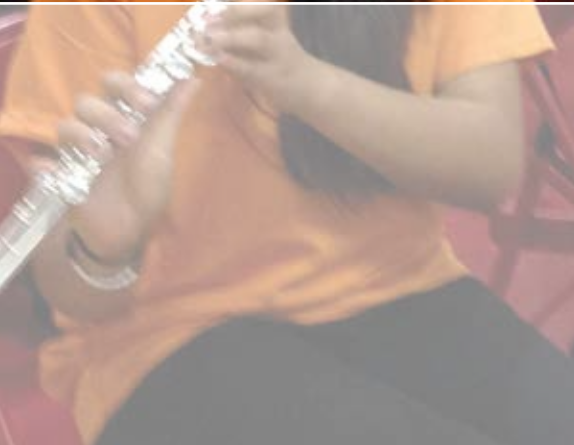




# Year Two Report 2011-2012







# Creating a path to success for all children!

Over its 67 years, San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory (SDYS) has witnessed the remarkable and wide-ranging benefits that accrue to students who receive a high quality music education. The skills, habits and friendships they develop set them on a path to success in all aspects of their lives.

Unfortunately, there is an immense gap between those who have access to music instruction and those who do not. While some local schools have strong music programs, many others do not. These schools are most often found in low-income neighborhoods.

This was affirmed in the spring by the US Department of Education's report *"Arts Education in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools: 1999-2000 and 2009-10"* which shows:

- 1.3 million of our nation's public elementary school students receive no specific instruction in music
- Disproportionately, they are the students who attend high-poverty schools
- On nearly every measure of access to arts education between low-poverty and high-poverty schools, the high-poverty schools come up short

SDYS believes all students deserve the benefits of music education. The National Endowment for the Arts confirmed the importance of this in *"The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth"* by finding that **significant academic, workforce, and civic engagement gains are associated with high levels of arts exposure for youth of lower socioeconomic status.**

In 2010, our Board of Directors committed itself to making music accessible and affordable for all students by launching the Community Opus Project. We are proud to share this report of all the Community Opus Project has achieved in only two years. But our work has just begun. We need your help to make music education and its many benefits available to more children, families, and neighborhoods.

Please join us in this effort – for the sake of all children in our community!

**Dalouge Smith**  
President and CEO

**Robert Gaan**  
Chair, Board of Directors





# Our Vision

## SAN DIEGO YOUTH SYMPHONY AND CONSERVATORY PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVEMENT

SDYS provides the highest quality music education and performance opportunities to the young people of our region and has set San Diego's benchmark for excellence in student music making.

### SDYS' Community Opus Project

The Community Opus Project began in 2010 when SDYS partnered with the Chula Vista Elementary School District to provide free on-site after-school music instruction and instruments to 65 third graders at two schools.

Inspired by Venezuela's highly successful El Sistema youth orchestra program established 36 years ago to offer its poorest children a means to achieve purposeful lives, our Community Opus Project strengthens supportive bonds among children, their families, teachers, neighbors and the community through the shared joy of music.

The Chula Vista School District was so impressed by the effects of the program after less than a year, it invested scarce resources to make expansion possible. Opus grew to serve more than 200 students at six schools in its second year; partnering with Sweetwater Union High School District and four of its schools has allowed the Opus Project to further broaden its impact.

For 2012-2013, SDYS and Chula Vista Elementary School District are collaborating to expand music to the school day for third graders at six schools and to kindergarteners at a seventh. SDYS will establish the first Community Youth Orchestras in Chula Vista open to Opus students and those in middle and high school music programs.



#### 10 Year Goal

Music Education is Accessible and Affordable for All

#### Core Purpose

Inspiring students to develop performance skills and character through music education

#### Core Values

Personal Achievement – *Motivating and facilitating performance excellence*  
Community Leadership – *Developing respectful and responsible citizenship for the greater good*  
Inclusiveness – *Embracing diversity and promoting collective learning*

#### Strategic Activity Areas

**Program:** Establish El Sistema inspired community music programs for pre-K to 12th grade students

**Measurement:** Track students' academic, personal, and musical achievement in comparison to their local, state, and national peers

**Partnership:** Collaborate with other community organizations to align Program, Measurement, Community Awareness, and Community Action efforts

**Community Awareness:** Promote the impact of music education by communicating program outcomes and SDYS' leadership role

**Community Action:** Partner with parents, teachers, administrators, and school boards to build support for restoring and strengthening school day music education for grades K-12

Over 1000 students are now learning music because of the Community Opus Project!



# Creating Com

## Transforming Students

Music instruction can change the trajectory of a child's life. Learning valuable lessons about collaboration and cooperation, as well as performing before an audience increases students' feelings of self-worth and self-confidence. The discipline and progress of learning an instrument builds the habit of hardwork and dedication.

