



Last Year at a Glance

During the 2009-10 school year, a new curriculum was introduced for Project STEP students in grades K - 7, and the impact was felt almost immediately. Artistic Director Mariana Green-Hill initiated new classes and changed the nature of the FOCUS I class (for students in Kindergarten) in response to her own observations, prior experience as a Project STEP student and conversations with faculty members. The new classes are:

- **Piano lessons for all students in Grades 1 to 4.** Taught at the NEC keyboard lab, students learn the fundamentals of the keyboard giving them a strong grounding in harmony, chords and intervals, which proves valuable later in music theory classes.
- **Solfège class for all students in Grades 1 to 7.** Solfège teaches sight-singing using syllables in place of letter notes (do, re, mi instead of 'A', 'B', 'C,' etc.) and emphasizes intervals, pitch and rhythm.
- **The FOCUS I program for students in Kindergarten.** These classes previously concentrated on singing and playing the recorder. Now the program has shifted to a focus on Dalcroze Eurhythmics— a very unique approach to music education for young children where they use their full body to explore musical concepts such as beat, tempo, phrase, form, rhythm patterns and improvisation.



Owen Young, BSO cellist, spends time with the youngest Project STEP students.

The year-end exams this past May demonstrated that the changes mentioned above already had a greater impact than we anticipated:

- Students enrolled in piano lessons did markedly better in their theory class exams than those same age groups in past years.
- Students enrolled in solfège class showed measurably improved intonation (pitch) in their performance exams. Students also showed a stronger sense of rhythm, as a whole, than in past years.
- This year's FOCUS I class was better prepared for beginning the violin than any class had been in recent years. Susan Jarvis, FOCUS II (Suzuki violin) instructor, commented, "This year's FOCUS II students were an exceptionally good group. [The] students came to me so well prepared with high levels of musicianship - their knowledge of beat, rhythm, and pitch makes my job in introducing the violin easier."

These new programs were funded through grants from the **Ramsey-McCluskey Family Foundation, the Cabot Family Charitable Trust, and the National Endowment for the Arts.**

Inside this Issue...

- Updated Project STEP Mission
- STEP Students perform with Boston Civic
- Welcome to New Board Member
- Travels to the Middle East

Highlights from Last Year:

- Artistic Director Mariana Green-Hill re-uniting with the Amaryllis Quartet for a sublime performance of Schubert's cello quintet alongside Yo-Yo Ma for the Marylou Speaker Churchill Memorial Concert
- STEP Alum Tony Rymer performing solo with the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta, Atlanta Symphony, Florida Orchestra, and several others
- A motivating masterclass with cellist Astrid Schween (Board member) and the string faculty of UMASS Amherst, followed by an energetic performance of Opus One—their conductor-less string chamber orchestra
- STEP students Aurélie Thérémène (violin) & Monique Smith (viola) performed as guest soloists with the Atlanta University Centerwide Symphony Orchestra (comprised of students from Clark Atlanta University, Spelman College and Morehouse College)
- An inspiring masterclass with members of the Borromeo String Quartet Nicholas Kitchen (violin) & Yeeseun Kim (cello)
- An enlightening masterclass with BSO violinist Victor Romanul
- STEP student Aurélie Thérémène performing solo Bach in sold out Jordan Hall as part of the 'Symphonic Relief for Haiti' Benefit Concert
- A fun guest workshop with BSO cellist Owen Young (Board Member) & Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart
- A packed house yet again for Peggy Pearson's wonderful Winsor Benefit Concert for Project STEP
- STEP Student Noah Kelly receiving an honorable mention from the NPR/PBS program "From the Top" for his outstanding community service

Revitalizing our Mission Statement

Over the past two years a team of Project STEP constituents has spent scores of hours and dozens of months examining the wording of our mission statement. Led by Clerk of the Board of Directors Jessica Margolin, an associate in the Labor and Employment group at Ropes & Gray, the team was charged with reviewing and updating the wording of our mission statement, bringing it in line with our current practices and policies. In the process, the committee developed a set of core values by which Project STEP will serve its students; a vision of Project STEP's long term objectives; and a mission that states our purpose, emphasizing what we strive to do every day to achieve our vision.

Jess Margolin sought input from members of the Project STEP community, encouraging feedback every step of the way. Her leadership was clear and inspiring. We are enormously grateful to her for her leadership and are proud of the outcome.

Core Values

- (1) We believe that the classical music profession should reflect racial and ethnic diversity.
- (2) We believe that children, if identified at an early age and

immersed in long-term, rigorous music instruction, can flourish as professional classical musicians and as individuals, regardless of their ultimate career choice.

