Dear Friends and Supporters,

The 2019/2020 school year was an interesting one, but it was still a great one for our programs. During the Fall of 2019, enrollment in MMN's string programs doubled. We were able to include two new schools into our family, Ben Franklin Elementary and Paul Habans Charter. During that time, our students performed fifteen concerts at venues including the St. Louis Cathedral, live on WWL Eyewitness News, and the new Louisiana Children’s Museums’ Grand Opening. Before the COVID-19 shutdown, our students were invited to perform at French Quarter Fest and the Tulane Book Festival’s Family Day. Even during the school shut down and move to virtual programs, the MMN staff shifted quickly to teaching Zoom lessons, creating virtual instructional videos, and building out our curriculum content. Our team produced a virtual end of year recital, program tour, and video recording of an original composition by our students. We were even able to host three virtual workshops during the month of June. In the midst of a pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, and global uprisings, our students and staff chose to focus on using music as a vehicle for self expression - reaffirming our mission as a social change program. I could not be more proud of the Make Music NOLA teachers, staff, students, and their commitment to making music. I’m looking forward to Fall 2020 and whatever new adventures it may bring!

Sincerely, Laura Patterson, Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This past year may not have been ideal, it brought with it new challenges and obstacles. However, with those challenges came the opportunity for creative new work and a chance for Make Music NOLA to provide services and instruction in new and innovative ways. Throughout the school shut down Make Music NOLA was able to stay together as a community, even though we were apart. The organization was able to continue paying our teachers and staff to provide high quality music education through the end of the school year and continue summer programs virtually. As an organization, we were able to deepen our commitment to social justice and further examine our mission and values as we move forward with our strategic planning this coming year. As we move forward into the next school year and more unknowns, we are excited to embrace whatever challenges may come our way.

Sincerely, Fred Neal Jr., Board Chair
MISSION
Make Music NOLA is an intensive music-for-social change program. The mission of Make Music NOLA (MMN) is to promote academic achievement, cultivate artistic expression, and promote the healthy growth and development of children in New Orleans through culturally relevant music instruction and performance.

VISION
• Training competent, engaged musicians
• Creating access through performance opportunities
• Forming a strong, supportive community
• Building up the confidence and musical ability of our students so that they
• Students can be competitive applicants to local and national programs
• Inspiring all students to achieve their greatest potential

HISTORY
Make Music NOLA began in September 2011 under the name "Youth Orchestra of the Lower 9th Ward" with only 5 students. Since then, the program has expanded to eight locations, including 4 school-based programs and 4 after-school community centers. This past fall, MMN’s string programs doubled in size to reach 180 students. Our program is proudly settled in at the Bell Artspace Campus in the heart of the Treme. MMN successfully completed our second year of Saturday programs, expanding to three music theory classes.
STUDENT AWARDS
DECEMBER 2019

BLACHLY AWARD FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE
Named after Make Music NOLA's Founder, Conductor James Blachly

GEORDAN RODGERS
Violinist, 3 years in Make Music NOLA
Teachers: Tucker Fuller, Matt Rhody
Other Interesting Facts: Loves reading and baseball. Is ALWAYS focused!

OLIVIA MSEMAJI
Violinist, 3 years in Make Music NOLA
Teachers: Tucker Fuller, Matt Rhody, David Thom
Other interesting facts: Also sings, plays guitar, and piano

THOMAS AWARD FOR MUSICAL PROGRESS
Named after Make Music NOLA's First Lead Violin Teacher, Trenton Thomas

GENESIS BALDWIN
Violinist 2 years in Make Music NOLA
Teachers: David Thom, Tucker Fuller
Other Interesting Facts: Also plays guitar
MAKE MUSIC NOLA

STAFF

Laura Patterson - Executive Director
Georgia Rhody - Manager of Operations and Development
Mo Burroughs - Outreach and Communications Associate, Public Allies Americorp Member
Givonna Joseph - K-4 General Music at Elan Academy
Sarah Ristaino - K-4 General Music at Elan Academy
Matt Rhody - Violin teacher - Ben Franklin Elementary School, Advanced Violin at Bell Artspace Campus, Fiddle Class and Orchestra
Tucker Fuller - Violin Teacher -NORDC Rosenwald Center, Broadmoor Arts and Wellness Center, Music Theory 2, Saturday Beginning Violin, Professional Development Coach
Sam Kohler - Violin Teacher - Lafayette Academy and Habans Charter School, Bass and Cello Teacher at Bell Artspace Campus, Saturday Teacher at NORDC Rosenwald
Sultana Ishaam - NORDC/Gernon Brown Center, Music Theory 1
David Thom - Violin/Viola Teacher at Bell ArtSpace Campus, Chamber Ensemble, Orchestra
Ben Jacobi - Cello teacher at Lafayette Academy, Beginning Violin teacher at Elan Academy

