

ARTS-IN-EDUCATION SEVEN STARS

As Eric Booth points out in his July/August 2009 "Edifications" column, there are hundreds—possibly thousands—of admirable arts-in-education programs in the U.S. today. To supplement this year's Education Issue, we highlight seven in-school music programs, most of them with a strong chamber music component, and most of them initiated by chamber musicians. Some programs have long track records, others are rather new. All are inspiring.

BOSTON PUBLIC QUARTET
COMMUNITY MUSICWORKS
MUSIC HAVEN
OPUS 118 HARLEM SCHOOL OF MUSIC
THE SPHINX ORGANIZATION
ST. LUKE'S ARTS-EDUCATION PROGRAM
JAZZREACH

BOSTON PUBLIC QUARTET Boston, MA

Founded: 2006, by Betsy (Elizabeth) Hinkle, violinist

Back Story While working at a private elementary school, NEC-grad Hinkle came to believe that playing string instruments helps kids with learning challenges in other subjects and that the listening skill chamber music requires also develops social intelligence. In 2007, with Boston-based peers from NEC and Apple Hill, she formed the Boston Public Quartet, which proposed its teaching project to a local elementary school. In the first year, the school supplied the whole budget but later was forced to reduce its contribution to only one-fourth of the minimum necessary. Others have stepped in. In 2008-09, the major donor was Music Drives Us, a foundation set up by Boston car dealer Ernie Bloch, Jr.

Vision "The string quartet is the model for life, how to be."

The Program Performances during school day, plus after-school violin, viola, and cello lessons for interested children in grades 3, 4 and 5. New: in-school kindergarten instrument-readiness class.

Serves Chittick Elementary School, in Boston's underserved Mattapan neighborhood; private lessons for 26 students, with 75 on the waiting list. The string quartet also performs at the Sumner Elementary and Roslindale schools.

Five-Year Plan Hinkle wants to publish her curriculum, which has kids playing chamber music from Day One, in contrast to the typical school music program's

band/orchestra model. Another goal is to integrate Boston Public Quartet's teaching into the regular school day, because the school doesn't have a general music or art class.

Btw Hinkle was inspired by reading about Community MusicWorks in the June 2004 issue of *Chamber Music*

<http://bostonpublicquartet.org>

COMMUNITY MUSICWORKS Providence, RI

Founded 1997, by violinist/violist Sebastian Ruth

Back Story While an undergrad at Brown, Ruth heard an NPR story about Bill Strickland and the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild. Strickland's "appealing concept of a practicing, professional artist, with a very visible street presence, inviting kids into the studio" became CMW's model.

Vision Full integration of professional chamber musicians into the community
Program The Providence String Quartet (Jesse Holstein and Jessie Montgomery, violins; Sebastian Ruth, viola, and Sara Stalnaker, cello) gives free individual lessons and workshops to local children after school, and performs. Potluck dinners-cum-recitals involve the whole community; monthly trips for whole families to concerts in Boston and Providence. Teens who've advanced through the program have their own social and music programs.

Serves 100-plus youths in the city's West End, South Side, Elmwood, and Olneyville neighborhoods

Growth Spurt Fellowship Program (est. 2006) brings young professional musicians to Providence for two years to train and teach with the PSQ. Brand-new: twice-yearly Institutes for Musicianship and Public Service, sharing strategies with other musicians to mobilize artists in communities nationwide.

Btw CMW has been selected (for three years in a row) as one of the 50 top after-school arts programs in the nation by the President's Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

www.communitymusicworks.org

JAZZREACH

Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA

Directed by electric bassist/educator Susan Helfter

Founding & Back Story With very little in the way of music in their schools, members of the community surrounding USC requested help from Thornton. In response, various programs initiated and led by faculty were centralized in 2004 as the Community Outreach & Education Department, which launched JazzReach in 2006.

Vision A win-win program benefiting under-resourced K-12 schools and their "itinerant" music teachers in the neighborhoods surrounding USC—and providing teaching and service opportunities for Thornton grad students and undergrads in performance, composition, music industry, and music education.

Programs Tailoring its offerings to the requests of participating schools, Thornton sends students into local classrooms to teach weekly music classes (general skills, as well as instrumental lessons), to coach ensembles and sectionals, and to give private lessons in classical and/or jazz genres, on weekends. Thornton's jazz majors coach vocal and instrumental ensembles, give weekly private lessons, and assist student ensembles in recording their music. Also: JazzReach masterclasses from Thornton faculty, and yearly JazzReach Composition/Arranging and Ensemble Performance competitions

Serves Total Thornton programs (of which JazzReach is one component) serve 500 children/week in 11 schools with classes and/or lessons; concerts reach 6,000-7,000 a year

Growth Spurt Jazzreach's Los Angeles Youth Jazz Ensemble program has provided talented students in grades 9-12 with weekly ensemble rehearsals, free private lessons from jazz majors, periodic masterclasses from faculty, and performance and recording projects.

