

## Musical Introduction Series News

Dear 92nd Street Y School Partners:

The 92nd Street Y would like to take this opportunity to congratulate your students, teachers and staff on their excellent work and enthusiastic participation in the 92nd Street Y's 2010-10 Musical Introduction Series Program. We recently concluded a fabulous concert series in the Y's beautiful Kaufmann Concert Hall that began on December 9 and 10, 2009 with the deeply inspiring and Grammy Award winning klezmer ensemble, The Klezmatics, and concluded on May 26 and 27, 2010 with the world-renowned Young People's Chorus of New York City.

The Musical Introduction Series is a dynamic and culturally rich program that introduces young students in grades K-3 to the world of music, both in the concert hall and in the classroom, connecting the joy of musical learning with current academic curriculum and providing multiple avenues for students' artistic engagement. The first concert in the 2009-10 MIS program featured the legendary, innovative klezmer ensemble, The Klezmatics. Prior to the concerts, each participating class received two visits from a 92nd Street Y professional musician teaching artist, who introduced students to klezmer by comparing and contrasting historical and modern klezmer ("Klezmer Then and Now"), singing in Yiddish, and learning how melody and accompaniment is used within this Eastern European Jewish musical genre.

The Klezmatics were followed by the bold, virtuosic sounds of the Boston Brass, a captivating brass quintet who performed repertoire ranging from exciting classical arrangements (The Overture to The Marriage of Figaro) to burning jazz standards (Caravan). To prepare for the concerts, which were held on March 3 and 4, students worked with their teaching artist and classroom teacher to build their own homemade trumpets and learned to perform the most common articulations used by brass players. Each student also created an original drawing inspired by The Overture to The Marriage of Figaro and saw their work projected onscreen at the concert while the Boston Brass performed the piece.

In April, we featured another Grammy Award winning artist, the Latin jazz pianist and composer Arturo O'Farrill. In this unit, students built their own bongos and learned to improvise on them based on Afro-Cuban rhythms as performed in Arturo's band. At the concert, students were invited onstage to perform with Arturo and his band, playing bongos on Caravan. Arturo dedicated a composition, Song for Chico, to his father, the legendary Latin jazz composer and bandleader Chico O'Farrill, and by exploring this musical dedication, students discovered how they can make their own artistic dedications by writing a Poem for Arturo after the concert.

The final performance in the Series this year was the incredibly talented and inspiring Young People's Chorus of New York City. For this concert, students explored how a chorus works together to make music, and learned songs from many cultures, such as Give Us Hope, a moving and uplifting piece written for the YPC by a New York City composer; Tue Tue, a traditional African song; and Oye, an upbeat song incorporating movement and traditional and contemporary Latin rhythms. It was especially moving to see the entire audience on their feet singing Give Us Hope with the YPC at the close of the concert - a truly meaningful end to a fun and engaging year of musical and cultural learning.

With warm regards,

Larisa Gelman, Director

Debra Kreisberg, Managing Director