

Musical Introduction Series Begins!

Dear 92nd Street Y School Partners:

The 92nd Street Y is delighted to announce the successful launch of the 2010-11 Musical Introduction Series season. This dynamic and culturally rich program 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. We began the season on November 3rd with our popular annual Classroom Teacher Workshop at 92Y, featuring performances by all four musical artists that your schools will hear and see in concert this year at 92Y: Mark O'Connor (Grammy-winning violinist); Shanghai String Quartet (world class classical string quartet); Ljova and the Kontraband (cross-cultural Jewish song) and Hazmat Modine (early blues with world influences).

The 2010-11 concerts themselves began on December 7 and 8 with the Grammy Award-winning master violinist, Mark O'Connor and his bluegrass string quartet. Prior to the concerts, which were held in the Y's beautiful Kaufmann Concert Hall, each participating class received two visits from a 92nd Street Y professional musician teaching artist, who introduced students to Mark and his music by exploring the "roots" and "fruit" of Mark's violin playing and his original music. In their classrooms, students sang bluegrass melodies and rhythms drawn directly from Mark's original compositions, and traced the origins of this music by exploring how the folk traditions of American music are a significant part of his musical roots. In the concert hall, students learned more about the influences that led Mark O'Connor to become the virtuoso musician that he is today: His violin teachers, his hard work practicing his instrument, his love of American folk, jazz and classical music, and his pioneering work combining all of these influences to create a completely new and original style of violin playing and teaching.

We are extremely proud of the excellent work that your students accomplished in this unit of study. All of their effort was apparent at the interactive concert, when they had the opportunity to show off their knowledge to Mark O'Connor and his string quartet, and their enthusiasm and excitement at hearing and seeing this engaging, world-class performer.

With warm regards,

Larisa Gelman, Director

Debra Kreisberg, Managing Director