Founded in 2014 by internationally acclaimed flutist Kaori Fujii, Music Beyond is a nonprofit organization that aims to empower people in developing countries through music and engagement. Currently operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Music Beyond fosters an enduring positive impact on communities by providing local musicians with the tools they need to grow as teachers, mentors, and performers.

Negative images dominate the news about DRC. Yet despite challenges that might seem insurmountable (decades of war and conflict, exploitation, and corruption), there are unsung men and women making significant contributions in a wide array of fields, including the arts. Music Beyond believes that the world stands to gain from the strength and creative energy that is displayed in DRC on a daily basis.

Music Beyond offers private and group workshops for musicians through its teacher training program, as well as solo and ensemble performance opportunities. It also offers master classes that focus on best practices for teaching youth. Music Beyond makes valuable resources and networks available to musicians, empowering them to find purpose under challenging circumstances and reclaim their narratives through music. Many of Music Beyond’s students have gone on to become influential music teachers and community leaders.

Founded in 2016, Music Beyond’s women’s chamber ensemble Romance de l’OSK provides women with a safe space to express and explore themselves through music. Among many groundbreaking efforts as Congo’s first all-female chamber ensemble, Romance de l’OSK recorded a music video in Kinshasa that was produced by an all-Congolese team. A vehicle for cultivating fulfillment, music is also a powerful catalyst for social change. The ensemble aims to serve as a beacon of hope for women and girls in Congo and around the world.

Music Beyond also partners with schools, NGOs, and other organizations to offer consulting that helps them to strengthen their music programs and build new curriculums from the ground up. Alongside Music Beyond’s Congolese musicians, Kaori leads workshops and master classes that inspire the next generation of talent, ensuring that future generations will have access to high-quality music education for years to come.