Children love to make music. They immediately feel and convey its joy. But joy isn’t the only reason to teach children music. Music is a pathway to success.

San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory (SDYS) has nurtured the rewards of personal achievement through music for thousands of young people over our seventy year history. We’ve witnessed firsthand what researchers repeatedly conclude: significant academic, workforce, and civic engagement gains are associated with high levels of music participation for all youth, especially those of lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Despite these important outcomes, too many children have been without music education in their schools for decades. This has been particularly true for low income and ethnically diverse children. In 2010, SDYS decided this is unacceptable and established our vision to “Make Music Education Accessible and Affordable for All.”

We believe parents, educators, and community leaders will prioritize music education when they witness children thriving due to its numerous benefits. Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD) has proven we’re right. Working with district leaders, schools, parents, and a wide array of community partners, SDYS’ Community Opus Project has returned music and all arts education to the 30,000 children of California’s largest K-6 school district after a fifteen year absence.

The National Endowment for the Arts and Grantmakers in the Arts have both recognized and promoted the unique nature of the SDYS/CVESD partnership. The NAMM Foundation, California Alliance for Arts Education, and League of American Orchestras have provided platforms for SDYS to widely share the design and practices of our work. BoardSource, Yale School of Music, and California School Board Association have all bestowed leadership awards on SDYS and CVESD for our collaborative achievements.

SDYS is now at the forefront of the national cause for music education. The newly enacted Every Student Succeeds Act affirms schools must provide a well-rounded curriculum. After years without, districts are turning to SDYS for support and guidance with the restoration of quality music instruction in their schools. SDYS is transforming the dynamic between nonprofits and schools by showing the way as a capacity partner instead of simply being a program provider. Nonprofit and education leaders across California and the United States are learning from the success of the Community Opus Project.

Our most important accomplishment, however, is ushering thousands of children into the future with the rewards of learning music. Join us in guaranteeing all children grow up with their share of these musical riches!

Dalouge Smith
President & CEO
San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory

SDYS provides the region’s most advanced orchestra and wind ensemble experiences to the young people of San Diego County. Based in Balboa Park, SDYS is the City of San Diego’s youth orchestra in residence. SDYS guarantees a placement to every student who auditions and provides need-based scholarships to students from low-income families. The most advanced SDYS orchestras perform repertoire commonly heard on professional symphony programs and serve as an inspiration to the hundreds of aspiring musicians in both the Conservatory Programs and Community 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

OPUS MOMENTS: SUCCESS STORIES

ISAAC, TRUMPET
“Playing an instrument is always fun because it challenges your mind. Music and fun—it’s always the best.”

SANDRA, MOTHER
“Before this program, I would have to almost beg Vanessa to do her homework. Now, she has changed a lot. I don’t even have to remind her.”

JOANNA, SAXOPHONE
“The benefit of music is it actually increases our memory and it’s really really fun. It’s part of my life, so why not enjoy it? At school we get to learn new songs. It’s fun.”

SUPERINTENDENT FRANCISCO ESCOBEDO, ED.D.
“Music is a unifying medium that solidifies knowledge, and the quest for knowledge. They learn not only to play an instrument, but also to work as a team.”

BRUNO, CELLO
“Before I had music, I was having trouble. I didn’t see the point of doing homework or paying attention at school.” (Now in middle school, Bruno is taking honors classes and earning “A’s” on his report card.)

ANUSH, SAXOPHONE
“It’s not just about music, it’s about meeting new people, making new friends, and playing the instrument that we want.”

PRINCIPAL ERIC BANATAO
“I get calls and emails that say, ‘Thank you, this has been the happiest my child has come home in three or four years. It’s reinvigorated our campus in terms of attendance.”

ALMA, MOTHER OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT
“Fernando is getting more confident and improving his social skills which is a problem area for him. He has to interact with the other musicians at Opus and now he stays in the room without my supervision! As a family, we don’t feel separated. Everyone has embraced us and Fernando is happier than before because he’s a part of something important. He feels proud of being in Opus.”

SEAN, TROMBONE
“It’s scientifically proven that music makes your brain smarter. It’s also scientifically proven that Opus is better than everything else.”
Community Opus Project Supporters & Partners

Over the last 5 years, the expansion of the Community Opus Project has only been possible with the support of these funding partners and many individual donors as well as the participation and collaboration of numerous local and national partners.

**SCHOOL PARTNERS**
- Chula Vista Elementary School District
- Sweetwater Union High School District
- San Diego County Office of Education
- Kellogg Elementary
- Rodgers Elementary
- Veterans Elementary
- Castle Park Middle
- Chula Vista Middle
- Hilltop Middle
- Castle Park High
- Chula Vista High

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**
- Chula Vista Community Collaborative
- Arts Empower San Diego
- South Bay Community Services
- Chula Vista Promise Neighborhood
- South Bay Alliance for Arts Education
- UC San Diego Center for Human Development
- UC San Diego Extension Academic Connections
- SDSU School of Music and Dance
- San Diego Symphony
- South Bay Family YMCA
- STEAM Connect
- La Jolla Music Society

**NATIONAL PARTNERS**
- California Alliance for Arts Education
- El Sistema USA
- The Ensemble
- ICAN, Santa Barbara
- League of American Orchestras
- Longy School of Music at Bard College
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Sistema Global
- Support Music Coalition
- VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- VYMA — Verdugo Young Musicians
- Association, Pasadena
- The Weill Music Institute, Carnegie Hall
- Yale School of Music
- YOLA, LA Philharmonic

**GOVERNMENT FUNDERS**
- Chula Vista Elementary School District
- Sweetwater Union High School District
- City of Chula Vista Cultural Arts Commission
- City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture
- County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program
- California Arts Council
- National Endowment for the Arts
- US Department of Education – Promise Neighborhood

**FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE FUNDERS**
- Arthur P Pratt & Jeanette Gladys Pratt Memorial Fund
- BoardSource
- Christopher C. Collins Foundation
- Christopher Weil & Co
- Clarence E. Heller Foundation
- Crossroads II Corporation
- Cubic Corporation
- Cynergy
- D'Addario Foundation
- David C. Copley Foundation
- Ford Motor Company Fund/San Diego County Ford Dealers
- Goodrich/Rohr Employees Fund
- James Irvine Foundation
- Kinder Morgan
- James Lauer Fund at The San Diego Foundation
- League of American Orchestras/Getty Foundation
- Legler-Benbough Foundation
- Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust
- Masserini Charitable Trust
- NAMM Foundation
- Nordson Corporation Foundation
- Opus Community Foundation
- Price Family Charitable Fund
- ResMed Foundation
- Samuel H. French III and Katherine Weaver French Fund
- Samuel I. & John Henry Fox Foundation
- Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
- Southwest Chula Vista Civic Association
- The Parker Foundation
- Thomas C. Ackerman Foundation
- U.S. Bancorp Foundation
- Union Bank Foundation
- VH1 Save The Music Foundation
- Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation
- Weingart Foundation
- Wells Fargo Foundation

**San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
**Grand Prize Winner—2012 Prudential Leadership Awards for Exceptional Nonprofit Boards from BoardSource**
**Winner—2011 Kaleidoscope Award for Exceptional Governance from University of San Diego**

- Mark Bennett, Chair
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- Patricia McQuater
- Archie Palencia
- Eli Shetter
- Joel Soilender
- Jeanette Stevens
- Shankar Subramaniam

**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
- Larry Hoeksma, Architects Mosher Drew
- Maurice Kawashima
- Peter Mines
- Larry Scott
- Matthew Weil, Christopher Weil and Company, Inc.

**PRESIDENT AND CEO**
Dalouge Smith

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**
Jeff Edmons

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To become an investor in our work to return music education to every child, please contact External Relations Director Wade Sherman at wsherman@sdys.org / 619.233.3232 x116.
Making Music Education Accessible and Affordable for All

**CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT (CVESD) IN-SCHOOL MUSIC EDUCATION**

- **GROWTH OF CHILDREN RECEIVING MUSIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS**
  - **2010-2011**: 0 Schools, 0 Teachers
  - **2011-2012**: 65 Students
  - **2012-2013**: 250 Students
  - **2013-2014**: 200 Students
  - **2014-2015**: 250 Students
  - **2015-2016**: 3000 Students
  - **2016-2017**: 320 Students

- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**
  - **VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS RESOURCE TEACHER HIRED**
  - **4 MORE SCHOOLS RECEIVE VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION GRANTS**
  - **CVESD BOARD COMPLIES TO $15 MILLION OVER 3 YEARS FOR 70+ VAPA TEACHERS**
  - **VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS COORDINATOR POSITION INTRODUCED**
  - **4 MORE SCHOOLS RECEIVE VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION GRANTS**

- **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**
  - **OPUS PROJECT**
  - **CVESD ADOPTS VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN**
  - **1ST SCHOOL RECEIVES VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION GRANT**

- **SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO - GOMPERS - 2016**
  - SDYS recently partnered with Gompers Preparatory Academy, a charter middle and high school located in Southeast San Diego, to help develop a long-term vision and plan for music education and performing arts.

- **OCEANSIDE - SAN MARCOS - 2014**
  - SDYS partners with the after-school education nonprofit organization to provide music classes led by our Opus Teaching Artists.

- **SAN MARCOS - FORTISSIMO - 2014**
  - SDYS provides coaching and advice for the Fortissimo El Sistema-inspired music program at Joli Anne Litchfield Elementary School including the creation of a school district Visual and Performing Arts Strategic Plan.

- **SOLANA BEACH - CASA DE AMISTAD - 2014**
  - SDYS partners with the after-school education nonprofit organization to provide music classes led by our Opus Teaching Artists.

- **CITY HEIGHTS - SCHOOLS - 2013**
  - SDYS supports and coaches in-school music teachers and coordinates with Visual and Performing Arts leadership at Rosa Parks Elementary School, Wilson Middle School, Monroe Clark Middle School and Hoover High School.

- **SAN DIEGO COUNTY**
  - **opus project**
  - **after-school program**

- **SOUTH REGION SCHOOL DISTRICTS**
  - **CVESD BOARD ADOPTS VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN**
  - **OPUS PROJECT**
  - **CVESD ADOPTS VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN**
  - **1ST SCHOOL RECEIVES VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION GRANT**

- **CVESD TEACHES PILOT YEAR OF IN-SCHOOL MUSIC CLASSES IN SIX 3RD GRADES AND ONE KINDERGARTEN**

- **OPUS PROGRAM OPEN TO ALL CVESD STUDENTS**

- **OPUS PROGRAM WELCOMES STUDENTS FROM CVESD CHARTER, PRIVATE AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

- **CVESD BOARD ADopts VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN**

- **VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS RESOURCE TEACHER HIRED**

- **4 MORE SCHOOLS RECEIVE VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION GRANT**

- **CVESD BOARD COMPLIES TO $15 MILLION OVER 3 YEARS FOR 70+ VAPA TEACHERS**

- **VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS COORDINATOR POSITION INTRODUCED**

- **4 MORE SCHOOLS RECEIVE VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION GRANTS**

- **CVESD SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTS VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN**

- **1ST SCHOOL RECEIVES VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION GRANT**