



Xavier, Grade 3, Violin

projectSTEP

FISCAL YEAR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR FRIENDS,

At the 1964 Berlin Jazz Festival, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave the opening speech, and said this: *"When life itself offers no order and meaning, the musician creates an order and meaning from the sounds of the earth which flow through his instrument."* During the pandemic these last two years our lives often felt chaotic, but the students and faculty and staff of Project STEP kept on creating music, and through their instruments flowed *"the sounds of the earth,"* providing a much-welcomed sense of continuity and community.

This annual report letter marks my fifth, and last, such communication to all of you who are a part of the Project STEP extended family. My term as Board president will conclude in June 2022, and as I reflect over the last five years, I am struck by how much change we've experienced and how those changes have made us stronger as an organization. Through the efforts of our staff and faculty, we learned how to create a virtual environment for music education and performance, and we now have those skills in our collective repertoire. We have seen changes in our staff leadership and have recently welcomed Mr. Josue Gonzalez and Dr. Ian Saunders as our new Executive Director and Artistic Director, respectively. I know that I speak on behalf of the entire Board when I express our deep appreciation to our continuing staff members, who ensured that the STEP program never missed a beat while we searched for our new leaders: Jodie McMenamin, Noah Kelly, Mariana Green-Hill (who served as our Interim AD), and Leigh Kelter (who served as our Interim ED).

As you will read in this report, Project STEP is in very good financial health. Through the generosity of many dear friends and caring foundations, along with prudent management of our budget, we have been able to upgrade our inventory of instruments and grow our endowment as a means of securing

our future. As you will also read, our students have continued to flourish in their musicianship, even as they also excelled in their various communities.

I am tremendously indebted to all of my peers on the Project STEP Board of Directors and on the Project STEP Advisory Board, for their many and varied contributions. Always, but especially during this last year, the efforts of my fellow officers on the Board have been extraordinary; while competently and earnestly working mostly behind-the-scenes, Alex McCray, Meghan Jasani, Michael Hoyle, and Elisa Pepe have been the finest of colleagues and the most devoted of volunteers.

The successes described in this year's annual report – indeed, the ongoing strength and endurance of the Project STEP program – is a testament to the support of our many friends and donors. As we prepare to celebrate our 40th anniversary, I want to thank you for your commitment to Project STEP and our students, and for partnering with us to fulfill our mission of having the classical music profession reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of our communities.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane M. Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Diane M. Austin
President, Board of Directors

OUR MISSION

Project STEP (String Training Education Program) recognizes that certain racial and ethnic minorities are vastly underrepresented in classical music. Its mission is to address this imbalance by identifying musically talented underrepresented students from Boston and surrounding communities, and providing them with comprehensive music and string instrument instruction. It sets the highest standards for disciplined study and performance, and offers a platform for students interested in pursuing classical music careers as well as other courses of study.

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.

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



Nathan, Grade 11, Viola

PROGRAMS

Project STEP provides a continuum of music instruction that can begin as early as kindergarten and continues through Grade 12. Students are invited to join Project STEP through one of two entry points, either by audition or through our kindergarten FOCUS program. The FOCUS program introduces kindergartners to the study of music at an early age, generating enthusiasm and providing a bridge to further study at Project STEP or other Boston-area music schools.

In 2021 the FOCUS program was put on hold due to the pandemic, however in 2020 we partnered with the William M. Trotter School in Dorchester and the Mario Umana Academy in East Boston, from the Boston Public School system, to offer music programming for their kindergarteners during the school day. On weekends, we received in-kind space from the New England Conservatory for more of these classes. In total, we were able to serve 121 kindergarteners from across the city. We hope to resume this program in FY2022.



Students who are selected to continue their musical studies in Project STEP's Core Program (Grades 1-12) receive weekly private lessons, theory and/or solfège classes, chamber music, orchestra, summer music camp support, and an instrument. In addition, they receive enrichment opportunities including masterclasses and performance opportunities with renowned chamber ensembles, and tickets to dozens of concerts each year. Project STEP is a model for creative youth development. In the course of studying music, young people develop social, creative, problem solving, collaborative, and critical thinking skills. These skills are widely transferable and enable youth to reach their full potential as musicians, students, and productive members of society.

