

Midori Friends

Making Music Building Futures



IMPACT REPORT 2024-2025

June 30, 2025

Dear Friends,

Thank you for championing equitable access to transformative music education in New York City!

Midori & Friends is committed to fostering creative spaces where children cultivate courageous self-expression, embrace the joy of learning, and develop a spirit of service. In an era where students face unprecedented challenges—from academic recovery post-pandemic to navigating an increasingly complex world—the arts have never been more essential for healing, connection, and holistic development.

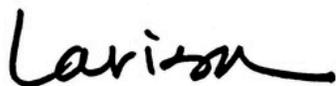
With your support, we have impacted over 14,000 New York City students through tuition-free music education programs that prioritize student voice and culturally responsive teaching. Our students don't just receive instruction; they become collaborators in their learning journey, engaging with professional musicians, discovering diverse musical genres and cultures, and developing the creative confidence to express their authentic selves.

During the 2024-2025 school year, Midori & Friends collaborated with artists and school leaders to engage thousands of students at 74 schools and community sites across all five boroughs. We're particularly proud of how our programs have evolved to meet students where they are: our Play to Learn instrumental and vocal programs now incorporate student-driven repertoire choices; our Celebrate! Music concerts feature student voices as cultural ambassadors; our Journey to Japan program connects students to global perspectives; and NEXTGen Teen Musician—now in its fourth year—has established itself as a powerful model for youth-led education advocacy.

As we look toward the future, our dynamic music education programs are not just enriching individual lives—they're cultivating the next generation of culturally responsive leaders our city desperately needs. Your investment in Midori & Friends empowers students to become agents of positive change in their communities while developing the creative problem-solving skills essential for tomorrow's challenges.

Thank you for recognizing that music education is social justice work, and for joining us in ensuring every young person has access to the transformative power of the arts.

With profound gratitude,



Larisa Gelman
Executive Director



MISSION

Midori & Friends harnesses the power of music to transform the lives of children and enrich their communities.

