Thank you for joining us on the first seven years of our BSW journey.

Honor of joining in their musical journeys. We are humbled to be invited into their homes and with them guiding us, we are certain the next seven years will bring even more growth and transformation.

Thank you for helping to write these first few chapters of our story. Your investments make our work possible and lift up the diversity and brilliance of our shared community.

In solidarity,

Yuki Numata Resnick, Executive Director
T I M E L I N E

F O U N D I N G  Y E A R

2 0 1 4 - 1 5

17 violin students
HIGHLIGHTS
- Classes held 2 hours/week
- Began an informal partnership with PS 45

2 0 1 5 - 1 6

27 violin students
HIGHLIGHTS
- BSW incorporated as a 501c(3) non-profit organization
- Added a formal partnership with West Buffalo Charter School
- Co-presented Ensemble Signal in concert with University at Buffalo

2 0 1 6 - 1 7

51 violin & cello students
HIGHLIGHTS
- Held our first summer camp!
- Performed at the Burmese Water Festival

2 0 1 7 - 1 8

59 violin, viola, & cello students
HIGHLIGHTS
- Held a Summer Camp in partnership with Burchfield Penney Arts Center and Neglia Ballet
- Hosted a residency with Decoda in partnership with Buffalo State College and Buffalo Public Schools

2 0 1 8 - 1 9

85 violin, viola, cello, & bass students
HIGHLIGHTS
- Piloted orchestra program
- Began a 3-year partnership with Carnegie Hall and El Sistema USA
- Held a Summer Camp in partnership with Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology
- Held our final Spring Concert at Kleinhans Music Hall

2 0 1 9 - 2 0

74 violin, viola, cello, & bass students
HIGHLIGHTS
- Classes held 6 hours/week
- New classes offered to ALL students: Music Theory, Practice Club, and Orchestra
- Full-time, funded Executive Director position created
- Held a 6-week Summer Camp in partnership with Say Yes Buffalo

A BRIEF BSW HISTORY

Photo by Andrea Wenglowskyj and Yuki Numata Resnick
The final deliverable of this camp is the t-shirt design (left), created by nine BSW student leaders: Eh Nay Tha, Htoo Htoo, Hung Kee, Jeremiah, Mu Lwe, Salina, Shee Mu, Snow, and Teresa. These students presented their work to the BSW student body in October and we now proudly wear their design.

In August 2020, we held a 5-day BLM+BSW Summer Camp in partnership with CoNECT (Community Network for Engagement, Connection and Transformation). CoNECT trainer, Sherman D. Middlebrooks-Webb led discussions with BSW students surrounding racial equity; BSW Teaching Artists taught students Balada, a piece written by the black, female composer, Francisca “Chiquinha” Gonzaga; and graphic designer, Justin Lowe, taught students about hand lettering.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was arrested and killed by Minneapolis police, sparking protests and civil unrest. 12 days later, BSW premiered our 2020 Virtual Spring Concert, which opened with a video of BSW Student, Teresa, reciting her poem in tribute to Floyd and Black Lives Matter. This was our first step towards truly engaging our students as leaders.

BLM Camp took place from August 24-28 via Zoom, culminating in an in-person celebration!
On Friday March 13, 2020, we closed our on-site program due to COVID-19. We left the Buffalo Dream Center at the end of that day with heavy hearts, not knowing when we would next be able to make music with our students. Six days later, we received a text from Eh Tah Mu, mother of three BSW students:

“How about online violin lessons, Ms. Yuki?”

With this simple text, we sprang into motion. In spring 2020, our COVID-19 response included:

- Building a Student Website so students could practice at home
- 20+ hours of private lessons each week
- Virtual tutoring support
- 6-week Virtual Summer Camp through a partnership with Say Yes Buffalo
- Distributing over 100 food boxes to families through FeedMore WNY.

Since then, we continue to provide online, synchronous music classes, and have premiered several virtual performances on our YouTube channel showcasing the hard work our students have put in.

Stay tuned for more on our COVID-19 response in a special report that will be released later this year!
YUKI: I really consider you to be a leader. What does the word leader mean to you?

