

## The Power of Sponsorship



Susan Hovanec, Managing Director,  
RBC Wealth Management

At OrchKids, we recognize the value and strength of *community* and are very grateful for those community members who have committed themselves to our mission of creating brighter futures for Baltimore City students using the power of music. We appreciate all of our community partners and we would like to extend a big thank you to Susan Hovanec and RBC Wealth Management for their recent sponsorship of OrchKids' Spring concert series! Susan herself grew-up playing both piano and flute, so she felt an immediate connection to the program and its mission. As a long-time attendee and subscriber to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), Susan knew about OrchKids but had not seen a performance until just this past December when she attended a Holiday concert at one of our school sites. In a recent conversation with Susan, she shared, "Those kids were so impressive and enthused, opening with the Bucket Band percussion ensemble which was an incredible start. The way the students took the performance so seriously, so professionally...and the comradery they displayed - it was seamless and very powerful!"

In addition to being impressed by the awesome

skills of our students, Susan could see the value of the *process* behind the performance. OrchKids is built on a set of guiding principles that include consistency, intensity, early immersion, group music-making, and frequent performance. These tenets ensure the development of musical love and skills, the safety and well-being of students, and, most importantly, social mobility. This was part of what inspired Susan to become a sponsor. As she put it, "Exposing music and the arts to youth who may not experience it otherwise really resonated with me. Music empowers and teaches lifelong skills beyond music. These skills were really evident at the concert: interpreting the music, working together, not to mention the reward of a beautifully finished product - and some students had only just started playing in the fall!"

While experiencing the energy and brilliance that radiated from our students' performance, Susan couldn't help but reflect on the negative shadow that is constantly cast on our city and affects the lives of all who live under it. "It's just frustrating how the nightly news seems to focus on all the negatives despite this amazing facet of our community right here in front of us." These "negatives" are not unfounded, as last year

► The Power of ... continued on Page 2

Susan Hovanec, CFP®, AEP®  
 Managing Director – Senior Portfolio Manager  
[us.rbcwm.com/thewinslowgroup](http://us.rbcwm.com/thewinslowgroup)

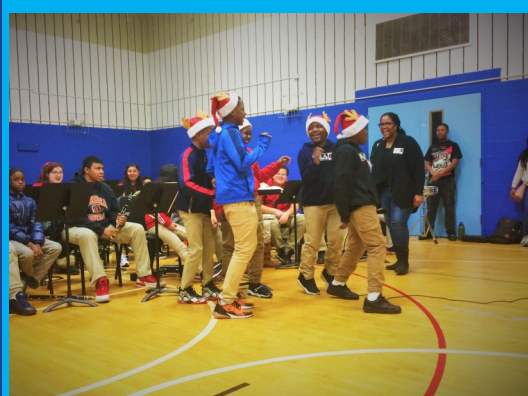


Wealth  
Management

## Winter Festivities at OrchKids



Belair-Edison Elementary Pre-K students sang beautifully at their Winter Choir Concert!



Students at Margaret Brent wrote a rap to perform at their Winter Assembly!

You can contact us at [ORCHKIDS@BSOMUSIC.ORG](mailto:ORCHKIDS@BSOMUSIC.ORG)  
 or send your contribution to:  
 Baltimore Symphony Orchestra OrchKids Program  
 1212 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

**orchkids.org**  
 f t @ /BSOorchkids

## The Power of Sponsorship cont.

Baltimore experienced historic rates of violent crime and gun violence, including 348 homicides (compared to 211 in 2014). No one is more impacted by these grim statistics than the children and families we work with every day. And yet, despite the adversity, fear, and stress

they must deal with on a daily basis, when OrchKids students step out on stage, they cast a brilliant spotlight on themselves and on our city. It's the support of people like Susan that provides us with the ability to invest in these youth to truly enact lasting cultural change and progress.

Thanks to the generosity and commitment from Susan and RBC, this Spring at OrchKids will feature multiple concerts with programming celebrating Black History Month, Mother's Day, and Earth Day, just to name a few. These concerts are not just an opportunity for our students to put their hard work on display, they are an opportunity to come together as a community and bond through music. Susan put it best, "Everyone should go to these concerts just to see them in action, how precise and spectacular they are; I can't even read music anymore! People need to get out and go to these community concerts to see

how amazing these kids really are." Thank you, Susan! You can find our full concert schedule at [orchkids.org/events](http://orchkids.org/events).

While Susan at RBC is our newest community concert sponsor, OrchKids has been fortunate to have other generous donors support our student performances over the years. In particular, OrchKids is especially grateful to long-time supporters and volunteers Joy Munster, Marnie Fallon, and their fellow members of the Baltimore Symphony Associates who have been providing funding, food and friendship to our students since the beginning. Thank you!