Midori

FOUNDER

2021 Kennedy Center Honoree
UN Messenger of Peace
Avery Fisher Prize Winner

Faculty at The Juilliard School, Curtis Institute of Music & Peabody Institute

2024-2025 PROGRAM IMPACT

14,264

2,621

101

74

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
ENGAGED

INSTRUCTIONAL
HOURS
PROVIDED

ARTISTS
IN
SCHOOLS

SCHOOL &
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

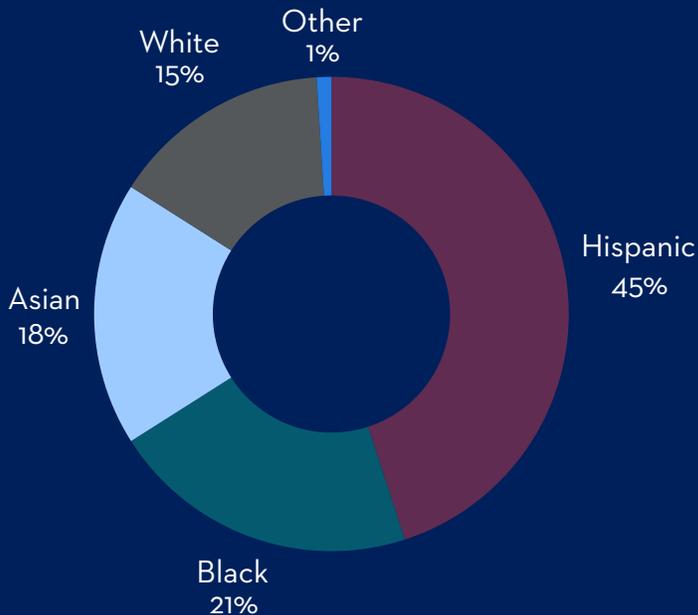


TITLE I SCHOOLS

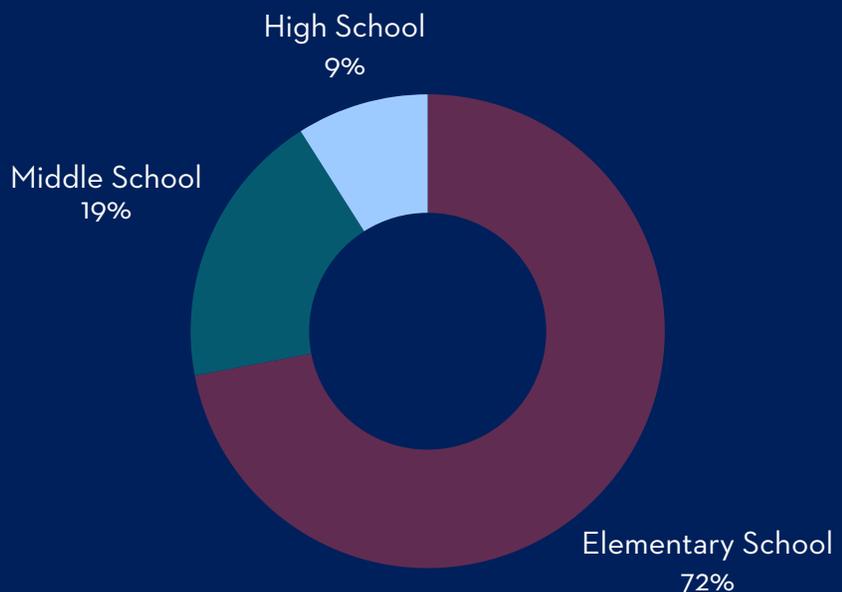


ENGLISH LANGUAGE
LEARNERS

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



SCHOOL PARTNER TYPES



SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

MANHATTAN

PS 152
PS 314
PS 328
PS 333
PS 36
PS 38
PS/MS 422
PS 48
Mott Hall II
Eleanor Roosevelt High School
School for Global Leaders
Stuyvesant High School
Professional Children's School
Special Music School

BROOKLYN

PS 7
PS 102
PS 104
PS 115
PS 127
PS 160
PS 163
PS 170
PS 177
PS 185
PS 194
PS 204
PS 206
PS 207
PS 236
PS 290
PS 52
PS 65
PS 414
PS 748
JHS 259
Brooklyn Institute for Liberal Arts
High School for Public Service
James Madison High School

