

October 2023

Upbeats!

We did it!



We Reached our Goal - 8,000 students!

We are pleased to announce that the MusicLink Foundation has reached a total of 8,000 students with the link of **Garrett Uy**, a piano student from Columbus, Indiana. **Elizabeth Clark** has been teaching Garrett Uy for many years and says that he is one of the hardest working students she has ever had. Having taken Garrett as far as she comfortably could, Elizabeth asked her friend, **Kim Jones**, to share in teaching Garrett as she is better at teaching more advanced students and Garrett plans to participate in the MTNA Piano Competition at the end of October and hopes to attend the IU Summer Piano Academy next year.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Supports MusicLink

The MusicLink Foundation recently received a generous donation of \$10,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the American Online Giving Foundation, a partner foundation of the Benevity Giving Platform. We were overwhelmed by this donation as we head into a new school year. We are encouraged by support from ongoing donors who provide funding on a regular basis, monthly, bimonthly, or annually as Legacy Partners. Refer to the website www.fundmusiclink.com for donation details.



MusicLink Sends Kids to Camp

The MusicLink Foundations offers up to \$250 camp scholarships for MusicLink students to the music camp of their choice. This year we sent 15 students to camps in Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois, Florida, Minnesota and Missouri with a total of \$3,130 in scholarships. Several students attended the Cannon Valley Summer Orchestra Chamber Camp (shown above) that offered the chance to share music with peers through the summer.

Garrett's parents are immigrants from the Philippines and are extremely supportive of their son, driving him to lessons, competitions, and masterclasses. His teachers see how musical and engaged Garrett is and describes him as "everything you'd want in a student."



Emily Fong and Maureen Spranza

**Thanks from Emily Fong,
MusicLink Senior Award Winner**

Dear Joanne Haroutounian,

Hello, my name is **Emily Fong**, a former student of **Maureen Spranza** (CA). I was blessed enough to receive the 2023 Senior Award of Excellence this year! I am writing this letter to thank you for the wonderful gift/award of \$1,000. My family and I are incredibly grateful. This money will go directly to my college expenses, and I can confidently say that this money will be used in a good manner. Thanks to this money, I will be able to completely afford my first semester at UC Berkeley without struggle or debt. This is thanks to you, and possibly anyone else who took the time to read my essay and hear my playing. Again, thank you so much!

**MusicLink Provides Instruments
with help from Business Partners**



**Headwaters Music
and Arts Raises
almost \$1,000 at
County Fair**



Headwaters Music and Arts is a nonprofit organization located in Bemidji, MN that provides instruction and other music and visual arts opportunities for the public in northern Minnesota. Carolyn Towler, a Headwaters teacher organized a playathon and gave this report: On August 13, 2023, students and staff performed at our County Fair on the Grand Stage! It was our first time there, and the performances were well-received by an enthusiastic audience. We hope to do that again sometime in the future! Together we raised nearly \$1,000 for the MusicLink Foundation!

Students who raised over \$100 are featured below.



Jax Flier

Daniel Helgeson



Claire Helgeson

Mollie Rinkenberger

Poolside Jazz

Phoenix Roberto & Laura Sinclair



William Haroutounian & Jason Day

The MusicLink Foundation's mission is to provide ongoing lessons at reduced prices for students in need. Often students are without an instrument for these lessons, so we work with donors as well as business partners to bring instruments into the homes of MusicLink students. **Phoenix Roberto** was all smiles when he received a 1/10th violin for his first lessons with **Laura Sinclair** (FL), thanks to our partner, **Hungry for Music** (DC). **Day Violins** (VA) donated a 13" viola for **Govinda Kunanele**, a student of **Lani Bortfield** (CT). **Jason Day** is seen with **William Haroutounian**. MusicLink has also connected with **Casio** and **Schmitt Music** (MN) to provide keyboards for beginning students across the country.

Grass Roots Grants

Each year, the MusicLink Foundation provides Grass Roots Grants up to \$500 for teachers and organizations that are expanding their MusicLink programs.

Thus far this year, MusicLink has awarded over \$4000 in Grass Roots Grants.