## OrchKids Academy Lifts Off!



Mr. Adam and OrchKids student Mariangely

**A core component of OrchKids' mission is to** provide our students equitable access to the same opportunities that their more well-resourced peers have. That is why, this Fall, we launched OrchKids Academy. In partnership with the Peabody Institute, selected students receive 30-minute private lessons on Saturdays at OrchKids' after school hub site, Mary Ann Winterling Elementary, in West Baltimore. What makes OrchKids Academy so unique and special is that these lessons are happening in the community where our families live! Transportation is a huge barrier for many in Baltimore City, especially for the families we serve. Bringing private lessons to the community is a game changer for these talented youth.

OrchKids Academy instructors are Peabody work study students, who are all eager to be part of such an exciting, new initiative and some have even joined our teaching ranks as

substitutes. "It's very special to see a closer connection form between the students and their private teachers," says Christy Grace, OrchKids' second-year Strings Fellow, who has been one of the leaders in starting the Academy. Along with OrchKids Program Director, Camille Delaney-McNeil and Senior Education Manager, Danielle Williams, they have created a learning environment that meets the individual needs and supports the musical growth of the students.

High standards are set for OrchKids Academy students well before their lessons even begin, and students must be nominated by their teachers and site managers in order to be considered. To be invited into the Academy, OrchKids students must not only be eager to participate and learn, they must be attending OrchKids' regular programming on a consistent basis and have been active and committed to the program for at least one year. Once enrolled in OrchKids Academy, those students must assure they are present and prompt to each of their lessons. Students also have to be responsible for managing their time at home, making sure they practice at least twice a week before their next lesson.

And parents are involved too! With lessons happening in their own neighborhood, parents are more easily able to support their child's progress. "Parents are excited!" says Christy, "Some parents make it a point to be present during their child's lessons."

As students' skills grow and relationships build, some have taken the courageous step of playing duets with one another, arranging and practicing pieces to perform at the final recital in May. Christy has been thrilled to see these creative ventures, stating she was, "curious to see what kind of mini showcases or studio concerts will pop up," before the end of this year's lessons.

With its inaugural year well under way, OrchKids Academy has set the bar high. Christy intends to keep the momentum going and continue growing the program, expanding services to more students and adding more instruments next year.

The final OrchKids Academy recital will be on May 16<sup>th</sup>, at Mary Ann Winterling Elementary.



Ryan works on his posture with Ms. Shelia and his mom, Stephanie



# OrchKids Lights Up Baltimore!



Performance Bucket Band caught the attention of Senator Bill Ferguson at the Highlandtown Tree Lighting!

OrchKids' Brass Band headlining the Monument Lighting in Baltimore!



## Update on Asia

OrchKids graduate, Asia Palmer, didn't just complete her first semester at the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, Connecticut – she killed it!

After having some time to relax with friends and family during the recent holidays, she returned to OrchKids to assist with the January Creative Composition workshop, leading our Marin and Primo level students, and filled us in on how things are going.

Asia, who is studying both flute and Music Management, shared how at first, she felt overwhelmed with her school workload, deadlines and music rehearsals four days a week. “My first semester started off a bit rocky,” says Asia, “I had trouble managing my time with practicing everyday and making sure I studied and completed all my assignments.”

Learning to live independently and make her own decisions was also a challenging adjustment for Asia, but because of her time with OrchKids, she was prepared for all of these challenges! “The long rehearsals and consistency at OrchKids definitely prepared me for college! I’m a lot more engaged in rehearsals than some of the other freshmen, because they weren’t used to such a consistent environment.”

We are very excited to announce that Asia not only finished her

semester with a 3.7 GPA, she made the University’s Dean’s list AND has been invited to join The National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi), awarded to only a small percentage of University of Hartford students. When we talked to Asia, she beamed, “I’ve learned so much in just one semester! I’m really excited to see what the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester holds for me.”

We are so proud of you, Asia – you got this!



Asia Palmer (middle), and the Hartt School Flute Studio

# ORCHpress

WINTER 2020

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra  
**ORCHkids**<sup>TM</sup>  
planting seeds for a bright future

## IN THIS ISSUE:

The Power of Sponsorship	p.1
Winter Festivities at OrchKids	p.1
OrchKids Academy Lifts Off!	p.2
OrchKids Lights up Baltimore!	p.3
Update on Asia	p.3

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/21 Black History Month Concert @ Booker T. Washington Middle
- 2/24-2/28 Black History Celebration @ Mary Ann Winterling Elementary
- 3/11 Wind Department Concert @ Highlandtown Elementary/Middle #215
- 3/18 String Department Concert @ Mary Ann Winterling Elementary
- 4/3 Collective Composition Concert @ Booker T. Washington Middle