- (3) We believe that our students can reach their full potential when held to high standards and provided with the support and active engagement of teachers, mentors, family members, and alumni.
- (4) We believe that music can change lives and that the disciplined study of classical music enhances educational opportunities and opens doors for our students and their communities.

Vision Statement

We envision a world in which the classical music profession reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of our communities.

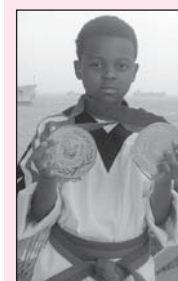
Mission Statement

Project STEP recognizes that certain racial and ethnic minorities are vastly underrepresented in classical music. Our mission is to address this imbalance by identifying musically talented children from underrepresented Boston communities and providing participants in

our programs with comprehensive music and string instrument instruction. We set the highest standards for our students, provide mentoring and performance opportunities, and create a network of support for our students, their families, and their communities.

STEP Student Wins Karate Gold

Ajani Boyd, a Second Year cellist, is pictured below wearing his two Gold Medals at the 2010 World Karate Championship in Port of Spain, Trinidad, where 40 countries competed. Ajani won Golds both in 'Sparring' and 'Forms'. He was invited to join the US team for this competition in Trinidad



this past summer after winning consistently high scores in local competitions for the past three years. Ajani is also a fierce cello student and studies with Aristides Rivas.

Travels To The Middle East

By Javier Caballero

In December 2008, I was invited to perform concerts for a music school in Ramallah called *Al Kamandjati*. This school was founded by a friend whom I met at the Apple Hill summer music camp. For two weeks, I joined an international group of musicians performing concerts throughout the West Bank—I was even drafted for one of the concerts to perform on double bass for my first time ever! I also had the opportunity to teach cello lessons, which proved a little challenging considering my Arabic is virtually non-existent. Fortunately, music is indeed an international language!



Javier with students at Al Kamandjati.

I distinctly remember packing with trepidation for that first trip and making sure not to pack things that would give away my identity as an American. I wasn't expecting people in the West Bank to be fond of Americans. I could not have been more naive in my assumption and the reception we received could not have

been more welcoming. The West Bank I experienced in person was not the same West Bank I had always read about in the news.

During my trip, I also visited several of my Israeli musician friends from Apple Hill living in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. It was a rather interesting experience sharing my adventures in the West Bank with my friends in Israel because they had so many questions as to what life is like "over there." In this age of globalization, I found it quite the conundrum that I would come from half a globe away and be the one to answer my friends' questions about what life is like just a few miles away—almost as an ambassador of cultural exchange. I was invited to return to *Al Kamandjati* three additional times, the last being this past summer, and I eagerly await the next opportunity to go back "over there" and continue my 'diplomatic' work!

To read more about Javier's musical travels to the Middle East, please check out the 'FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER' link on our website.

Concert Masters

Anonymous
Orlando Abraham
Gregory E. Bulger
Susan Okie Bush
Ann S. and Robert Buxbaum
Eleanor and Levin H. Campbell
Mark Churchill
William "Mo" Cowan
Samiyah Diaz
Robert K. Dodson
Eugene and Nina Doggett
Reed E. Drews and Lisa I. Iezzoni
Goetz Eaton
Jonathan and Megan Glionna
Charles and Sara Goldberg
Louis H. Hamel, Jr.
Chris and Kathy Heckscher
Linda J. Heffner
Ruth L. Hertz
Bruce and Ellen Herzfelder
Randall and Elaine Hiller
Rosebud Holland
Mary and Ben Jaffee
Brian and Kathi Kelly
Barbara Kravitz
Mary Lincoln
Dianne Luby
Mark Mandel
Jessica E. Margolin
Henrietta N. Meyer
William and Elizabeth Moyer
Christophe C. and Tara H. Oliver
Robert Olson
Barbara and Daniel Palant
William E. Palant
Myron Parker-Brass
Cheri Robartes
Daniel E. Rothenberg
Astrid C. Schween
Alfred and Gilda Slifka
Marcus A. Thompson
Catherine J. Toppin
John and Samantha Williams
Margaret Williams-DeCelles
Owen Young

