

Seattle Music Partners

Spring 2008

Renowned Musicians Perform in Partner Schools

Some of the country's best musicians have been giving master classes and playing concerts for SMP students, thanks to the good will and hard work of the **University of Washington World Series** and the **Ladies Musical Club**. This past school year, we were delighted to host concerts and classes from:

Chiara String Quartet, who performed their musical-theater piece *How Badger Learned to Play the Violin*, captivating the students;

Simon Shaheen, Palestinian-born master of the 'oud and violin, who taught us all how to listen for uniquely Eastern elements of his beautiful music;

Ritz Chamber Players, who wowed their young audiences with a repeat performance of the concert that earned multiple curtain calls at Seattle's Meany Hall the night before; and

Corigliano Quartet, who helped the children create, conduct and perform their own wild and wonderful blues improvisation for winds, brass, strings and voice.

Each of the performances and master classes was magical. We are thrilled to have had a hand in bringing such exceptional musicians into the schools.

The Ladies Musical Club, UW World Series and Seattle Music Partners are making plans for another season of wonderful musical performances in 2008 and 2009. For a preview of next year's performers, please visit uwworldseries.org on the Web. 🎵



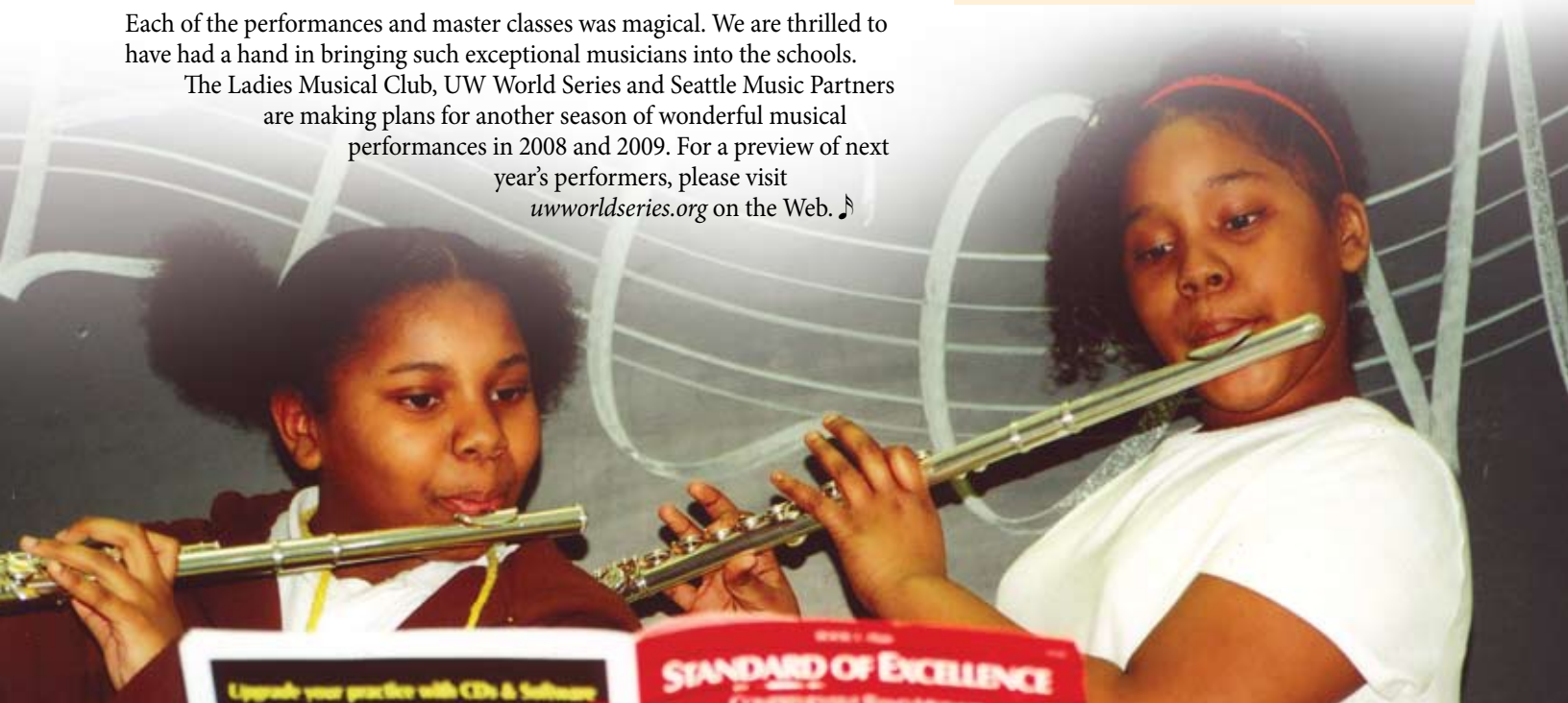
Corigliano Quartet's Michael Lim gently coaxes the best from a Leschi Elementary School student (photo: Lee Talner).

