

KidZNotes

Annual Report 2010-11

Transforming children's futures through classical, orchestral music



KidZNotes performs for opening of KaBoom playground in East Durham

Dear Friends and Supporters of KidZNotes:

What a ride! In our first year, the KidZNotes community has grown and grown, becoming the leading arts organization of East Durham. Through our partnerships with incredible organizations including Duke University, the East Durham Children's Initiative, Durham Public Schools, the Durham Arts Council, High Strung Violins and Guitars, and the Durham Symphony, to name only a few, we have launched our dream, to empower children and families through classical music. We have been sponsored by socially responsible leading national and state foundations and companies, as well as an enormous pool of generous friends, found on our Sponsors page in this report.

Highlights from our year include over 25 public performances across the Triangle, a side-by-side performance with the professional musicians of the Durham Symphony, opening a playground for the community of the East Durham Children's Initiative, being invited to perform for the Durham County Commissioners, and a Winter and Spring concert that attracted nearly 500 audience members overall. KidZNotes has been featured in the media, including documentaries, news stories, magazines, local and national print newspapers. Please see our website for highlights in the news from this year.

Since our launch, the national movement of El Sistema has found a resource in KidZNotes, with requests to share our model coming from as far as Cleveland, San Diego, Detroit, and New York City. Cities across North Carolina including Asheville, Fayetteville and Charlotte look to KidZNotes as a leader and inspiration for El Sistema initiatives in the state.

I enjoyed representing KidZNotes this year as both a keynote speaker to the League of American Orchestra's National Conference and a panelist for their "Orchestras Unbound" session at Carnegie Hall, where at both events, we were looked to as a relevant solution for innovation in orchestras. TEDx Charlotte was a fantastic event early in the school year - giving me the chance to spread our "great idea" across North Carolina.

I tell anyone who will listen that we are on a freight-train of energy and success, and the more our kids are allowed to do, the more we will change the world. We're poised to expand from 60 to 100 students next year, and this July we will pilot our first summer camp. It is a pleasure to be a member of this movement with you, and thank you for jump-starting this train!

Yours,

Katie Wyatt, Executive Director
Elias J. Torre, KidZNotes Interim Board Chair

The mission of **KidZNotes** is to provide under-served children, beginning in the pre-school years, free-of-charge classical, orchestral music training to combat poverty, strengthen inner-city education, and foster positive decision-making to unlock the world.

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Eastway Elementary teacher Mike Truzy with student Charity, at the Holton Center

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KidZNotes is inspired by *El Sistema*, Venezuela’s world-renowned National System of Children and Youth Orchestras. Founded by Maestro Jose Antonio Abreu in 1974, *El Sistema* has transformed the lives of over two million Venezuelan children from impoverished circumstances. KidZNotes brings this philosophy to Durham and all of North Carolina.

The Fundamentals of *El Sistema*

El Sistema is a social youth development program that uses music to achieve its goal of enabling every child to feel a strong sense of personal value and consider themselves a vital part of the community.

The *El Sistema* pedagogy prioritizes personal and social development.

The *El Sistema nucleo* is a haven of safety, fun, joy, and personal success that allows for an immersive music learning experience.

Students learn by working in ensembles with frequent performances, bringing their music and knowledge to the community.

People of all ages can make music together. Everyone involved in the program has multiple roles as Citizens, Artists, Teachers, and Students.

Passion leads to precision - fun is a key element of the learning process and prioritizes personal connection to the music over concern of technical precision.

El Sistema starts students at a very early age and provides opportunities through the high school years.

Family participation provides an essential component of *El Sistema* learning.