The Baton Rouge Conservatory (LA) expanded the number of scholarships offered per class as well as providing equipment and instruments for group classes. Autumn enjoys moving to music in the photo above. The grant provided funding



Poolside Jazz Non Profit donates \$1,000 to MusicLink

A group of 8 students at Del Norte High School in San Diego, California formed a jazz band that won a talent competition. They started playing gigs around town, but decided they did not want money they were earning for themselves. Instead, they wanted to pass down the gift of music performance to those less privileged. That is when they found Music Link Foundation and decided it would be the perfect steward of the funds they raised. The students incorporated the band into Poolside Jazz NonProfit, obtained tax-exempt status, opened up a bank account and made their first \$1,000 donation to Music Link Foundation in October 2023. They hope to become an Alliance Partner to Music Link Foundation and get their own website up and running soon.

In Memoriam - Philip BJORIO



The family of Philip BJORIO has chosen the MusicLink Foundation as a worthwhile charity for donations in his memory.

Phil was a life-long pianist and had a passion for helping young adults study piano. He helped organize and perform concerts to fund scholarships for aspiring students. He took piano lessons his entire life, and most recently studied with Brian Ganz from St. Marys College of Maryland.

Phil was preparing to perform a concert that was scheduled a week after he died. Phil grew up in a Navy family, and 8 of those years were spent in

to market the program through flyers distributed to the community.

Hopewell Music Cooperative North (MN) used the grant funding to support a Spring session scholarship to a student that covers tuition and a portion of instrument rental. The program provided recital opportunities as well as performances in the community.

The Atonement Lutheran School did not have any keyboards for MusicLink students to take home for practice. The grant provided funding for five keyboards thanks to the new MusicLink-Casio-Schmitt business partnership.

MusicLink Spotlights

The MusicLink Foundation website spotlights MusicLink teacher, Lorie Parmalee (NY), MusicLink student Neil Alognon (NY) and alumnus Kai Frue (OR). Enjoy reading their stories and viewing Kai's performance of a Chopin Etude.

https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/stud_archive/2023.php#jun

https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/totm_archive/2023.php#jun

Did You Know?

- We still have 27 teachers who have not submitted their evaluations. Easy to do and important to assess annual student progress. Use the link adding your UserID where noted: https://musiclinkfoundation.org/link_e.php?zct_id=USERID

- If you love our work then tell the world! Stories about us from people like you will help us make an even bigger impact in our community. **GreatNonprofits** is honoring highly regarded nonprofits with their 2023 Top-Rated List.

Won't you help us raise visibility for our work by posting a brief story of your experience with us? All content will be visible to potential donors and volunteers. It's easy and takes less than 3 minutes! Go here to get started! <https://greatnonprofits.org/reviews/write/musiclink-foundation>

Arlington VA. After college and law school at Duke University, he and his family settled in Northern Virginia.

New MusicLink Teachers

The following 28 teachers signed up or are returning to teach through MusicLink in the past few months. This brings the total of active teachers to 223 and overall teacher total to 4,682.

CA: Mona Benight, Jack Meacham, John Scaccia, Austin Scott, Miranda Shum;
CO: Alaunde Copley-Woods, Henry Spencer (returning); FL: Victor Kunder, Cayley McCloskey;
IL: Brywn Johnson; IN: Elizabeth Clark, Kim Jones, Carol Phipps (returning);
LA: Christopher Cunningham; MN: Sara Diedrich (returning), Lara Dietrich (returning), Maddie Marshall, Sarah Mensen, Katrina Munding; NM: Jessica Retana; NY: Austin Owen; NC: Ginnah Temple; OR: Wilma Hawkins, Susan Todd; PA: Jack Plumlee; VA: Catharine Ing, Michelle Unadkat; WA: Mary Kaye Owen.

New Business and Alliance Partners

We have added the following business and alliance partners during the last few months. If you are interested in adding your organization to our alliance partners (those who accept MusicLink students into their programs) or want to join our growing number of business partners, complete the form on our website. <https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/buspart.php>

Contact Us!

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