting to know MML partners and finding out what interests adult students, Kristyn hopes to introduce new classes including Taiko drumming, Chamber Singers and Beginning Guitar this fall. In the meantime classes like Unwrapping Music, Group Piano, Ukulele Jam and Group Voice are providing adults fellowship, community and music learning experiences.

Thank you for making camp experiences possible for many of our students, including MacPhail Northside Youth Orchestra and school partnership teens. Offering students a relaxed learning atmosphere and great peers and mentors to work with make camp experiences unique and fun, and in many cases create lasting memories and friendships. I invite you to come for a visit and see firsthand how making music builds community.

Happy Summer!

Kyle Carpenter

Events

Summer camps are underway, each week culminates with recitals and programs presented by the week’s campers. With over 40 camps, there is something for everyone. macphail.org/summer-camps/

August 6, National Night Out, Cold Medal Park, 6 p.m. MacPhail faculty and students will perform throughout the park as we join neighbors like the Guthrie and Izzy’s Ice Cream to celebrate our neighborhood community.

August 14, Indeed Brewing Company, 711 15th Ave NE, Minneapolis, 5-11 p.m. Indeed We Can! Proceeds from the evening’s taproom, growler and merchandise sales are donated to MacPhail.

Contact Us!

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Pianos on Parade at MacPhail Minneapolis
Photo by Harry Colbert, Jr.

Dear Friends,

Summer at MacPhail has a unique vibe... more informal music making and group playing. It starts with the Prince themed piano sitting right outside the entrance. With our eclectic variety of summer camp offerings, the vibe continues in studios and classrooms where students get exposure to new music and new teachers as they work their way through Rock, Composition, Jazz, Chamber Music and even Composing for Video Games Camps.

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