Photo Above: 2021 graduating senior, Dalilah (now attending New York University).
Photo Left: FOCUS Introduction to Music.

A photograph of a woman and a young boy sitting on a grassy field. The woman, on the left, has short grey hair, wears sunglasses, a striped long-sleeved shirt, and a lanyard with a name tag that reads "Deborah Ward". The boy, on the right, wears a blue polo shirt, a dark baseball cap, and plaid shorts. They are both smiling and looking at each other. In the background, there are white tents and other people, suggesting an outdoor event or festival.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

By building extensive student and family support systems into the program itself, Project STEP is able to hold students to - and help them reach - high standards of achievement. Incoming families are paired with “buddy” families, which allows older children to mentor incoming children and experienced parents to provide guidance for new parents. All parents are part of the Parents’ Council which meets monthly for ‘parent pulse checks’ and workshops on practical issues related to their children’s music education. The council elects two representatives to the Board of

Directors who serve as full voting members and help shape the organization’s policies. These parent representatives facilitate communication between parents and staff. At the end of each year, Project STEP hosts a Spring Recital with a fundraising component in partnership with the Parents’ Council. STEP’s depth of support for parents and families creates an atmosphere of encouragement, ownership, and responsibility. Parents are crucial to our students’ success, and their active involvement is one of STEP’s greatest strengths.

Camron and his grandmother - photo courtesy of Boston Symphony Orchestra

FAMILY STORIES



My Boston Latin School (BLS) music teacher, the late Mr. Louis Siagel, introduced me to the violin and Project STEP. Although I was not accepted into the program, I gained great respect for it through the audition process. My younger

brother, Johnny, was later accepted when he auditioned. I had the opportunity of driving him to and attending his various STEP activities such as his violin lessons at Symphony Hall with Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) musicians, recitals, master classes, and concerts. He has now been a Special Education teacher for several decades. Edens, my cousin, was also accepted and spent several years in the program. He attended Boston's Berklee School of Music and became the music minister of his church and later Senior Pastor of a different church where he currently serves in that capacity.

Three decades later, when each of my four children was in kindergarten, I enrolled them in STEP's Focus programs. Nathan was accepted into the main program in 2010 while Grace entered in 2012. Now, after twelve years, I am a long-term STEP parent whose son is graduating from the program as a wonderful violist who has amassed incredible life experiences. For four of the past nine years, Nathan has performed in some of the best concert halls in Massachusetts such as New England Conservatory (NEC) Jordan Hall, Rivers School Rivera Recital

Hall, Gordon College Phillips Recital Hall, BLS Auditorium, BSO Higginson Hall, Hibernian Hall, and at Tanglewood. While in the 7th grade, Nathan earned a Level III Certificate with Honors in Viola from NEC, placed as a finalist in NEC's 2017 Concerto Competition, and earned a spot in Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI). He later participated in the Massachusetts Music Educator's Association (MMEA) Senior Districts and All-State Festival Orchestras during his 9th grade.



Nathan Theodore, Grade 12 Viola. Photo by Matthew Muise

As a member of Benjamin Zander's Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (BPYO) for the past five years, Nathan has graced the world's greatest concert stages in the US, Europe, and Brazil, including Harvard Sanders Theater, Boston Symphony Hall, Konzerthaus Berlin, Jihlava Mahler Festival, Prague Rudolfinum, Salzburg Mozarteum, Budapest Béla Bartók National Concert Hall, Pecs Kodaly Centre, Vienna Musikverein, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Salvador Teatro Castro Alves, Rio de Janeiro Teatro Municipal, Sala São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto Teatro Pedro II, Campinas Teatro Castro Mendes, Porto Alegre Auditório Araújo Vianna, Belo Horizonte Minas Tênis Clube, and Curitiba

Teatro Positivo, among others. He has played some of the most beloved music from Bach, Bartok, Beethoven, Bernstein, Bizet, Brahms, Britten, Bruch, Chevalier de Saint-George, Dvorak, Elgar, Fauré, Grieg, Handel, Handel-Halvorsen, Haydn, Hindermith, Hoffmeister, Holst, Hummel, Ives, Glinka, Mahler, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Mussorgsky, O'Connor, Paganini, Price, Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Ravel, Shostakovich, Sibelius, Stamitz, Strauss, Stravinsky, Telemann, Vaughan Williams, Verdi, Vivaldi, Wagner, and many others. In June 2020, he was scheduled to tour South Africa with the BPYO, but the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed those arrangements and he now plans to tour Greece this summer with the orchestra.