Seattle Music Partners is a non-profit organization that provides after-school music lessons to elementary and middle school students in low-income schools. Our mission is to help underserved children learn to play instruments and read music.

To accomplish this goal, we recruit accomplished high school and college-aged musicians to volunteer to work with our students. Lessons are taught on a weekly basis in one-on-one pairings or small groups and instruments are loaned where needed.

Students perform in several recitals each year, showcasing their new skills and gaining valuable performance experience. In addition, SMP works with area arts organizations to bring nationally known musicians into the schools and to arrange for field trips to music performances.

For additional information about Seattle Music Partners, please read about our "Current Program" inside or contact Scott Gelband, SMP's executive director, at 206.409.2535 or Marnie O'Sullivan, founder and artistic director, at 206.353.0968. 🎵



From the Founder

I wish everyone could see the enthusiasm, passion and sheer determination that our students demonstrate every day. I offer the following story to give you a glimpse into what Seattle Music Partners is all about. (Names have been changed to maintain privacy.)

Khamilah hurried over to me in the Leschi Elementary School hallway, dropped to her knees and opened the old black leather case. “Ms. O’Sullivan, this is my new violin!” she whispered, eyes gleaming with emotion.

Khamilah is one of seven children who live with their single mother in a tiny apartment. Finances are extremely limited and learning to play a musical instrument had been out of reach for her older siblings.

Khamilah, then a fourth grader, had just enrolled in SMP’s after-school music-tutoring program. She and her tutor, high-school sophomore Clare, began meeting each Tuesday afternoon to work on sight-reading skills and the intricacies of playing the violin. They practiced pieces assigned by the elementary instrumental music teacher, tried out bits of tunes from the radio, played duets and did a little composing.

Khamilah’s horizons expanded as she listened to Clare describe orchestra concerts and talk about her dreams of becoming “a veterinarian or a jazz violinist, or both.” Clare learned along with Khamilah, developing her teaching skills and her musicality and deepening her confidence that she could make positive changes in the world.

Toward the end of fifth grade, Khamilah auditioned for the middle school music program and won a spot in the junior orchestra. Clare continued to tutor Khamilah in middle school. When the orchestra director saw Khamilah’s commitment, she arranged a scholarship for Khamilah to receive formal violin lessons in addition to her tutoring sessions.

Khamilah performed in a recent school concert. She played beautifully. Her family, Clare, her professional violin teacher and I were all there to cheer her on. Later, the conductor told us about some of the exciting musical opportunities that are opening up for Khamilah — music camps, a beginning chamber group, travel to a music festival next winter.

Clare will be going to the East Coast in August to start college. For her college application essay, she chose to write about tutoring Khamilah. She told me she’s taking Khamilah shopping to pick out some duets to play together over the summer and to stock up on stamps and postcards so they can keep in touch after school starts again.

Khamilah and Clare are just two of the many students and tutors who are making a difference in each other’s lives through the music they share. ♪

Marnie O’Sullivan, SMP founder and artistic director

Current Program

SMP currently works in partnership with four schools in Seattle’s Central District: Leschi Elementary, T.T. Minor Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Elementary and Washington Middle School, where we have a small pilot program. Close to 76 percent of the student population at our elementary schools receive free or reduced-fee lunch benefits, compared with a district average of 39 percent.