BRONX

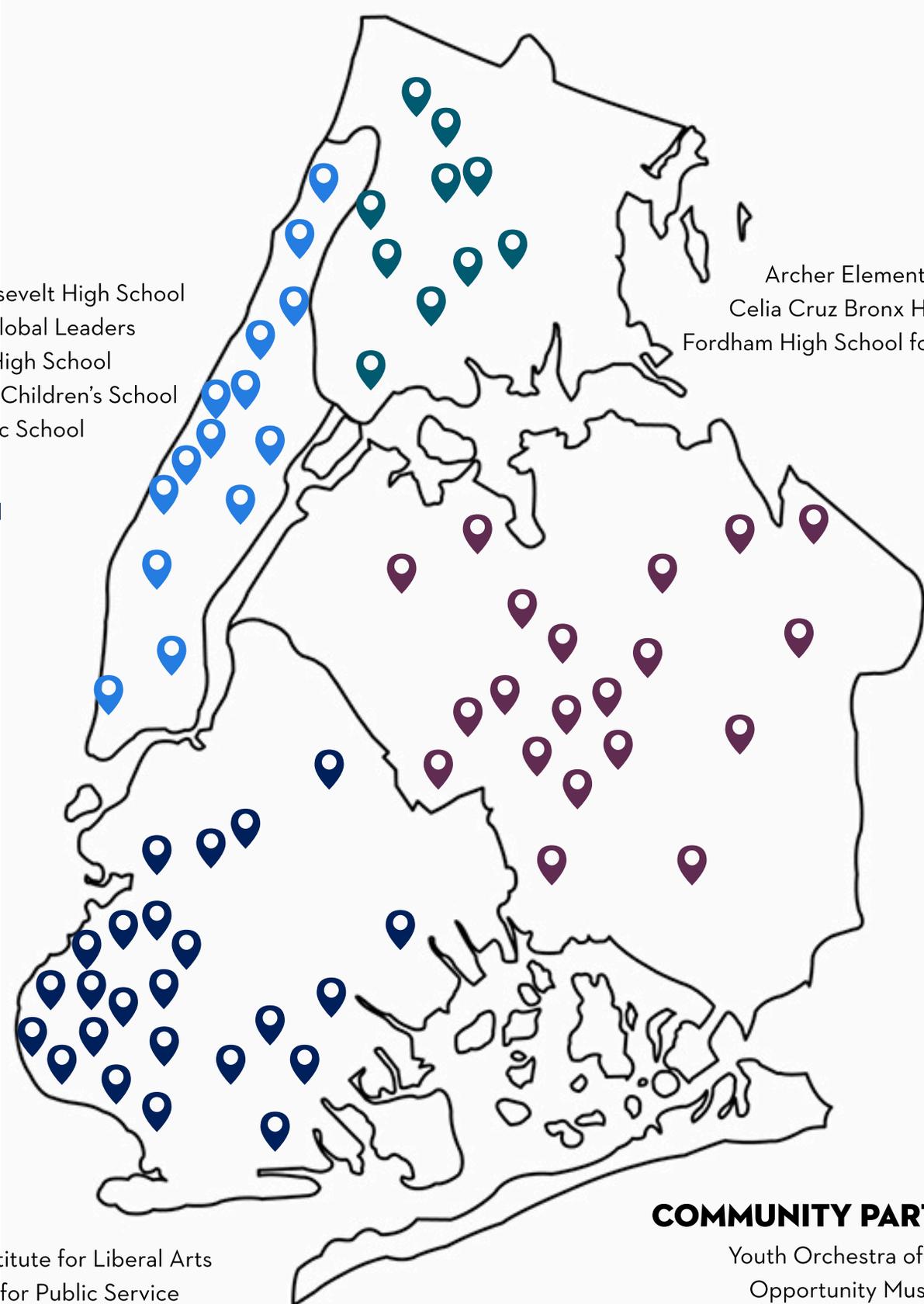
PS 226
PS 536
PS 70
PS 85
TAPCO
MS 244
MS 45X
Archer Elementary School
Celia Cruz Bronx HS of Music
Fordham High School for the Arts

QUEENS

PS 101
PS 124
PS 134
PS 200
PS 203
PS 229
PS 232
PS 35
PS 38
PS 48
PS 50
PS 51
PS 52
PS 54
PS 62
PS 66
PS 97
JHS 157
MS 67
MS 137

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Youth Orchestra of St. Luke's
Opportunity Music Project
Harmony Program
Hope Lodge
Chamber Music Society @ Lincoln Center
Arts Education Roundtable



**2024 -
2025
IMPACT**

2,691

*Instructional
Hours*

1,991

*Instrumental
& Vocal
Students*

50

*Midori Matinee
Student
Recitals*

91

*Teaching Artists
Employed*

PLAY TO LEARN



Honed over three decades of implementation in public schools, Play to Learn provided instrumental and vocal instruction for students in and out of school time.

Following the New York State Learning Standards, our foundational program ignites musical passion for K-12 students in disciplines including strings, percussion, harp, winds, chorus, and voice.

During 15-30 week residencies, diverse Teaching Artists at the top of their craft work with students to develop technique and foster creativity. In collaboration with our teaching artists, we use a student-centered, inquiry-based approach to promote a positive classroom experience and hands-on learning.

Student efforts culminate in a final "Midori Matinee" attended by friends & family, sparking confidence in newly acquired skills.



