



Thank you so much for attending our Moonlight Sonata Gala last year and especially for your generous donation towards our Fund the Future campaign that supports our music education programs. I'm writing today to give you an update on our work and a glimpse of what we're planning for the next school in the hope that you'll renew your support of this important initiative.

As you might know, we have made it a priority to identify and solve some structural deficiencies found in our schools' music education programs. Our first steps of addressing education gaps began with providing instrumental instruction to elementary school children through afterschool programs and in classroom coaching.

Over the last five years, these young students have demonstrated a commitment and enthusiasm to continue their music education into higher grade levels and ultimately participate in a full symphony orchestra ensemble through their high school years. The structural problem we see again and again is that many are not proficient enough to pass auditions for the next 'traditional' level. For these students, musical instruction is simply no longer available to them; their journey ends and they are left behind. We are determined to change that.

To address this problem, the PSA created two new middle school ensembles to meet our young people at their competency levels. We've invested in more than 75 musical coaches to assist teachers in classrooms, lowering the student-teacher ratio significantly - a key factor in building instrumental proficiency. We are now poised to add a third full orchestra ensemble this next school year to bridge the high school learning gap between our middle school and high school full orchestras.

By adding these "bridge curriculum ensembles," the PSA is course correcting to ensure all students have access to a musical education through their final high school year. We've now grown from serving 300 students to over 700 students and expect that number to increase again next school year to 800+.

I hope that you will consider renewing your gift to our Fund the Future campaign when you attend our upcoming gala. We have a Fund the Future goal of \$85,000 and our expansion will only be possible through the generous contributions of donors like you who share our belief in the importance of music education for our youth.

Thank you for your consideration.


Lora Unger
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. If you are unable to join us for the Moonlight Sonata Gala last year, I hope you will reply to me with a pledge in absentia, which will be included in the paddle raise that night to help us reach our goal!