L-R: KidZNotes Music Director Tonya Suggs leads students in performance; KidZNotes mom Assante Moore at December concert; Performing for the Bal des Chapeaux Gala

Our Story



Full of questions for Nicholas Kitchen, guest violinist

The seed for KidZNotes was planted in July 2008 when Lucia Powe, a Durham philanthropist and activist, and inaugural Board Chair Kathie Morrison were inspired by 60 Minutes' feature documentary on *El Sistema*. Both women recognized the potential social change *El Sistema* could bring to Durham, and began to gather local support and became founding board members. Katie Wyatt, founding executive director was quickly brought on as an experienced manager and musician, with a rich history in *El Sistema*, and a member of the inaugural class of the Abreu Fellows program, named for Maestro Jose Antonio Abreu, father of *El Sistema*.

KidZNotes was founded in 2009 as a three-year pilot program in East Durham. Now entering our second year, KidZNotes will expand as planned, growing from 60 violinists to a full youth orchestra of 100 musicians. KidZNotes starts all new students on the violin, and then moves them to other instruments of their choice. Winds, brass, and percussion sections will be added at E.K. Powe, Eastway, and Y.E. Smith Elementary Schools, as well as 16 viola and cello students. In 2011-12, a fourth school will join our team, Club Boulevard Humanities Magnet Elementary. Expansion is an important step in the pilot program, launching KidZNotes on the trajectory of creating a full youth orchestra for children and families in Durham. KidZNotes is committed to provide our students with free orchestral training through high school. As KidZNotes continues our tremendous pace, there will be an ever growing group of KidZNotes musicians who will serve as leaders in the KidZNotes community.



Unveiling our violins at KidZNotes' Launch

KidZNotes is a leader in the newly organized *El Sistema USA* network and part of a growing system of US youth orchestras. As KidZNotes expands we will build on national and international connections with other *El Sistema* programs, creating ever increasing opportunities for the students and families we serve.



Posing backstage at the Bal des Chapeaux gala

What's next?

2011-12: KidZNotes is expanding from 60 to 100 students, adding a new school, and creating a full youth orchestra.

2012-13: KidZNotes will expand again, from 100 to 140, adding a fifth school and new classes of kindergarteners at each school. The program will serve all elementary grades and create a second youth orchestra. This is the last year of the East Durham Pilot Project.

2013-14: KidZNotes will have 190 musicians enrolled. Students who began as third graders will enter middle school and the program will expand to their level while still enrolling kindergarteners.

KidZNotes *in the Classroom*

Our young musicians have shown incredible leadership, dedication, and growth in this first year. KidZNotes' students receive up to 10 hours of free classical music instruction each week. That's over 400 hours of lessons each school year! KidZNotes also encourages students to practice at home, attend KidZNotes sponsored field trips, and perform at community events. Over the past year we've seen our students develop into a terrific group of musicians and lay the foundation for an outstanding music community in East Durham.



Rehearsal is fun! With teacher LaSaundra Booth and Executive Director Katie Wyatt

KidZNotes Young Musicians

Eastway Elementary
Andy DosCamino
Charity Bowling
Shakiya Chisholm
Jasmine Cheek
Juanita Perez
Kaisai Holley
Kevin Saldana-Fernando
Liseth Gomez

Stefi Bejarano
Kevin Sanchez
Carlos Mendez
A'marian Davis
Jose Perez
Daniya Dudley
Zakya Bumbers
E.K. Powe Elementary
Abdullah Eltayeb

Ayah Eltayeb
Caelia DeConto
Daniel Vargas
Donnell Blowe
Hayden Smith
Jakari Ewing
Jean Cardanes
Joey Ramirez
Jonathan Ortiz Paredes
Liliana Ramirez
Mackenzie Walton
Mariah Tabron
Shayeim Taylor
Tahir Henry
Jeremiah Dennis
Marcus Gee
Jazel Johnson
Katherine Sanchez
Esmerelda Hernandez-Alvarez

Y.E. Smith Elementary
Adolfo Corona-Rosas
Alivia Barbee
Donald Moore
Erika Panaloza-Magana
Giselle Mejia-Santos
Ingrid Mirales-Bejar
Jaria Spears
Jose Reyez-Martinez
Ka'Lijah Hester
Kelvin Best
Lawrence Hunt
Montreal Robinson Jr.
Randy Mirales-Bejar
Tazhae'la Higgins
Zaire Abdul-Azeez
Sidney Lawrence
Judith Perkins