Nathan is now finishing high school (2022) while enrolled in 7 classes (4 of them, Advanced Placement), working 20 hours per week at the Watertown Housing Authority, participating in BPYO's 4-hour weekly rehearsals and by-monthly concerts, performing occasional recitals, in addition to his weekly private music lessons and personal viola practice. I attribute much of his ability to wisely manage his time due to the discipline he learned from STEP through its incredibly comprehensive music and viola studies. All his hard work has earned Nathan early acceptance to the University of Notre Dame (Sept. 2022) with a full 4-year scholarship.

Project STEP has given me the opportunity to meet amazing musical artists such as Keith Lockhart, Thomas Wilkins, Mariana Green Hill, Tai Murray, Marta Zurad, Peter Jarvis, Susan Jarvis, Farhoud Moshfegh, Dubravka Moshfegh, Owen Young, Rebecca Young, Sarah Darling, Michael Zaretsky, MIT Institute Professor and Violist Marcus Thompson, Elisabeth Christensen, Mark Churchill, Benjamin Zander, and Mark O'Connor among many others. Through these introductions, I participated in one of O'Connor's teacher training camps and earned a teaching certificate in the first 2 books of his violin method and even had the opportunity to use this new skill to help some of the STEP students with their violin technique and music theory knowledge. In addition to all this, I have had the opportunity to be personally involved with the STEP organization as a Parent Representative

on the Project STEP board for 2 terms where I've been privileged to sit on the Artistic, Strategic Planning, Artistic Director (AD), and Executive Director (ED) Search Committees and also co-chair another ad hoc AD search committee, all to help choose our strategic plan consultant, Artistic and Executive Directors and direct the future of the program. During my two terms as a parent rep, I co-chaired the monthly Parents' Council meetings for 4 years, aiding families to navigate their STEP and NEC experiences and helping plan our annual MLK celebrations as well as the Senior recitals, Spring Recitals, and Parents Benefit Concerts (which raised between 7 and 15 thousand dollars in various years). Finally, I currently serve on the Board's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Task Force, helping to bring more intentionality and specificity to Project STEP's important work *"in which the classical music profession reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of our communities."*

As you can see, STEP has greatly influenced my life, that of my children, indeed, my whole family, as we've met so many like-minded friends during more than a decade of gathering on Saturdays in the basement of Symphony Hall and at NEC. Frankly, I do not know how my life would have turned out without Project STEP. - **Benz Theodore, Parent, Project STEP**



Benz Theodore, Project STEP Parent Council meeting, 2016. Photo by Michael Lutch

2020/2021 SNAPSHOT

Despite challenges presented by the pandemic, this past year was filled with outstanding achievements from our students, concerts and events, collaborations with renowned musicians, workshops, and countless community service performances, held both in person and virtually.

HIGHLIGHTS:

We Shall Overcome: Music and Equitable Healing: A collaboration between the student musicians of Project STEP and Longwood Symphony Orchestra.

Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration & Concert: A virtual concert and panel discussion with Audley Fuller, Project STEP Board of Directors; Patrice Tilghman-Jackson, cellist and Project STEP Faculty member; Kirk Johnson, alumnus & Founder of SOUNDS Academy; Suubi Laurent, student; and Catherine T. Morris, Director, Arts and Culture, The Boston Foundation.

Masterclass with Johannes Moser: *Zooming in from Vienna!* Hailed by Gramophone Magazine as “one of the finest among the astonishing gallery of young virtuoso cellists”, world-renowned Johannes Moser remains a favorite of both students and guests through his extraordinary and educational classes.

Annual Spring Concert & Parent's Benefit: This extraordinary event is the culmination of a years' worth of dedication from our students and families. This event highlights the students' talents and raises crucial support for our program.

Conversation with Dr. Bettina Love: Dr. Love's educational advocacy work meets at the intersection of education reform, anti-racism, carceral studies, abolition, and Black joy.

Concert with A Far Cry: Project STEP performs with Grammy-nominated A Far Cry!

