



Newsletter of the MusicLink® Foundation

April 2024

## Upbeats!



We are always thrilled to see the start of Spring, with new colors in the garden changing week by week. This Spring, MusicLink also is thrilled to see new coordinators eagerly making connections in all regions of the country and students enjoying music with the community through playathons and benefit music-making events.

We are heading towards the summer, with summer scholarships available to MusicLink students and recognition of our MusicLink senior graduates. Be sure to send along applications and articles for our next LINK newsletter in the summer.

## Fundraising Spotlights

### Minnesota MusicLink Playathon Raises Over \$13,000



Every year students and teachers look forward to being part of the MusicLink Playathon at the Mall of America. The 2024 MusicLink Playathon took place in Macy's Court at the Mall of America on the weekend of February 3 - 4, 2024. It was the largest event since pre-pandemic years and raised over \$13,000—the most ever raised at a MusicLink Playathon. There were over 242 performances and a record 39 teachers represented.

Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who worked the desk and emceed including MMTA teachers Sara Diedrich, Solveig Englund, Kathryn Karg and Rachel Weyandt. Guest emcees included



### MusicLink at MTNA in Atlanta

The MusicLink Foundation had a booth at the MTNA Convention held in Atlanta where we signed up new teachers and explained the program to eager teachers who want to reach out to students who normally cannot afford lessons. Thanks to Nora Martin, Karin Chambless Nandkumar, and Christine Morrow for joining Joanne Haroutounian at the booth. Seven MusicLink teachers enjoyed a MusicLink breakfast at the hotel restaurant, sharing their teaching experiences.



### New Business & Alliance Partners

We have added the following business and alliance partners during the last few months with many added at the MTNA convention. 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>

singer/songwriter, Michelle Rose, Lily Peck and Rachel Luchsinger and many more.

The 3 top fundraising studios were Kathryn Karg (\$3,200), Sara Diedrich (\$1,665) and Kim Nichols (\$1,455). Top individual fundraisers were Rory Thompson (\$545), Berkley Boardman (\$325) and Owen Knabb (\$320). 12 performers were gift card winners with donations of \$250 or more. Special thanks go to Kathryn and Andy Karg for livestreaming the event and to Gary Wege for his photography and support!

This issue of the LINK includes photos of students who raised over \$100 in the playathon.

### Fairfax-Loudoun Student Performers



### Fairfax-Loudoun Music fellowship Holiday Serenades raises \$2100

The teachers of the Fairfax-Loudoun Music Fellowship (VA) presented the 2023 Holiday Serenades Concert and Fundraiser for MusicLink on the second weekend of December. It is the most popular event of the year for teachers and students alike! There were 12 teachers who participated and approximately 100 students, mostly piano students, but also string and vocal students.

The Dulles Mall supports this annual event by allowing our organization to use their venue and the mall contributes by covering the cost of renting, moving, tuning, and setting up the grand piano. As a result, 100% of the money collected from the participants, totaling \$2,100, can be directly donated to the MusicLink Foundation.

### Donated Viola Makes a Difference



Lani Bortfeld and students from the STEP Suzuki program at the Jr. District Concert

DESCANT: Multi-format Music Manuscript Notebook, Los Angeles CA  
Hoffman Academy of Music LLC, Portland OR  
Musical Nest, Alameda CA  
Muzie Live, Castle Rock CO  
Vibrant Music, Dublin Ireland

### In Memoriam: Judith Siegel



Judith Siegel was an active MusicLink teacher since 2003. She was born and raised in Richmond, VA. Judith was a force in the fields of performance and teaching piano for nearly 60 years, a career with highlights too many to tell. Her greatest achievements were her imparting the joy of music, especially piano, to hundreds of children and adults in Virginia, Maryland, Florida and Georgia, as well as to fellow piano teachers throughout the US and other countries.

Because of her extensive work in ensemble repertoire, The Siegel-Hoffman Concerto Competition, an annual even in West Virginia, was named in her honor. Her obituary asks for memorial contributions to be made to the MusicLink Foundation.

### New MusicLink Teachers

The following 15 teachers were linked with MusicLink students in the past few months. This brings the total of active teachers to 238 and overall teacher total to 4,697.

FL: Andrew Creech; IN: Christina Whitlock; KS: Jane Hyde; LA: Rodney King; MD: Megan Brooks, Peter Leon; MN: Melanie Hoffman Katrugadda; NM: Bonnie Schmader; NY: Joshua Green; OK: Rebecca Alderman; UT: Sergio Frias, Madeleine Montgomery; VA: Nicholas Cronin; WA: Robert Limbocker, Robin Peery.



Lani Bortfeld of Enfield, CT, MusicLink teacher of Govinda Kunanele reached out to the MusicLink Foundation to share his performance on the viola that was donated to the MusicLink Foundation by Day Violins, Chantilly, Virginia. Govinda performed a Thomas Gavotte excerpt in STEP's annual Solo and Chamber Concert in February. He successfully auditioned for the WMass Jr. District Orchestra on this viola and performed at the Jr. District Festival this past Saturday, sitting 2<sup>nd</sup> chair in the viola section! Thank you so much for your amazing dedication to MusicLink and all the dreams you have helped realize!

**Govinda Kunanele**

Click on Link to see video

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ziejwal2ktxsqq01tjzkz/Thomas-Gavotte-excerpt-Govinda-K..mp4?rlkey=13nghkfu6lknx288n5w0lxkgh&dl=0>

**Did you know?**

- The MusicLink Summer Camp Scholarship up to \$250 has a deadline of May 15th.
- Send articles and photos of MusicLink graduating seniors for the next issue of the LINK. [musiclink.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:musiclink.foundation@gmail.com)
- The next deadline for teacher reimbursement up to \$200 for student music, event fees, and materials is June 15th.



**Minnesota Playathon Donor Photos are below**



**\$250 & Above Donors**  
Rory Thompson (\$545)



Berkley Boardman (\$325)



Owen Knabb (\$320)



Melia Amaya (on right)



Ayla Anderson



Lauren Kelm



Michelle Rose



Luke & Maddie Smith with Kathryn Karg



Baylee & Emily Weyandt



Lila Worple with Andy Karg



**\$100 or more Donors**  
Carina Amaya (on left)



Clay Bartlett



Wallace & Ingrid Boardman



Izzy, Addie & Amy Brand



Erica Cox



Samantha Dahlen



Alli Devine



Vlad Ditta



Easton Duditch



Clayton & Gregory Engelhardt



Kurt Falcon



Claire Hesse



Story Houghton



Debbie Jorgens



Graham Kim



Helen & Gus Kraus



Ronan & Nola Overturf



Flint & Sabin Penoyer



Charlie Pinski



Wesley & Lucy Reed



Isaac Soerens



Lilah Stitzel



Harriet Vaubel



Ivy Williams



Sage Houghton

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