BOARD MEMBERS

Fred Neal
Tyler Trew
Blake Haney
Ava Hernandez
Jillian DeLosReyes
Kathleen Whalen
Nicholas Gremellion
MAKE MUSIC NOLA
2019-2020 PROGRAM SITES:

After School String Classes:
- Bell Artspace Campus - Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Violin, Bass and Cello Class, Orchestra, Fiddle Class, Music Theory One and Two, Chamber Ensemble
- NORDC Gernon Brown Center - Beginning Violin
- Broadmoor Arts and Wellness Center - Intermediate Violin
- NORDC Rosenwald - Advanced Violin

School Based String Classes:
- Lafayette Academy
- Paul Habans Charter
- Ben Franklin Elementary
- Elan Academy

In-School K-4 General Music Classes:
- Elan Academy

Performances, Workshops, & Masterclasses

Community Concerts:
- Louisiana Children’s Museum, Grand Opening
- Ogden Museum’s Family Day
- Mid-City Library Reading Night - Original Creative Composition to Accompany a reading of DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Kool Christmas New Orleans Style with Opera Creole at Saint Louis Cathedral
- WWL Eyewitness News with T-Ray the Violinist

Workshops:
- Free Agents Brass Band
- King School (Stamford, CT)
- T-Ray the Violinist
- Crescent City City Chamber Ensemble
by the numbers

STUDENTS IN STRING CLASSES: 180
GUEST ARTIST VISITS: 9
STUDENTS SERVED IN K-4 GENERAL MUSIC CLASSES: 225+

SCHOOL PARTNERS: 4
HOURS OF STRING CLASSES: 1600+
HOURS OF K-4 GENERAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION: 200+
WEEK-LONG SUMMER WORKSHOPS: 3

COMMUNITY CENTER PARTNERS: 4
PRIVATE LESSON STUDENTS DURING COVID-19 SHUTDOWN: 46
STUDENT PERFORMANCE, INCLUDING 2 VIRTUAL: 17
VIDEO LESSON ASSIGNMENTS COMPLETED DURING COVID-19: 150+
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| Net Assets:                                  | 49,422    |
| In-kind Support:                             | 25,000    |
MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

FOUNDATIONS

El Sistema USA, Presto Grant through Paul Angell Foundation
Bloomberg Philanthropy
Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust
Brees Dream Foundation
Ella Fitzgerald Foundation
D'Addario Foundation
Louisiana Division of the Arts
Newport Folk Festivals Foundation - At the Request of Randy Newman
Holt Family Foundation
Drew’s Tunes
Mary Freeman Wisdom Foundation
Ella West Freeman Foundation
RosaMary Foundation
The Good People Fund
The Moring Charitable Trust
Arts Council of New Orleans - Community Arts Grant and Decentralized Arts Funding
Cahn Family Foundation
Threadhead Cultural Foundation
Women of Trinity Church
Luther and Zita Templeman Foundation
The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation
Hash House Harriers, Red Dress Run Grant Program

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Maatouk and Associates
Williams Architects
Dirty Coast
Hungry For Music
Heritage Plastics
Urban South Brewery

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Allison Tassin
James Blachly
Diane and Andy Plauche
Nicholas Gremillion
MAKE MUSIC NOLA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Even though Make Music NOLA was not able to continue classes in person, our staff put together eight online video lessons a week, taught over 46 private lessons weekly through Zoom, compiled a curriculum manual, put on a virtual recital, and held three virtual summer workshops.

What's Next?

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Make Music NOLA was awarded a strategic planning grant from Bloomberg Philanthropy. The committee is very excited to be working with Michael Kaiser, formerly the Executive Director of Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre and the Kennedy Center. Additional support provided by dancer, arts administrator, and organizer, JR "Nexus" Russ.

Our story is, and will continue to be, one of great resilience. We will continue to work to provide opportunities and empower children within our community. We will continue to stand and support local organizations fighting for justice. We will continue to employ and support local musicians and work towards long term change in solidarity with our community.