Performance at Brookhaven at Lexington: Virtual performance for the residents of Brookhaven life-care community.



Virtual cello masterclass with Johannes Moser

IMPACT

Through Project STEP, children from racial and ethnic backgrounds historically underrepresented in classical music gain knowledge, skills, and opportunities that help them to become successful musicians, students, and young adults.

During their years of intensive training, our students are challenged to achieve and maintain high levels of musicianship. The perseverance, self-discipline, confidence, problem-solving skills and strong work ethic they develop in the process prove to be invaluable in their future musical and non-musical pursuits.

Our students build leadership skills by mentoring younger students, taking leadership roles in chamber ensembles, and performing in community service events in their own neighborhoods. Tasked with taking care of their own musical instruments (on loan from STEP), students develop a sense of responsibility. After up to 12 years of training and support in Project STEP, our students become strong musicians and accomplished young adults who are prepared to succeed as classical musicians as well as problem solvers, critical and creative thinkers, and team players. **100% of Project STEP's graduates have gone on to college or conservatory** after graduating from high school, and excel in music studies, competitions, and academics.

The outcomes of our Core Program activities fall into three areas of major growth for our students:

- 1) Strengthened identity
- 2) Creative skill development
- 3) Workforce readiness



Photo from left to right: Grace, Lorenzo, and Laura
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Concert held at the Isabella
Stewart Gardner Museum.

IMPACT_{CONT'D}

While other educational programs in Greater Boston offer music training for children, they do not match Project STEP's comprehensive package of high-quality, long-term training, support services, and scholarships intended specifically for children from backgrounds underrepresented in classical music. Describing Project STEP's impact, the mother of two students wrote:

"My son joined Project STEP six years ago through FOCUS (kindergarten program) and my daughter auditioned into the Core Program this year. They both play the classical violin, an instrument and genre of music they would not have been exposed to if not for Project STEP. Project STEP has presented a unique opportunity for my children to pursue a career in classical music if they desire, and to be part of a community that is dedicated to enriching their lives through culture and the arts. And while we do not know what career path they may choose, we are confident that the discipline, commitment and strong work ethic they are learning now will be foundational to whatever path they choose."

For 39 years, Project STEP has been a pioneer working to build equity in classical music. STEP provides students opportunities to experience a high degree of inclusion by performing with peers and learning from professional musicians, many of which are members from esteemed music institutions and our partners: The Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New England Conservatory of Music and Boston University. Students in STEP gain role models, mentors, and confidence allowing them to thrive in their chosen passion and excel to extraordinary heights as classical musicians, creative and successful students, and engaged members of society.

Photo left: Aaliyah, grade 2, violin, photo by Matthew Muise



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Christopher “bassplayaplaya” Johnson started his musical journey with Project STEP as a student at The New England Conservatory in 1991. After seeing the Boston Bassketeers at one of STEP’s FOCUS presentations, he was determined to learn the bass. Chris studied Bass with Helen Stevenson from 2nd grade all the way until his graduation from Belmont High School!

During his years at STEP, Chris served as the principal bassist for the Northeastern Junior and Senior District Festivals in addition to the MA All State Orchestra. He also achieved his early dream of joining the Boston Bassketeers. As a member of NEC Prep’s Youth Orchestras, Chris had the opportunity to travel to Italy, Cuba, Guatemala, Venezuela, and Brazil.

In 2002, Chris began his undergraduate degree in Bass Performance at the New England Conservatory studying with Donald Palma. He then went on to earn his Master’s degree at the Manhattan School of Music. While in New York, Chris won orchestral positions with New Haven Symphony Orchestra,

Allentown Symphony Orchestra, and the Reading Symphony. He also won the International Society of Bassist Excerpt Competition in 2013. After the competition he was invited to play with the renowned touring chamber orchestra, Sphinx Virtuosi.

Currently, Chris plays with a wide variety of ensembles such as Rootstock Republic/Dear Nina, Jp Jofre’s Tango Quintet, Brooklyn’s PitchBlak Brass Band, BlackRock Philharmonic, The Recollective Orchestra, and NYC Ballet. In addition, Chris performs in studio sessions for movies, commercials, and albums. In 2019 he played on Hans Zimmer’s score of the Lion King and this year, he played on the score of “Judah and the Black Messiah.” Most recently, Chris recorded a Nina Simone Tribute album with Rootstock Republic which will be released in 2022.