Our Teachers

Tonya Suggs, KidZNotes Music Director

Eastway Elementary

Mike Truzy, Music Teacher

LaSaundra Booth, Cello & Violin Specialist

Y.E. Smith Elementary

Lillian Presley, Music Teacher

Maria Fernanda Valencia Ventura, Violin & Viola Specialist

E.K. Powe Elementary

Jessica Brown, Music Teacher

Ruby Prescott, Violin Specialist



Staff, Volunteers & Interns

Kathryn Wyatt, Executive Director

Victoria Jones, Piano Accompanist

Takeia Smith, Bus Driver

Ben Fuller, University Liaison, UNC-Chapel Hill

Tony Steiner, administrative intern, UNC-Chapel Hill

Grace Kennerly, violin teacher, UNC-Chapel Hill

Suqi Huang, violin teacher, NC School of Science and Math

Natalie Chin, violin teacher, Duke University

Ambika Viswanathan, classroom assistant, Durham Academy

Micah Pickus, Saturday assistant, Durham School for the Arts

Grace Replogle, Saturday assistant, Ravenscroft Middle School

Founding Sponsors



Symphony Partners \$10,000 or more

Anonymous
Cormetech Inc.
GlaxoSmithKline
Hillsdale Fund
Lucia Powe, *Co-Founder*
Mead Family Foundation, Inc
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Replogle Family Foundation
Triangle Community Foundation
Community Grantmaking Program

Sonata Sponsors \$5,000 or more

American Airlines' *Kids Are Something Special*,
Endowment of the Triangle Community Foundation
Duke University, *Office of the Vice Provost for the Arts*
Eno River Giving Circle
Morgan Creek Foundation
Peter & Julie Flisher Cummings Family Foundation

Musican Supporters \$2,500 or more

Altrusa Club of Durham
Anonymous
Duke University, *Office of Durham & Regional Affairs*
Katherine and Eugene Dauchert
L'Orage
The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
Nancy Worth Davis
Rotary Club of Durham
Sparkplug Foundation
Steven Suttle
WCPE 89.7 The Classical Station



Violin Friends \$1,000 or more

Adam Preyer
Altrusa Club of Chapel Hill
Anne Firor Scott Fund of the
Triangle Community Foundation
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Cecile Noël Fund of the Triangle
Community Foundation
Donald Rorke
Durham Arts Council Annual Arts Fund
with support from the
North Carolina Arts Council
Ed and Mary Hays Holmes Fund of
the Triangle Community Foundation

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Elizabeth Long
Florence Peacock
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Kathleen Morrison
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of the Triangle Community Foundation

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Triangle Community Foundation
Suntrust Foundation
Tom Leever Advised Fund
at The Leever Foundation
W. Reed Raynor, Jr