Btw Grad students and international students, studying in all areas of music, also participate in great numbers in Thornton's partner schools.

usc.edu/schools/music/about/signature/outreach

MUSIC HAVEN New Haven, CT

Founded 2006, by violinist Tina Lee Hadari, in collaboration with individual donors in the New Haven area, a small board of directors, and the Vinca Quartet

Back Story The daughter of Korean immigrants unable to afford private lessons, Hadari got her own musical start in public school and is paying it forward to the next generation because of "a series of incredible private teachers who were willing to invest in me and not charge me much." Educated at NEC and Yale School of Music, Hadari had worked at Roberta Guaspari's Opus 118, knew the Community MusicWorks folks, and always thought that a similar project would be part of her future. An opportunity presented itself when she met Andrew Bedford, a physician and an amateur violinist in New Haven, who wanted to bring something like Community MusicWorks to his own city. In 2008, the Vinca Quartet, which had gelled at Yale, decided to separate; but Hadari stayed on to form the Haven Quartet with violinist Michele Lee; violist Christopher Jenkins, and cellist Elise Pittenger.

Vision "Committed to building community by establishing long-term mentoring relationships between professional musicians and inner-city children"

The Program Each member of the Haven String Quartet gives individual and group instrument lessons after school four days a week, mentors students, and performs for the entire community. All after-school programs, and string instruments, are free of charge. Like Community MusicWorks, Music Haven holds performance parties and potluck dinners for the community's kids and their families.

Serves 36 children in the Dixwell, Hill, Dwight, and Newhallville neighborhoods; and—through its performances and educational activities—schools throughout New Haven

Growth Spurt Started in two schools, but has expanded to four.

Insight “In theory, everybody likes this kind of work,” says Hadari, “but in practice it’s tough. You become almost like another parent to the kids. You may have to sacrifice your own practice time and opportunities outside of New Haven. When things come up, family issues, we are the ones who are there for them.”

www.musichavenct.org

OPUS 118 HARLEM SCHOOL OF MUSIC New York, NY

Founded 1991, by Roberta Guaspari, violinist

Back Story Her work with kids in three public schools eliminated by severe New York City budget cuts, Guaspari joined forces with parents, teachers, and volunteers to continue giving violin lessons to her students

Program Offers one-on-one lessons in violin, viola, cello, piano, guitar and recorder, plus after-school ensemble instruction

Serves Six schools, plus children in schools without music programs and adults who want to learn an instrument or advance their musical skills

Growth Spurt Wind, brass and percussion instruction, as well as early childhood and senior adult classes, are planned.

btw Guaspari’s work inspired two films: Allan Miller’s *Small Wonders* (1996) and Miramax’s *Music of the Heart* (1999) starring Meryl Streep.

www.opus118.org

THE SPHINX ORGANIZATION Detroit, MI

Founded 1997, by violinist Aaron P. Dworkin

Back Story An African American who went to camp at Interlochen and earned degrees at the University of Michigan, Dworkin wanted “to make classical music look like the rest of the world.”

Vision To expand the minority presence in the field, both professionally and in audiences

Program Yearly national competition for young black and Latino string players, preparatory music institute at Wayne State, two-week chamber music intensive at Walnut Hill School in MA, instrument and scholarship funds, teaching in Detroit public schools by Sphinx laureates; instrument fund providing high-quality instruments to competition semifinalists; performance academy

Serves Detroit schools and schools nationwide through Musical Encounters program. Over 65,000 students in 175 schools nationwide

Growth Spurt The Harlem String Quartet—all Sphinx Competition laureates—began educational residencies in NYC elementary schools in 2007

btw Dworkin received a MacArthur Fellowship (aka “genius” grant) in 2005

www.sphinx.org

ST. LUKE'S ARTS-EDUCATION PROGRAM New York, NY

Founded 1976, by Marianne Lockwood and clarinetist Michael Feldman, of St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble

Back Story Response to first wave of NYC school arts-budget cuts in mid '70s. Consolidated Edison (a.k.a. Con Ed), the city's power supplier, stepped in with major support to develop free musical events open to all NYC and Westchester students.

Vision Feldman, a former schoolteacher, thought of engaging children through chamber opera.

Program Free annual concert series for schoolchildren, plus related, intensive three-year music curriculum via teaching artists for every 3rd-, 4th-, and 5th-grade classroom in five partner schools; composition program at Brooklyn High School of the Arts

Serves 18,000 students

Growth Spurt In the 1990s, the free-concert, the concert series' "exposure" model was supplemented by in-school programs, with teaching artists and classroom teacher partners.

Btw NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg proclaimed December 6, 2006, "*Orchestra of St. Luke's Day*"

www.oslmusic.org/arts_ed