JPS/MSO

STRINGS IN THE SCHOOLS
The Mississippi Symphony Orchestra
and the
Jackson Public Schools

53 years of partnership in changing lives and forming future leaders

2017-18 Annual Report

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Summary Report – 2017-2018 School Year
Partial Year: September, 2017 through March, 2018

- 1,500 students were reached through 60 **ensemble visits** to elementary schools in the district (String Quartet, Woodwind Quintet, Brass Quintet at each school), performing ***INFORMANCES*** (25 minute programs demonstrating instrument capabilities, science of sound production and a wide variety of literature). Schools reached: McLeod Elementary, Isabel Elementary, Boyd Elementary, McWillie Elementary, Davis Elementary, Casey Elementary, Pecan Park Elementary, Sykes Elementary, Marshall Elementary, Key Elementary, Baker Elementary, North Jackson Elementary, Woodville Heights, Oak Forest Elementary, Brown Elementary, Barr Elementary, Bailey Middle, Brinkley Middle, Chastain Middle, North West Middle.

- 2,400 lower elementary students attended 4 MSO **full orchestra interactive educational concerts** performed at Callaway High School and Whitten Middle School. Concerts were held on January 30 and February 1, 2018

- Approximately 2,500 fourth grade students attended 2 MSO **full orchestra educational concerts** at Thalia Mara Hall (these concerts are usually presented to all upper elementary students). Concerts were held on October 19, 2017

- MSO provided 170 hours per week of **string instrument instruction**.

- **String instruction** over 8 years. This does not include Power APAC (18 elementary plus 16 high school students) or Blackburn (20 students), which are staffed by JPS employees, although they are invited to participate in our All City Festival. Many of the string students for these two schools come from MSO elementary string instruction programs.

- MSO string instruction over 8 years:

2009-10 462 students	2010-11 662 students	2011-12 841 students	2012-13 842 students	2013-14 540***** students (Dec-May)	2014-15 571***** students (Sept-March)	2015-16 510***** students (August-March)	2016-17 492***** students (Sept-March)	2017-18 400* students (Sept-March)

***** partial year programs, plus late start year due to contract approval timing, which affects student recruitment

- Schools reached:

Year	Elementary	Middle	High
2016-2017	17	4	None (district request)
2017-2018	16	5	None (district request)

- The **All City Festival** was held on March 21, 2018. Approximately 450 students performed in the hour-long concert at Callaway Senior High School. 800 parents, families and friends attended. Rehearsals for the various ensembles took place over two days with special clinicians, held at the MS Arts Center.

- MSO String Teachers: Wesley Cole, Richard Brown, Hristo Hristov, Ausra Jasineviciute, Elizabeth Sinclair,Tammy Luke, Milena Rusanova, Maria Camila Patino.

- Other opportunities: MSO offered scholarships to JPS string students for our summer string camp: Premier Orchestral Institute, held June 4-9, 2018 with an international faculty. **60 JPS students participated.** The day camp is for lower elementary through college age and is held on the campus of Millsaps College. **30 JPS students participated** in the MSO year-long youth symphony program.

JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS SERVED FOR STRING INSTRUCTION 2018

ELEMENTARY

McLeod Elementary.	7
Isable Elementary	4
Boyd Elementary	13
McWillie Elementary	32
Davis Elementary	40
Casey Elementary	111
Pecan Park Elementary.	18
Sykes Elementary	11
Marshall Elementary	12
Key Elementary	15
Baker Elementary	21
North Jackson Elementary	10
Woodville Heights	4
Oak Forest Elementary	8
Brown Elementary	5
Barr Elementary	21

MIDDLE

Bailey	7
Brinkley	6
Chastain Middle	12
North West Middle	17
APAC	24

Program Concepts
I - Full orchestra educational concerts
II - in-school ensemble visits: Informances
III - string instruction

I - Full orchestra interactive educational concerts:

Music Director Crafton Beck weaves the music together with a narrative construct that includes visual aids and teaches about various musical styles, compositional eras, the families in the orchestra, compositional techniques and a certain amount of historical perspective. Examples of concerts include: *Bach to the Future* (with a time machine on stage), *Funny Philharmonic Phil* (using suitcases, Phil travels to various places as we explore different countries' orchestral music), *Wind Tooters Brass Blowers and String Scrapers* (a Dr. Seuss style narrative outlining sounds in the orchestra), *Orchestra Olympics* (fastest, slowest, highest, lowest, etc.).

II – Informances – in-school ensemble visits

MSO's Woodwind Quintet, Brass Quintet and String Quartet visit each elementary school in the system on an annual basis (60 visits), presenting a 25 minute program during which they perform a variety of literature, show children the fun of playing instruments and teach topics of sound production and instrument capabilities using varied literature.

III - String instruction program

Weekly hours of instruction over 24 weeks culminating in an All City performance

A string program provides evidence of a
school district's commitment to quality education.

String instruction is available to all students regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, geographic location, school size or ability.

String Instruction Goals –

- teach individual students to play a stringed instrument (violin, viola or cello) on a level sufficient to perform in concert with other students in one of the ensembles at the All City Music Festival.
- Create additional performance opportunities for students, as appropriate, in a wide variety of JPS and public venues in the metro area.

Evaluative benchmarks –

- Growth of individual students' ability to learn the instrument
- Number of students reaching a proficiency level to participate in All City
- Annual increase in the number of students enrolled in the program
- Overall academic performance of students participating

Philosophical Principles -
Within a comprehensive school curriculum, String/Orchestra instruction and performance classes offer the students unique and profound educational opportunities because of the aesthetic, skill, cognitive, and social learning experiences which they combine.

- Aesthetic: string instruction teaches aesthetic non-language perception.
- Skill: string instrument instruction provides students with unique motor coordination and sequential development skills. These skills transfer to other endeavors.
- Cognitive: String playing requires simultaneous recognition and understanding of a multitude of stimuli. Students translate the stimuli into specific and complex motor skills. Cognitive understanding > motor skills > expression = artistry.
- Social: Students benefit from sharing a specific long-term learning process.

Teaching style/organization/administration -

- Students are taught in practicum class settings, where 90% of their time is spent playing the instrument. They have 3 sessions per week.
- Teaching is done using professional curriculum and lesson plans.
- Students are recruited through a "demo" ensemble (three professional musicians) that visits schools.

- Each MSO teacher reports weekly to the MSO Director of Education regarding lesson plans and any situation that may arise needing discussion.
- The teaching staff meets at least five times per semester to plan and share experiences.
- MSO currently employs 8 teachers on an almost full time basis. Supervising and coordinating the program is MSO's Director of Education.

Ensembles –
Vivaldi - emphasis on both fundamentals of instrument technique (tone production, tuning, hand position, and bowing) and music reading
Mozart - upper elementary orchestra continuing technical and musical development, skills and understanding through string orchestra repertory at the primary and intermediate levels.
Beethoven - further development and performance of string orchestra literature with emphasis on both technical and musical concepts of increasing complexity.

Instruments –
Most students rent instruments from MSO ($60). This is far cheaper than renting from a music store or owning an instrument and allows us to reach students who would otherwise not be able to participate. Scholarship funds are available to those who cannot afford the rental, assigned in collaboration with the Principal. MSO maintains the instruments.

Program handbook and parent involvement –
Program handbooks are produced at the beginning of the year. Parents are involved in assisting with the All City Music Festival and other performances.