Young Christopher at Project STEP

SUMMER CAMPS

This 2020 summer was highly atypical for Project STEP due to the global health crisis. Whereas our students normally would attend some of the top music camps locally, nationally, and internationally, STEP pivoted to come up with a solution that would keep our young musicians active, engaged, and learning safely by launching our first-ever online summer camp. Students developed their playing through group technique classes; participated in enrichment courses not offered during the year, such as fiddling, composition, and improvisation; and performed in masterclasses—all taught by a nationally renowned roster of teaching artists from groups such as the Silk Road Ensemble, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Sphinx Organization.

In addition, some students attended other virtual programs, including Four Strings Academy, Rivers Conservatory, and the Online Solo Strings Intensive. It was extraordinary for our students to come together with like-minded peers who share their passion for music despite the pandemic.

In order to help cover the costs of these programs and make them accessible to all of our students, we combine funds from Project STEP with scholarships from the camps themselves and special support from the following generous funders: The Janey Fund, The Mary Saudek Jaffee Fund, The Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation, The Willow Tree Fund, and Winsor Music.

DID YOU KNOW? African American/Black musicians account for only 1.2% of our nation's orchestras and Latinx musicians make up only 1.6% (*League of American Orchestras, 2016*).



SCHOLARS



2021 Charles H. Bond Scholar :Alba Gilabert-Reid, Grade 7, violin

The Charles H. Bond Scholarship is given each year to two Project STEP students for their dedication to their music studies.

Photos left and below by Matthew Muise Photography



**George James Webb Scholarship:
Nathan Theodore, Grade 11, viola**

A special thank you to the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem for their generous support in honor of George James Webb.

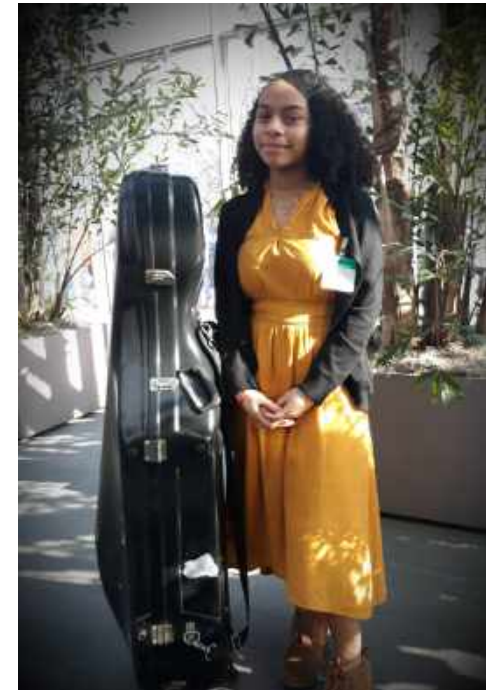


**2021 Eleanor L. Campbell Scholarship
Christian Casiano, Grade 12, violin**

The Eleanor L. Campbell Fund was established in 2007 by her husband, The Honorable Levin H. Campbell. Scholars are chosen on the basis of merit, dedication, and community involvement.

**2021 Kravitz Scholarship
Suubi Laurent, Grade 9, cello**

The Kravitz Scholarship was established in 2007 in memory of Dr. Arthur Kravitz, a long-time supporter of Project STEP. As past President of the Board of Directors, Arthur loved classical music and believed strongly in the mission of STEP. This award is given each year to one advanced student for their commitment to their craft.



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Reflecting the 2020/2021 academic year

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2020/2021

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Eleanor L. Campbell *

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Karen Pokross
Marion Pollock
Sheila Pozon
Wendy Philbrick
Harold I. and Frances I. Pratt
Karine Querido
David and Rose Raduziner
Athena Ramirez
Julie Ramsey and David Cutright
Peter and Suzanne Read
Rhonda Rider
Adelia Romeo
David and Krana Rosen
Jessi Rosinski
Jan Ross
Nancy Cirillo Ruggiero
Nicholas Russell
Adrya Sanchez
Dan Sandberg
Stephen Schofield
Amanda Severin
Geoffery Sherwood
Hagar and Dyango Shirman
Julie Silberman
Nuria Silva
Emerson Silva
Joshua and Randi Simons
Judith Singer
Stefanie and Thomas Sinks
Lois Smitherman
Alan Strauss
James Stroud
Michael Tabak
James L. and Maude D. Terry
Benz Theodore
Aurelie Theramene
Karin Thompson
Gwendoline Thornblade
Joseph Tulchin
Julia Urbank
Tatiana Vicente
Francis and Nurt Vignon

SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS

Up to \$100 Cont'd

Loren Waldman
Amanda Ward
Denise Gaffey and Jason Webb
Bernard Weichsel
Ray Wellbaum and Karen Campbell
Augustus White
Ava Williams
John and Lind Willson
James Wisdom
Lisa Wong
Sally Zelasko
Bradley Zlotnick

+ deceased

Planned Legacy Gifts

Anonymous
Melinda K. Cheston
Jane and Michael Grossman
Meghan K. Jasani and Adam Margolin
Paul and Jodie McMenamin
Elisa Pepe

Learn more about legacy giving at
projectstep.org

Gifts in Honor of
All teachers and support
staff, current and past
Beverly Bostic

Gifts in Honor of
Amir Ali
Abdi Ali

Gifts in Honor of
Mary Allen
Cornell Allen

Gifts in Honor of
Diane M. Austin
Jodie & Paul McMenamin

Gifts in Honor of
Javier Caballero
Felipe Vengas
Lisa Wong

Gifts in Honor of
Melinda Cheston
Jodie McMenamin

Gifts in Honor of
Kathleen Forbes
Anonymous
Kathleen Forbes
Rachel Forbes

Gifts in Honor of
Miriam Fried
Maria Loudenitch

Gifts in Honor of
Helen Griffiths
Carol Allen

Gifts in Honor of
Alex Hernandez
Margaret Doucette

Gifts in Honor of
Alex and Sofie Hernandez
Kathryn Gargurevitch

Gifts in Honor of
Michael Hoyle
Coleen Carter

Gifts in Honor of
Mary S. Jaffee
Elisa Pepe

Gifts in Honor of
Jennifer John
Cornell Allen

Gifts in Honor of
Noah Kelly
Mary Keating

Gifts in Honor of
Joe King
Adrian Braganza

Gifts in Honor of
Anita Klaussen
Bernard and Sue Pucker



2021 graduating seniors (left) Dalilah, now attending New York University and
Christian (right), now attending Furman University.

Gifts in Honor of Dalilah
Mostoslavsky
Raul Mostoslavsky

Gifts in Honor of
William & Besty Moyer
W. Frederick and April Moyer
Evelyn and John Neumeyer

Gifts in Honor of
Rich Parker
Laura Garelick

Gifts in Honor of
Ann Hobson Pilot
Marshall Burlingame

Gifts in Honor of
Ruth Pinder
James Wisdom

Gifts in Honor of
Katura Robinson
Jonathan Saunders

Gifts in Honor of
2021 Senior Students
Anonymous
Diane M. Austin & Aaron J. Nurick
Albert & Lucy Casiano
Gig & Jeff Luckett
Jessica & Douglas Fenton
Alexandra Fuchs
Edineia Marchezi
Meghan Jasani & Adam Margolin
Elisa Pepe

Gifts in Honor of
Joel Stein
Hillary Smenton

Gifts in Honor of
Alan Strauss
Hillary Smenton

Gifts in Honor of
Nathan Theodore
Marie Grandoit

Gifts in Honor of
Dylan Wolfson-Blitzer
Susan Wolfson

Gifts in Honor of
Lorenzo Ye
Marta Jimenez

Gifts in in Memory of
Barbara Berger
Danita Hanson

Gifts in in Memory of
Eleanor Campbell
Bradley Zlotnick

Gifts in in Memory of
Marylou Speaker Churchill
Mark Churchill

Gifts in in Memory of
Ilona J. Erlich
Alicia Erlich

Gifts in in Memory of
Louis H. Hamel, Jr.
S. Tara Miller

Gifts in in Memory of
Helene
Rose and Jean Pierre Gombay

Gifts in in Memory of
Ricardo Hofer
Nancy Chodorow

Gifts in in Memory of
Barbara & Arthur Kravitz
Ramon Greenberg
Neal Kravitz
Diana M. Nugent