Bal des Chapeaux Gala



KidZNotes' first annual fundraiser

Crown & Top Hat Sponsors \$2,500 and \$1,500 or more

Cynthia and Richard Brodhead,
Duke University
Honorary Co-Chairs

Chancellor and Mrs. Charlie Nelms,
NC Central University
Honorary Co-Chairs

Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle

Lucia Peel Powe, *Founder*

Ed Holmes

Greenfire Development

Janet & Edward Wyatt

John & Kristin Replogle

Nancy Worth Davis

North Carolina Mutual Life
Insurance Company

Steven & BJ Suttle

Southwest Durham Rotary Club

Anonymous



Gala committee member Annie Clement and board member Councilman Howard Clement



Fedora & Beret Sponsors \$1,000 and \$500 or more

Artful Greetings

AVMetro

Dr. Bettye Penick, *in honor of Lucia Powe*

Colliers International

Councilman Howard Clement III
and Annie Clement

Donald & Frances Alguire

Dory Van Duzer

Blu Seafood and Bar

Daisy Cakes

Dorothy & Joseph Kitchen

Dos Perros

Fullsteam Brewery

Jim & Florence Peacock

JuJuBe

John & Margaret Martin

John & Martha Idler

Keomix Recordings

Opus 1

One at Meadowmont

Pat & Thad Beyle

Patrick Conley

Pop's Restaurant

Ron & Marilyn Toelle

Rue Cler

The Scrap Exchange

Scratch

Sheraton Imperial Hotel &
Convention Center

Studio 91

Trosa

Watt's Grocery

Xpedx



John Brown, board member



School Board Chair Minnie Forte Brown cheers on KidZNotes!



Many thanks to our wonderful supporters!

2010-2011

Financial Summary

EXPENSE:

- Paid program expense: \$84,591
- In-kind program expense: \$29,844
- Paid administrative expense: \$44,958

TOTAL EXPENSE: \$159,393

REVENUE:

- Individual and small business gifts: \$106,104
- Corporate sponsors: \$20,175
- Nonprofit and foundation Grants: \$101,900
- Miscellaneous revenue: \$762
- In-kind program revenue: \$29,844

TOTAL REVENUE: \$258,785

SURPLUS CARRIED OVER TO 2011-2012:
\$99,393



"Those of you who appreciate music already know what Wyatt says it will do for the children: give them discipline, foster creative expression, put them in a group of people working on something larger than themselves, and give them the power to make changes in themselves and the community. Not to mention the positive effects on cognitive growth. Basically, change the world."

– Dawn Vaughn, the Herald Sun



"The kids themselves are spectacular, no doubt reflecting the influences of the program. They are doing so well with their violins, were so well prepared for coming to camp, that everything is functioning smoothly. They fit in at the camp and are making friends outside of their group. At the same time, they have a beautiful support among themselves. They are open and willing participants and bring something truly special to our environment that we all enjoy and appreciate."

– Virginia Hudson, on KidZNotes' kids attending the Lamar Stringfield Strings Camp at Meredith College

Board of Directors



Elias J. Torre, *Interim Board Chair*
Partner, Clearscapes Architecture + Art

Lucia Peel Powe, *Vice Chair, Founder*
Teacher, writer, community activist

Scott Laird, *Secretary*
Fine Arts Coordinator, NC School of Science and Math

Julius Prescott, *Treasurer*
Cellist and Senior Loan Officer, Pinnacle Funding, Inc

Councilman Howard Clement III
Durham City Council, Ward 2

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Director of the Duke Jazz Program

Adam Preyer
Senior Marketing Manager, XpedX/International Paper

Nancy Worth Davis, JD
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Chief Executive Officer, Cormetech, Inc.

Kathryn Wyatt, *ex officio*
Executive Director, KidZNotes

Kathleen Morrison, *Founding Chair, past member*

John Lawlor
past member

John Klein
past member

Board of Advisors



Daniela Bedoni
International Liaison, El Sistema, Venezuela

Maestro William Henry Curry
Resident Conductor, N.C. Symphony;
Music Director, Durham Symphony

James Forrest, Esq.
Attorney, Moore and Van Allen

Rev. Jonah Kendall
Rector, St. Philip's Church of Durham

Dorothy Kitchen
Founder and Director, Duke University Strings School

Ronnie Lilly
Former Arts Education Coordinator,
Durham Public Schools

Shelley Livingston
Violinist and Youth Intermediate Orchestra Conductor,
Duke University Strings School

Betty Ray McCain
Former Secretary of Cultural Resources,
State of North Carolina

Don Rorke
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Bill Shore
Director of US Community Partnerships, GlaxoSmithKline

Judy Thomson
Former President, Board of Directors, Durham Symphony

Reverend Mel Williams
Pastor, Watts Street Baptist Church

“It’s organizations like KidZNotes that are leading the way in creative education, using music and the arts to develop critical thinking skills in children to help them succeed.”

– NC Secretary for Cultural Resources Linda Carlisle