PS 52K



JHS 157Q

the manlow music project
Sara Shikowitz
Stephen A. Nalezy 157
\$ 15,000
Fifteen Thousand and 0/100
DOLLARS
Manlow Music Teacher Association

MS 67Q



**BROOKLYN
INSTITUTE FOR
LIBERAL ARTS**

2024 - 2025 IMPACT

35
*Celebrate!
Music
Concerts*

7,176
*Student
Concert
Attendees*

1,250
*Students
Engaged in
Workshops*

10
*Global Music
Ensembles*

CELEBRATE! MUSIC



Midori & Friends' *Celebrate! Music* program invited young learners to become global citizens in an active exploration of world music. By learning about the richness of cultural traditions, works of art, and musical customs around the globe, in class and through live performances, students cultivated a global perspective that nurtures empathy and understanding.

Celebrate! Music brings engaging world music ensembles and corresponding workshops into New York City public schools. Students experience live artist performances and interactive workshops with Teaching Artists.

Midori & Friends provided professional development for classroom teachers to help facilitate curriculum connections in the classroom and school community.

CELEBRATE! MUSIC ARTISTS



ARKAI
Electric Strings Duo



Ajna
South Asian Dance



Vice
Pop A Cappella



People of Earth
World Music

CELEBRATE! MUSIC ARTISTS



Folklore Urbano
Colombian



Kaoru Watanabe
Traditional Japanese



Spiderhorse
Beatbox Duo



Talujon
Contemporary
Percussion

CELEBRATE! MUSIC ARTISTS



Calioppe Brass
Jazz/Classical/Pop



Harlem Chamber Players
Classical





**2024 -
2025
IMPACT**

3

*School
Programs*

143

*Students
Impacted*

45

*Workshop
Sessions*

JOURNEY TO JAPAN

Journey to Japan is an interactive exploration of Japanese artistic traditions. Designed for all ages, this series presents multi-disciplinary cultural workshops and performances featuring Midori & Friends' artists. These hands-on sessions involved art-making such as calligraphy and origami, and age-appropriate, accessible music education for young students such as ukulele instruction and Japanese folk dances.

Artist-led workshops included:

Taiko drumming, floral arrangement (ikebana), calligraphy, kamishibai storytelling, singing, Japanese dance and origami



PS 127K



PS 54Q

2024 - 2025 IMPACT

12

*NEXTGen
Teen Musicians*

280

*Music lessons,
workshops, &
mentorship
opportunities*

32

*Alumni
Engaged*

4

*Public facing &
performance
opportunities*

NEXTGEN



NEXTGen is a youth leadership & advocacy program which empowers teens through artistic, leadership, and advocacy training with professional musicians and mentors in the fields of finance, tech, law, and government.

Scholarships were provided for students to explore career pathways through private music lessons, masterclasses, and career labs with critical thinkers in diverse fields of study and extraordinary artists, including world-renowned virtuoso violinist, Midori!

Teens sharpened their advocacy skills by practicing storytelling, public speaking, and persuasive writing. The program culminates with a community presentation of their collaborative arts advocacy campaign featuring the next generation of music leaders.

2025 NEXTGEN COHORT



Maryam Badran
Eleanor Roosevelt
High School



Katerina Bala
James Madison High
School



Claire Cho
Professional Children's
School



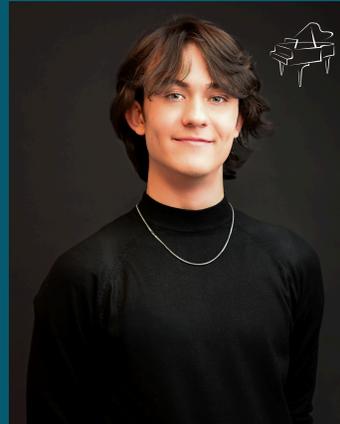
ZiQi Deng
Stuyvesant High
School



Quadiar Dunn
Special Music School



Gianna Gomez-Marmolejos
Theatre Arts Production
Company High School



Vance Krichmaryov
James Madison High
School



Madison Lindo
James Madison High
School



Joel Martinez
Fordham High School
for the Arts



Edward Regalado
Fordham High School
for the Arts



Sofia Santana
Special Music
School



Lizmarie Urena
Fordham High School
for the Arts



**MIDORI
&
NEXTGEN**



**HOPE
LODGE**



NEXTGEN ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

CONFIDENCE



Arianna Ramos joined NEXTGen and discovered her voice through its leadership workshops and her artistry through its musical mentorships. Three years later, at 18, she's already completed two paid music internships through M&F while studying music production at Brooklyn College, successfully translating her newfound confidence into professional experience.