Gifts in in Memory of
Barenda Kinsel
Elisabeth Loukas

Gifts in in Memory of
Phyllis Levinson
Nan Levinson

Gifts in in Memory of
George & Ruby Luse
George Luse and Lynn Duval

Gifts in in Memory of
Rita Meyer
Sprague Ackley

Gifts in in Memory of
Janet Packer
Elisa Pepe
Juliet Pepe

Gifts in in Memory of
Daniel I. Palant
David G. Kanter
Stefanie and Thomas Sinks
Lois Smitherman
Loren Waldman
Kim Whiteley
Gifts in in Memory of
Gaby Roberson
Kerby Louis Roberson, Jr.

Gifts in in Memory of
Judith Sandler
Deborah Austin

Gifts in in Memory of
George Seaman
Evelym McFadden

Gifts in in Memory of
Mrs. Shorb
Jennifer Kasper

Gifts in Memory of
William Thomas
Ann Eliot

Gifts in Memory of
Melinda Wells
Torena Webb-Thomas

Gifts in Memory of
E. Charles Wolfson
Susan Wolfson



FOUNDATION, CORPORATE PARTNERS, & GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

A Far Cry
Anonymous
Alchemy Foundation
The Bellevue Fund
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Carriage House Violins
Charles H. Bond Trust
City of Boston
Boston Cultural Council
Boston Society of the New Jerusalem
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Boston University School of Music
Colonel Spencer Inn
Robert Lloyd Corkin
Charitable Foundation
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The Gregory E. Bulger Foundation
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The Janey Fund
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The Klarman Family Foundation

The Kravitz Family Foundation
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Linde Family Foundation
The Mary Saudek Jaffee Fund
Massachusetts Cultural Council
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
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Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation
The National Endowment for the Arts
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New England Conservatory
Novartis US Foundation
One Mighty Mill
The Parents & Families of
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Ramsey McCluskey Family
Foundation
Rivers Conservatory
Savage Family Foundation
The Michael T. Sherman Foundation
Somerton Summers
Lauren and Eric Stein
Family Charitable Fund
Tower Point LLC
Virtuosity



Project STEP's Core Program is supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Boston Cultural Council administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.

Laura, violin - photo by Matthew Muise



INSTRUMENTS

Every student in the Project STEP's core program is able to use a Project STEP instrument throughout their twelve years of musical training. Like Goldilocks, we have to find the right instrument for the right student, considering age, size, experience, and use. As the student grows, so does their instrument, and it is exchanged for the next perfect fit. Most students throughout the course of their studies will change through four different instruments at least, if not more. We also often need to replace instruments in our collection all together and/or make repairs. On average a student instrument can cost between \$1,000-\$10,000 and repairs can range from \$75- \$1,500. Let's not forget bows, instrument cases, and instrument care! Your support directly helps us maintain a healthy collection of instruments for our students.



SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

Each summer our students are presented with opportunities to attend summer music camp and take summer music lessons. We combine funds from individual donors (that's you!) with scholarships from the camps themselves and special support from generous funders including The Janey Fund, The Mary Saudek Jaffee Fund, The Willow Tree Fund, and Winsor Music. Approximately 80% of our students attend festivals and summer orchestra tours. Their local, national, and international music camp experiences are beyond compare.

Project STEP: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

YOUR SUPPORT STORY - WHY FUNDING COUNTS



MENTORS & MASTERS

Not only does Project STEP have a student-to-student mentorship program, we also host masterclasses with world-renowned musicians, including STEP alumni. These opportunities for support and inspiration are instrumental to our students' music education and provide life-long memories and friendships.



TEACHING ARTISTS

Project STEP works with the top musicians in the field to provide the very best education for our students. We have over 30 teaching artists from esteemed partnerships with: NEC, BSO, A Far Cry, and Rivers Conservatory.



**ORCHESTRA
PRIVATE LESSONS
MUSIC THEORY
CHAMBER ENSEMBLES
WEEKLY WORKSHOPS
FOCUS INTRODUCTORY PROGRAM**

CORE PROGRAM - Every year, Project STEP must balance our fiduciary responsibility in parallel to each student's long-term music education. We support their training for up to 12 years, during grades 1-12. On average, every student entering the Core Program through FOCUS is considered a \$100K investment.