*After his evaluation I was told, "I don't think your son needs medication, he only needs to learn that hard work will pay off and find a way to express himself. Your son told me that he likes music. He thinks it is relaxing. Music is a good discipline and that will help your son."*

– Opus Parent

## Engaging Families

Parents assist with lessons, serve as liaisons to other parents, organize carpools and are forming a booster club to build community awareness and support for music education. Most profoundly, they are engaging more deeply in their children's overall education and becoming more involved with their schools.



## Strengthening Neighborhoods

Opus students from neighboring schools come together for weekly rehearsals, frequent performances and semiannual Music Camps. The school year ends with a joint performance combining 200 Opus students and 200 music students from neighborhood middle and high schools.

*It was great to see the children from different places rehearsing and playing together in the playground during breaks. Every chance they got, they played together in the big mix of kids.*

– Opus Parent



**YOU CAN HELP BRING MUSIC TO ALL**

# Community Through Music



## Broadening Horizons

Twenty-seven Opus students are enrolled in SDYS' Balboa Park ensembles, joining students from throughout the county. They perform on stage at Copley Symphony Hall.

Thirty-five Opus students and their parents travelled to Pasadena to participate in a day-long "seminario" (musical workshop) with students from El Sistema-inspired programs in Pasadena and Santa Barbara. The day ended with a concert featuring a combined orchestra of 100 students and parents on recorders!

*The seminario was a great day for us. He told me he loved it and wants to do it again. He really learned from joining in and participating with kids he didn't know.*

– Opus Parent

## Serving Community

Opus students participate in over 20 community events as both performers and teachers. They perform at after-school programs and run instrument petting zoos to teach others about their instruments and how to play them.



Contact Jane Merrill at 619.233.3232 x200 or [jmerrill@sdys.org](mailto:jmerrill@sdys.org)



# The Community Opus Project Expands in 2012-2013

## Returning Music to the School Day

With SDYS' assistance, Chula Vista Elementary District is returning music to the school day for all third graders at the six Opus schools. The music will complement the overall curriculum to support learning across all subjects.

## Promise Neighborhood Chula Vista

The Community Opus Project is expanding to serve all kindergarten students at Castle Park Elementary under the umbrella of this US Department of Education funded project. The program is designed to incorporate parents into music learning with their children.

## Community Opus Youth Orchestras

Castle Park Middle School will be the site of two new after-school youth orchestras open to Opus, middle and high school music students. It will be the first community ensemble in Chula Vista that brings together students of multiple ages from different campuses.

## Research and Measurement

Documenting the benefits of music instruction is important. SDYS and Chula Vista Elementary School District are tracking changes in student achievement on standardized tests and school attendance in partnership with UC San Diego CREATE. SDYS, UC San Diego's Center for Human Development and The Neurosciences Institute have launched the SIMPHONY study to track how music education affects children's brain and language development, as well as behavioral and cognitive skills.

---

*My son has changed a lot. Music has helped him be more responsible and be more attentive at school. His grades have gone up. And to tell you the truth, every day he is getting better both in music and at school. – Opus Parent*



*Math and language arts improvement! Always on task! Math and writing skills are skyrocketing now! – Classroom Teacher*



## Collaboration

*These partners invest resources to support the goals of the Community Opus Project in collaborations with SDYS.*

## School Partners

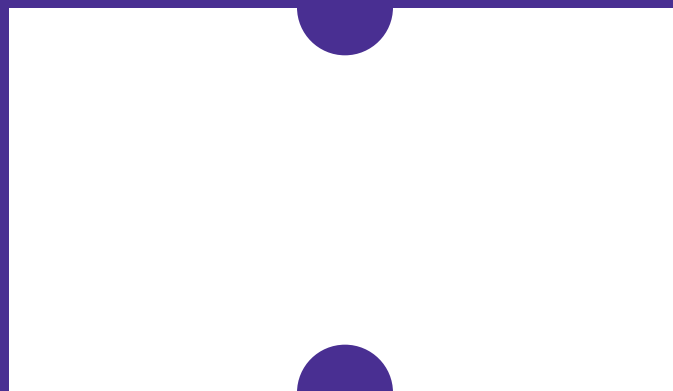
Chula Vista Elementary School District  
Sweetwater Union High School District  
Visual and Performing Arts  
Otay Elementary  
Lauderbach Elementary  
Rosebank Elementary  
Vista Square Elementary  
Rice Elementary  
Harborside Elementary  
Oak Park Elementary  
Castle Park Elementary  
Castle Park Middle  
Chula Vista Middle  
Castle Park High  
Chula Vista High

## Community Partners

Chula Vista Community Collaborative  
South Bay Community Services  
Chula Vista Promise Neighborhood  
South Bay Alliance for Arts Education  
heART on Center  
UC San Diego Center for Human Development  
UC San Diego, Center for Research on Educational Equity, Assessment and Teaching Excellence (CREATE)  
UC San Diego Extension's Academic Connections  
The Neurosciences Institute  
San Diego State University School of Music  
San Diego Symphony  
La Jolla Music Society