This year, we provided 80 students with weekly lessons on flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, violin, viola, cello, bass, piano, guitar and percussion (and offered students the opportunity to learn additional instruments such as French horn). We also worked with more than 50 tutors from 12 high schools and colleges, as well as a number of adult amateur and professional musicians.

The children in our program are growing, not only in musical skills and interest, but also in self-confidence and an overall engagement in learning. In recent

articles in both the *Seattle Times* and *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Leschi Elementary Principal Jo Lute-Ervin credits our program as having played an important role in improving her students’ WASL scores. Because of that improvement, Leschi was one of only five Seattle elementary schools named a “School of Distinction” in October, 2007. ♪



“A growing body of research suggests that students who learn to play instruments and read music do better academically than do children without music education.”

Tutoring: a Two-Way Street

SMP's tutors enrich the lives of their students and are themselves enriched in the process. In addition to the inherent rewards of community service, tutors also gain job experience and leadership skills, improve their own musicianship and strengthen their own optimism by directly addressing an inequality in their lives.

There is a wonderful depth in the relationships that develop between our tutors and students. As one tutor recently wrote, "I find it amazing how enthusiastic the students are about playing, and how much fun they have experimenting and coming up with their own music... I am so glad that I am fortunate enough to be working with [the students] and am able to provide them with something both important and enjoyable."



If you or someone you know loves music and working with children, contact Scott Gelband at 206.409.2535 to discuss becoming one of our tutors! 🎵

SMP Gets Friend of Music Award

In February, SMP received the 2008 Friend of Music award from the Evergreen Chapter of the Washington Music Educators' Association. The award is given every two years in recognition of outstanding service to the music community in the Northwest. 🎵

Meet our New Board Member

We are very pleased to welcome musician and music educator **Dr. Patricia Costa Kim** as the newest member of SMP's board of directors.

Patricia served as the Director of Education and Community Programs for the Seattle Symphony, where she created Soundbridge Seattle Symphony Music Discovery Center, the Tiny Tots and Meet the Beat school concerts and was responsible for the continuation of the Arts in Education and Discover Music! programs. She also initiated the award-

winning Artistic and Culture Community Engagement with Seattle Symphony (ACCESS) Project.

Patricia's teaching career includes strings, choir, steel drums, guitar, piano and musical theater at Chief Sealth and Cleveland high schools. She currently teaches at Bright Water and Seattle Waldorf schools and serves as adjunct faculty for Sound Circle Center and Seattle University School of Education. Patricia joins current board members Scott Gelband, Kerstin Harding, Marnie O'Sullivan, Kathleen Webster and Sarah Westneat. 🎵



Thanks to our Supporters

Our program could not exist without the help of all of our tutors, adult volunteers, parents and guardians, advisors, board members, community partners, teachers, custodial staff, principals, donors of musical instruments and financial supporters. Heartfelt THANKS to everyone for helping to make the dream of playing music a reality for so many Seattle children!

During the past year, we have received financial contributions from many individuals, community groups, businesses and government agencies, including:

The Seattle Foundation	Windermere Real Estate
The Charlotte Martin Foundation	Rotary Club of Emerald City
The Peach Foundation	Leschi Community Council
The Bezos Family Foundation	Chicago Title Insurance Co.
4Culture	Ten Grands Productions



We Need Your Help

The success of Seattle Music Partners and the ability to fulfill our mission depends on your support. One hundred percent of our funding comes from the generosity of the community.

We need money for ongoing operations, including instrument acquisitions, transportation, further development of our curriculum, guest performances, staffing and other capacity building to support recent and planned future growth.

Every dollar makes a difference. Please send your contributions, with checks made payable to “Seattle Music Partners”, to SMP, 4533 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103. We also welcome donations of new or gently used musical instruments.

Seattle Music Partners is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and, as such, your contributions are tax-deductible. 🎵

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