Students take up to 7 hours of music lessons on Saturdays throughout the academic year!

100% of our programming budget is allocated towards these Saturdays and other classes.

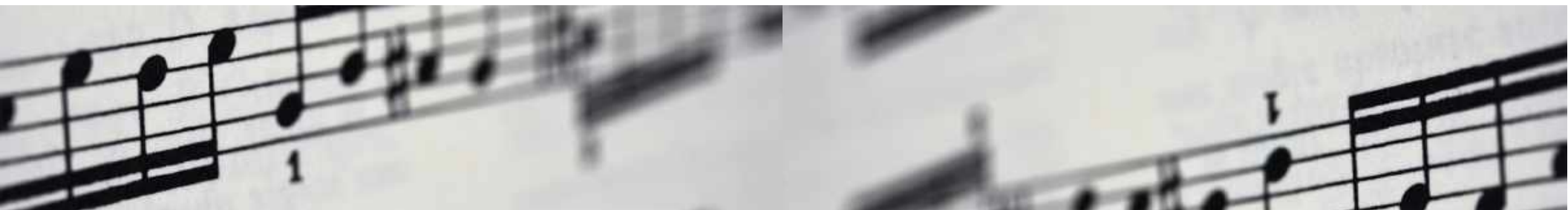
**1 STUDENT
+12 YEARS
=\$100,000**



FINANCIALS

Statement of Activities for Fiscal Year 2021

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total 2021</u>	<u>Total 2020</u>
Support:				
Contributions	\$ 908,600	\$ 75,000	\$ 983,600	\$ 808,800
Program fees	30,800		30,800	27,400
Investment income	409,400	133,600	543,000	47,200
In-kind contributions	70,200		70,200	70,100
Net assets released from restrictions	120,000	(120,000)	- 0 -	- 0 -
Total Revenue & Support	<u>1,539,000</u>	<u>88,600</u>	<u>1,627,600</u>	<u>953,500</u>
Expenses:				
Program	434,500		434,500	387,500
General and administrative	229,100		229,100	208,200
Fund raising	74,100		74,100	69,300
Total Expenses	<u>737,700</u>	<u>- 0 -</u>	<u>737,700</u>	<u>665,000</u>
Change in Net Assets	801,300	88,600	889,900	288,500
Beginning Net Assets	1,776,700	734,500	2,511,200	2,222,700
Ending Net Assets	<u>\$2,578,000</u>	<u>\$823,100</u>	<u>\$3,401,100</u>	<u>\$2,511,200</u>



A young man with dark, curly hair is shown in profile, playing a cello. He is wearing a dark shirt and tie. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white.

FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position FY2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 181,300	\$ 258,200
Contributions receivable	135,000	184,700
Other current assets	3,600	5,900
Total Current Assets	<u>319,900</u>	<u>448,800</u>
Contributions receivable	- 0 -	77,000
Investments	3,029,300	1,978,300
Instruments & Equipment	70,000	79,600
Total Assets	<u>\$3,419,200</u>	<u>\$2,583,700</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 8,600	\$ 13,400
Accrued expenses	9,500	9,500
Total Current Liabilities	<u>18,100</u>	<u>22,900</u>
Note payable	- 0 -	49,600
Total Liabilities	<u>18,100</u>	<u>72,500</u>
Net Assets:		
Without Donor Restrictions:		
Undesignated	910,000	536,100
Board designated for endowment	1,668,000	1,240,600
Total Without Donor Restrictions	<u>2,578,000</u>	<u>1,776,700</u>
With Donor Restrictions:		
Purpose restricted	436,000	347,400
Perpetual endowment	387,100	387,100
Total With Donor Restrictions	<u>823,100</u>	<u>734,500</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>3,401,100</u>	<u>2,511,200</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$3,419,200</u>	<u>\$2,583,700</u>

project STEP

301 Massachusetts Avenue | Symphony Hall
Boston, MA 02115 | 617-267-5777
projectstep.org



All Photos by: Abdi Ali, Alberto Casiano, Boston Symphony Orchestra,
Matthew Muise or Project STEP unless otherwise noted.