Principal Players

Holly and David Ambler
Gabrielle Bercy and Kerby Roberson
George W. and Roberta Berry
Franklin and Betsy Bunn
Carroll Cabot
John Y. Campbell and Susanna Peyton
John F. Cogan, Jr. and Mary L. Cornille
Murine Daley
Anna L. and Peter Davol
Stephanie Diggs and Max Harriston-Diggs
Diane Griliches
Richard and Rebecca Hawkins
Edwin and Mary Hiller
Sandra S. and Carl D. Jaffee
Jackie Jenkins-Scott and James Scott
Bela T. and Edna S. Kalman
Ann Karnovsky
John and Catherine Kaufman
Muriel E. Kaye
Liza Ketchum and John Strauss
Joseph and Rachel Martin
Marjorie McDonald, M.D.
Rachel Moore and Robert Ryan
Joan Nissman and Mort Abromson
Susan W. and Stephen Paine

Michael G. Pekowsky and Lisa S. Glazer
William J. and Lia G. Poorvu
Ellen H. Powers
Jason T. Price
Irving Rabb
Robert and Ruth Remis
Christopher Reuning
William H. and Kathleen Rousseau
Samuel and Phyllis Rubinovitz
Conall and Eileen Ryan
Stephen Saudek and Janice Durham
David and Marie Louise Scudder
Luna Shyr
Fenwick Smith
Philip J. and Ann J. Smith
Steven and Janice Snider
Epp Sonin
South End Community Health Center
Emilie D. Steele
Marylen R. Sternweiler
Lloyd and Ruth Weinreb
John Winslow and Emily Bailey

Musicians

Anonymous
Gerald and Corinne Adler
Abdi Ali
Helen and William Allison
Joseph Alpers
Elizabeth Atkins
Bernice Auslander
Diane M. Austin and Aaron J. Nurick
Sandy Bakalar
Michele and James Banker
Ina K. Wilhelm and Ronald P. Barron
Molly and John E. Beard
Cynthia and Michael Benn
Arnis Berger
Robert Berger
Leonard D. and Audrey B. Berman
Ethel Bernard
Elizabeth and Frederick Berry
Nancy S. and Jerry Bidlack
Marjory P. Blacher
Anne E. Black
John M. and Jane C. Bradley
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Henry and Melinda C. Brown
Michael and Susan Brown
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Marshall Burlingame and Aline Benoit
Roger Cambronero and Mona Pascal
Mary S. Campbell
Penelope Caponigro
Toni-Lee Capossela

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Brenda Engel
Russell Engler and Tracy Miller
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Robert Frank and Jennifer Coplon
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Congratulations to our graduated Senior!



Monique Smith, viola student of **Dubravka Sajfar Moshfegh** and **John Ziarko** who has begun her first year in college, will be double majoring in Music Education and Viola Performance at UMass Amherst. She now studies with Kathryn Lockwood. She was awarded two scholarships from her alma mater, Boston Latin School, along with the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship for her MCAS achievement. Monique was in Project STEP from kindergarten through twelfth grade. We are proud to see her continue her musical journey!

Robert and Gwyneth Loud
Bernard and Louise Lown
Betty Sweaney Lykins
John and Olive Malcolm
Kim Marshall
Mary Martin
Leonard G. Matczynski
Mary Jane McInnis
Kenneth and Margaret McIntosh
Alice Melnikoff and Joseph Newberg
Gael Rockwell and Ty G. Minton
Paul Monsky and Beverly Woodward
Ellen E. Moyer
W. Frederick Moyer
Judith Norsigian
Diana M. Nugent
Lucy Parker
Anne Pearson
Peggy Pearson
Ava Bry Penman
Elisa Pepe
David Perlman and Jackie Wolf
Penny and Jim Peters
May H. Pierce
Norma Pisetsky
Harold I. and Frances Pratt
David and Rose Raduziner
Peter and Suzanne Read
Jennifer R. Regan
Judith Rendely
Eda Roches
Ellen J. Rubin
Ilya Rutman
Kathy Schlotterbeck
John W. Sears
Sarah Silberman
Ellen and Jay Sklar
Wanda L. Smith

Anne G. St. Goar
Agathi Stratis
Alan Strauss
Sue Szwed and Mitch Lansky
James L. and Maude Terry
Gwendoline Thornblade
John L. Thorndike
Elizabeth Vorenberg
George Walker
Janice Walker
Christine Watson
Bernard Weichsel
Ray Wellbaum and Karen Campbell
Constance V.R. White
Iain and Elizabeth Whitfield
Lois and Alan Whitney
John and Linda Willson
Lisa Wong and Lynn Chang

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Brian and Kathi Kelly
Dianne Luby
George Luse
Neil and Lisa-Maria Mehta
Blair and Jenny Nurse
Cheri Robartes
Wanda L. Smith
Catherine J. Toppin
Margaret Williams-DeCelles