## National Partners

YOLA, LA Philharmonic  
VYMA – Verdugo Young Musicians Association, Pasadena  
ICAN, Santa Barbara  
Sistema Fellows, New England Conservatory  
El Sistema USA  
The Weill Music Institute, Carnegie Hall  
League of American Orchestras



Visit [www.sdys.org](http://www.sdys.org) for the latest Community Opus Project news

# Community Opus Project

## Government, Foundation, and Corporate Supporters

The Community Opus Project is only possible with the support of these funding partners and the many individual donors to San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory. To become an investor in our work, please contact Jane Merrill at 619.233.3232 x200 or jmerrill@sdys.org.

Chula Vista Elementary School District  
Sweetwater Union High School District  
City of Chula Vista  
City of Chula Vista Cultural Arts Commission  
City of San Diego Commission for Arts  
and Culture  
County of San Diego Neighborhood  
Reinvestment Program  
National Endowment for the Arts  
US Department of Education –  
Promise Neighborhood  
Christopher Weil & Co.

Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation  
Cubic Corporation  
Cynergy  
Dostart Clapp & Coveney LLP  
Goodrich/Rohr Employees Fund  
Ford Motor Company Fund/San Diego County  
Ford Dealers  
James Irvine Foundation  
Kinder Morgan Foundation  
Legler Benbough Foundation  
Mandel Weiss Charitable Trust

NAMM Foundation  
Nordson Corporation Foundation  
Northern Trust  
Opus Community Foundation  
Price Family Charitable Fund  
Samuel & Katherine French Fund  
Sidney E. Frank Foundation  
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust  
Thomas C. Ackerman Foundation  
U.S. Bankcorp Foundation  
Weingart Foundation



## San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Finalist – 2012 Prudential Leadership Awards for Exceptional Nonprofit Boards from Board Source  
Winner – 2011 Kaleidoscope Award for Exceptional Governance from University of San Diego

Robert Gaan, *Chair*  
Mark Bennett, *Governance Vice Chair*  
Ernie Smith, *Programs Vice Chair*  
Betty Hiller, *Development Vice Chair*  
June Shillman, *Development Vice Chair*  
Ann Hix, *Community Relations Vice Chair*  
Gene Summ, *Corporate Relations Vice Chair*  
Anni Lipper, *Secretary*  
Joel Sollender, *Treasurer*  
Jim Whitesell, *Immediate Past Chair*

Ed Abeyta  
Kevin Chaisson  
Eric Cohen  
Abdul Chohan  
Pamela Hartwell  
Margarita Holguin  
Bernie Kulchin  
Patricia McQuater  
Jeanette Stevens  
Bill Sturgeon  
Ellen Turnage  
Gary Yin

### Advisory Council

*These community leaders assist the Board of Directors, President & CEO and Music Director with expertise and enthusiasm to advance the organizational mission and vision.*

Marvin Levine, *Chair*  
Catharina Graves  
Larry Hoeksema, Architects Mosher Drew  
Maurice Kawashima  
Peter Manes  
Larry Scott  
Matthew Weil, Christopher Weil and Company, Inc.

### PRESIDENT and CEO

Dalouge Smith

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jeff Edmons

### ARTISTIC FACULTY

#### Balboa Park Artistic Faculty

Michael Gray, *Conductor*  
Ramón Negrón, *Conductor*  
Juan Christóbal Palacios, *Conductor*  
Ulli Reiner, *Conductor*  
Ella Steinberg, *Conductor*  
Allison Chilton, *Strings Coach*  
Kaitlyn Korogy, *Strings Coach*  
FangFang Li, *Strings Coach*  
Daniel Pate, *Percussion Coach*

### Community Teaching Artists

Maya Diaz  
Sundiata Kata  
Kaitlyn Korogy  
Abe Liebhaber  
Pamela Miller  
Ramón Negrón  
Cristina Pacheco  
Emmanuel Soto  
Ryley Taylor  
Ryan Welsh  
Patrick Yanni

### PROGRAM STAFF

FangFang Li, *Ensembles Administrator*  
Lauren Widney, *Education and Community Program Manager*  
Sidney Yin, *Artistic Administrator*  
Cristina Pacheco, *Community Program Assistant*

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jane Merrill, *Development Director*  
Sheila Walker, *Associate Director*  
Travis Winger, *Production and Operations Manager*  
Lucy Coker, *Communications Assistant*  
Kaitlyn Korogy, *Instrument Librarian*  
Debbie Peterson, *Rehearsal Coordinator*  
Ryan Welsh, *Music Librarian*  
Terry Williams, *Development Assistant*

