

THE MUSIC OF MARISA MOLINARO:

extracting harmony out of teen angst

Marisa's demure, doe-like eyes glow serenely out of CHICAGO Magazine's "50 Most Beautiful Chicagoans" line up. To see the source of that inner glow you must look beyond the fashion model, the concert violinist, the world-traveler and the savvy designer. If you peer deeper, you'll glimpse the light of Marisa's life purpose – to share her remarkable experience and insight with teens – and you'll discover that at her core Marisa is a teacher.

The same nimble-fingered violinist who toured the globe strumming Mahler, has just spent the last decade of her life creating harmony in chaotic lives through mentoring, healing, inspiring, feeding, and entertaining teenagers from some of the country's toughest neighborhoods. "She's accomplished more in a few years of her life than most people wouldn't even accomplish in a lifetime!" declares a fourteen-year-old student at a teen empowerment rally Molinaro led, where fifty teenagers cheered their double-dutching prowess.

Marisa is a magnetic role model - where she goes, teens follow. She told of her travels and donned fashion forward attire (including her signature wide brim fedora) for the same reason she played Miles Davis in her rap-saturated class – to inspire the honor of higher culture and deeper aspirations. A cool, talented teacher who can make you laugh and dance – what else could a world-weary, confused teenager ask for? The initial attraction was immediate, and spawned Marisa's life's purpose. Four especially dedicated girls grew to trust her much more than a teacher – she became their mentor, friend and true confidant.

“My girls have been a significant part of my life for a decade now. Once I committed to them, I quickly realized there was no place in the world I would rather be,” says Marisa. And whether they’re being treated or reprimanded, Marisa’s girls would say the same about her. In addition to comforting them through parental ineptitude, boyfriends’ dismissiveness, academic misgivings and etiquette faux pas, Marisa demonstratively monitors their sleep habits, conversational skills, and musical diet. They have ventured out to museums, concerts, restaurants, college tours, shopping sprees and road trips, weaving their sacred bond tighter and tighter. Tears of both pain and elation have been shed throughout this mission – and many more are anticipated– but all are forgotten once Marisa hears those young enraptured voices say things like: “I’m not going to let anything or anyone stop me from being what I want to be.” Or: “Without you, I would be nowhere...” Or their collective motto: “If you want something you’ve never had before, you have to do something you’ve never done before!”

Marisa believes that with enough nurturing her girls can discover and manifest the passion in their hearts. While perpetually pushing them toward their highest potential, Marisa reminds them that both the enjoyment of their present and the accomplishments of their future are in their own hands. And their hands are tightly clasped in hers – as they continue their mission of forging harmonious lives out of chaotic circumstances. Now, as she cautions them that “life is not a dress rehearsal,” Marisa rehearses for her own next performance – a television show which will exponentially multiply the number of lives she is able to touch. As more and more teens across the country join the Peepscope community and view the Scope, they’ll find themselves blessed with the infectious beat of Marisa Molinaro.