TERESA: A leader, they're not perfect but they strive to be the best they can. And they also want everyone else to be the best they can. So they set an example for others and always push others to be good. They don’t just think about themselves. They want everyone to be the same level as them.

YUKI: How does music fit into who you are?

TERESA: I always liked to sing when I was young so when I heard there was a violin program... and when I heard it was free, I was really excited and I really wanted to do it! When I first came to violin... it wasn’t what I expected but the more and more I came, it just felt so nice. It felt like home... Music’s been a part of me every since I was young. Music isn’t something you just do, it speaks for you.

"Music isn't something you just do, it speaks for you.

- TERESA, 8TH GRADE BSW STUDENT

Watch Teresa’s interview with Ms. Yuki below!

Photos by Andrea Wenglowskyj and Yuki Numata Resnick
EVE ROUSHEY

Yuki: Do you see differences between your BSW students and those you’re working with in your district?

Eve: I do think at Buffalo String Works we have a higher volume of kids that genuinely want to be there, that want to progress on their instrument, that want to become better... I do see a lot more students that are a lot more motivated.

Yuki: Why do you think that’s the case?

Eve: With BSW, there’s a lot of individualized attention that we can give to students. We have Student of the Week, we’re working on a Student Ambassador Program... I think that the organization is able to really build confidence within the students and a sense of purpose for them and I think that creates a sense of pride. That’s why they feel so motivated.

I’ve found that the way I can enact change in the world... is through education.

- Eve Roushey, BSW Teaching Artist
HANNAH SKONEY

YUKI: Hannah, you’ve changed a lot over your time with us and our program has changed a lot. Has BSW influenced any of the change in your life?

HANNAH: Buffalo String Works has really impacted my life in a positive way. I went into the organization knowing that I loved music but I never really understood what I wanted to do with music... It wasn’t until after my first full year at Buffalo String Works... I realized I could do so much more with my life and my passion for music and my passion for kids.

YUKI: I love the reins you’re taking with establishing our Practice Partner program... What do you see as the potential for our BSW students?

HANNAH: I think this leadership program... it will help build their confidence to become a better and stronger leader. Aside from the musical aspects of it, a lot of the tools that we’re teaching our students, they can take for the rest of their lives.

Watch Hannah’s interview with Yuki below!

“Without Buffalo String Works, I don’t think I would have realized what I wanted to do in my life so early on.”

- HANNAH SKONEY, BSW TEACHING ASSISTANT
"When the students are performing, they can express themselves. They have more confidence."

- DIM LAM LUN, PARENT OF 2 BSW STUDENTS

(PICTURED: Dim and family, including BSW students, Ethan and Olivia)
I practice to get better. I practice because I love music.

- YAMILLETTE, BSW VIOLINIST

INDIVIDUAL IMPACT

$13,341 Raised at Spring 2020 Benefit

$128 Average Individual Gift in 2019-20

25 Instruments donated in 2019-20

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Photo by Andrea Wenglowskyj
Is Great-Aunt Frieda’s violin collecting dust in your attic? Consider making an in-kind contribution to Buffalo String Works! We provide instruments for all students at no cost to families, so we can guarantee that your family treasure will be put to good use and lovingly cared for.

MAIL A CHECK
Make a check out to “Buffalo String Works”. Mail to: PO Box 195 | Buffalo, NY | 14213

DONATE ONLINE
Visit us at buffalostringworks.org/contribute.

DONATE SECURITIES
Contact yuki@buffalostringworks.org to donate securities and receive credit for the full market value of your gift.

JOIN OUR TEAM!
Volunteer with Buffalo String Works! We welcome volunteers of all ages. Maybe you’re in school now or maybe your school days are behind you. Wherever you are in life, we promise that you will always walk away from a Buffalo String Works day feeling uplifted by our students and mission.

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda Hausmann for more information: amanda@buffalostringworks.org

There are several ways to make your gift:

BECOME A MONTHLY MUSICMAKER
Join an exclusive circle of supporters who make a difference each month. buffalostringworks.org/monthly-musicmakers

EXPANSION TO 2ND & 3RD SITES
TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM
STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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THANK YOU!