Summertime

For musicians, summer is a time for travel. For Project STEP students, it's a time for travel to music camps! Students attended camps near and far such as Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI), Mark O'Connor's Fiddle Camp (NYC), Sphinx Performance Academy, Greenwood, Kinhaven, Camp Encore/Coda, and Apple Hill among others! Again this summer every STEP student who wanted to go to music camp was able to go, fulfilling the wish of longtime supporter and friend of Project STEP Dan Rothenberg: "I want every Project STEP student who wants to go to music camp, to go." Adding to the lead support from Mr. Rothenberg, the music camps themselves gave generous scholarship support to our students! In the words of our students this summer:



Jordan with bassists Helen Stevenson, Larry Wolfe and Ed Barker. These giants in the bass world advised Project STEP on adjustments to be made on the new bass made and donated by Bob Olson, former BSO bassist.

"The whole experience I had was something that is unique every time I go back there. Each year is never quite like the other because so many different magical things happen every year. Some of the best memories I have of concerts are when Ed Barker performed at the contemporary music festival (which was astounding), when the BSO opened up the season with Mahler 2 (which almost brought me to tears), and when

Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble performed. Each one of these memories had a significant impact on the musical part of me and reminds me of how music is the universal language of the world in which things occur that words may never be able to describe."

- Jordan Calixto (11th grade, bass) attended BUTI



Noah with violinist Rachel Barton Pines

"The Mark O'Connor String Camp in New York City changed my future as a violinist. He has been my idol since I saw him in the movie Music of the Heart...My most interesting class was called 'Fiddle Funk' and it introduced me to

the world of electric violins. Rachel Barton Pine is one of the best violinists I have ever met. One day, she helped me turn "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" into a Heavy Metal piece...I can't wait until next year to attend this camp again."

- Noah Umberto Kelly (5th grade, violin) attended Mark O'Connor String Camp

Welcome to New Board Member: Robert Dodson



The Board of Directors of Project STEP welcomed Robert K. Dodson, Director of the School of Music at the Boston University College of Fine Arts, in January, 2010. With his extensive experience in some of the most prestigious music institutions in North America, Bob is an ideal person to help set policy and plan Project STEP's next decade. During the course of the past 25 years Bob has served as Provost of the New England Conservatory, Dean of the Oberlin College Conservatory, Dean of Lawrence University Conservatory, and Principal of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

Boston University was one of Project STEP's founding institutions and has been represented on STEP's Board of Directors for 27 years.

STEP Students Perform with Boston Civic

On Sunday, October 17, Project STEP students performed at Regis College side by side with members of the Boston Civic Symphony under the direction of Max Hobart. The family concert program included music by black composers as well as the Vivaldi



Conductor Max Hobart with Aurelie, STEP senior who sat concert-master for a portion of this concert.



STEP cellists Lev, Ooreofe and Joel anchor the cello section.

Concerto for 4 Violins with STEP students featured as soloists. STEP students were each seated next to a Boston Civic musician and were thrilled to be performing alongside 'grown-up' musicians—some were even asked for autographs after the performance!

You Too Can Be Instrumental!

Over the years, many generous friends and supporters have donated violins, violas, cellos, double basses, and bows to Project STEP to ensure that they are put to good use. However, some instruments are in need of repair (some major, some minor) due to normal wear and tear. This is your opportunity to be instrumental to Project STEP. Our students need instruments that are suitable for their advancing skills so they can excel and audition for top programs such as Sphinx and *From The Top!* Can you help?



- \$300 will cover minor repairs (new bridge, small cracks, bow rehair, etc)
- \$1,500 will cover major repairs (large cracks, new fingerboard, etc.)
- \$5,000 will purchase instruments to fill gaps in our collection
- \$10,000 will bring our instrument collection up to date with repairs, maintenance, and purchases

Special thanks to the following donors who have recently made contributions to our instrument collection: Elizabeth Crowley, Jane K. Elliot, Judith Kuperwaser, and Cecilia Owens!

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Save the Date

**Project STEP Masterclass with
Violinist Mark O'Connor
Sunday, February 27
5PM, Location TBA**

*"Mark is so facile with his instrument
and so completely on top of it.
He's really one in a million."* – James Taylor

**Help us save money by joining our email
list . Email us at: info@projectstep.org**



*Keith Lockbart, conductor of the
Boston Pops Orchestra, works with
Amalia Ali, third year cello student*



We are grateful to the NEA and MCC for demonstrating their strong belief in the mission of Project STEP by making significant grants to the program.

Project STEP is deeply appreciative of the in-kind support from The Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New England Conservatory, and the BU School of Fine Arts. Their contributions enable us to provide our students opportunities at the highest levels.

projectSTEP

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