LEADERSHIP



Through NEXTGen's advocacy project to City Council, Wilton Martinez was empowered to express himself out loud and on the page. Now a sophomore at Manhattanville, majoring in Business, Wilton says he understands "the difference he can make" because of M&F.

GROWTH



Before enrolling, Shazia Downs wondered if he could ever "be better" at school and in music. From the start of NEXTGen, "I met amazing people who gave me confidence and courage," he says. "One of my biggest accomplishments came through this program." Through M&F's free tutoring support, Shazia transformed from a struggling student into a high-performing one, improving his grades and test scores while learning to express himself authentically through music.

2024 - 2025 IMPACT

\$414,874
Funds Raised

500
*Special Events
Attendees*

10
*Featured
Performers*

SPECIAL EVENTS



Midori & Friends was thrilled to create spaces for connection and shared musical experiences among our community.

Hosted by the charismatic Jin Ha, our 33rd Anniversary Gala united 252 philanthropists from diverse industries to honor Ron Claiborne and enjoy the talents of Kennedy Caughell, Jelani Remy, ARKAI, and SPIDERHORSE, and Midori & Friends students.

The 2024-2025 Crescendo Circle concert series featured the world-class talents of Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Gil Shaham for 173 supporters.

The Young Professionals Board hosted the first Sonic Showdown, a battle of the bands event to support music education with 75 guests. Featured artists include winner STELLA, Carter Brady, Sola, and Takeover.





Jelani Remy & Kennedy Caughell



Ron Claiborne, Midori & Alan Fischer



M&F Board of Directors



Midori & Host Jin Ha



NEXTGen Performer Claire Cho

FROM THE COMMUNITY

What sets Midori & Friends apart is their unwavering dedication to nurturing relationships with artists and fostering their growth. Now, more than ever, organizations like Midori & Friends are indispensable in ensuring that music remains a fundamental part of our cultural fabric. In a city renowned for its artistic richness, access to music and music education is not just important—it's essential. Our collaboration with Midori & Friends through the Celebrate! Music program has been nothing short of transformative. Every performance is an opportunity to witness the sheer joy and excitement in the faces of children as they immerse themselves in the magic of music. It's a testament to the power of music to inspire, uplift, and unite communities.

**JONATHAN MIRON,
ARKAI ENSEMBLE**

Midori & Friends programs have enriched our students' musical experiences and fostered a sense of community and cultural appreciation. Midori & Friends staff are supportive of our school mission and is dedicated to fostering a love for the arts and providing our students with the skills they need to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world. Our school values the Midori & Friends program and is always grateful to receive the generous support of others sustain our partnership. Our partnership and accomplishments have been remarkable. We would love to continue our work together.

**AGATHA ALICANDRO,
PRINCIPAL PS 127K**

Our students were introduced to ARKAI's unique blend of electroacoustic string music. Their innovative approach to music captivated our students, many of whom had never seen string instruments used in such a modern way. The performance was both entertaining and educational, helping our students see music as a powerful tool for creativity and expression. Many of our students come from diverse backgrounds, and it was incredible to see how they connected with the performance. Even students who were initially unfamiliar with classical instruments were visibly inspired, showing how music can break barriers and spark curiosity.

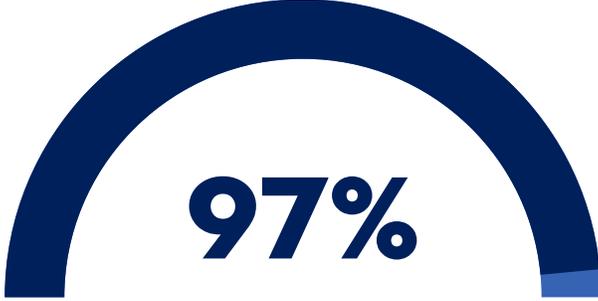
LAURA STONE, TEACHER PS 748K

ASSESSMENT DATA



98%

Of School Administrators strongly agree that Midori & Friends programs boosted students' confidence.



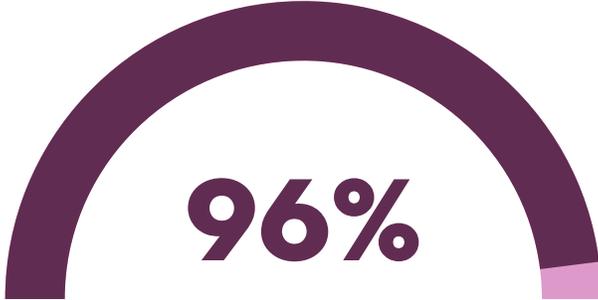
97%

Of Teaching Artists strongly agree strongly agreed Play to Learn students were able to perform a piece of music from beginning to end.



97%

Of School Administrators strongly agreed that Midori & Friends programs fostered a sense of community through ensemble playing and performance.



96%

Of School Administrators strongly agreed that Midori & Friends programs successfully enriched their school curriculum and had a positive impact on student growth and development.

2024-2025 SUPPORTERS

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION

American Eagle Outfitters Foundation
BankUnited
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Brownington Foundation
Con Edison
Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation
D'Addario Foundation
Disney
Fulgraf Foundation
Gerson Family Foundation
Hyde & Watson Foundation
John & Joan D'Addario Foundation
Laura B. Vogler Foundation
Les Paul Foundation
The Lotos Foundation
Mitsui USA Foundation
Morgan Stanley
MUFG Group
Nissan Foundation
Nippon Steel North America, Inc.
Norinchukin Foundation
Pamela & Richard Rubinstein Foundation
Paul Galvin Memorial Foundation Trust
Reiss Family Foundation
Salesforce Foundation
Tanaka Memorial Foundation
TD Securities
Venable Foundation
Wells Fargo
Whispering Bells Foundation
U.S. Bank

GOVERNMENT

New York State Council on the Arts
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs

New York City Council Members:

Shaun Abreu, 7th C.D.
Adrienne Adams, 28th C.D.
Joann Ariola, 32nd C.D.
Alexa Aviles, 43rd C.D.
Diana Ayala, 8th C.D.
Erik Bottcher, 3rd C.D.
Justin Brannan, 43rd C.D.
Carmen De La Rosa, 10th C.D.
Eric Dinowitz, 11th C.D.
James Gennaro, 24th C.D.
Robert Holden, 30th C.D.
Amanda Farías 18th C.D.
Oswald Feliz, 15th C.D.
Rita Joseph, 40th C.D.
Linda Lee, 23rd C.D.
Vickie Paladino, 19th C.D.
Mercedes Narcisse, 46th C.D.
Sandy Nurse, 37th C.D.
Pierina Ana Sanchez, 14th C.D.
Lynn Schulman, 29th C.D.
Inna Vernikov, 48th C.D.

TEAM

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Marc Richter, Secretary
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Mandy DeFilippo
Alan Fischer
Peter Glaser
Setsu Goto
Jennifer Hanley
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Craig Sabbatino, Vice President, Marketing
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Chloe Delaitre, Development Manager
Jackie Gillette, Programs Manager
Alina Eckersley, Program Coordinator
Bryson Wheeler, Program Administrator

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Regina Carter
Paquito D'Rivera
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Wynton Marsalis
Audra McDonald
Zubin Mehta
Achinoam Nini
Mark O'Connor
Dawn Upshaw

Midori & Friends

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