

the bsw beat

THE BUFFALO STRING WORKS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2024

SAVE THE DATE!



UB Composer Concert

Wednesday April 10 @ 6pm
Chapel at Canisius University
2001 Main St. Buffalo NY 14208

June Concert

Wednesday June 5 @ 6pm
Slee Hall, University at Buffalo
120 Convetry Rd. Amherst, NY 14228



Dear BSW Family,

My name is Dr. Ricardo Saeb, I'm the new Deputy Director at Buffalo String Works, and I'm super excited to be joining the team. I was born and raised in Mexico, where I grew up surrounded by music. As a child, I would always be singing, and as I grew up, the guitar became my faithful companion. Music allowed me to travel the world, make new friends, cope with life, and find joy in the little things. **Music has brought so much happiness in my life that I want every single child to have the opportunity to enjoy it as much as I did growing up.** This is why I decided to join BSW.

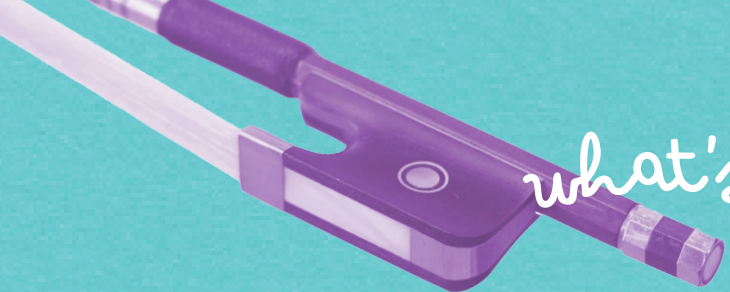
As BSW's Deputy Director, I get to work on the operational aspects of our three sites, I get to work on the logistics of exciting projects like our upcoming **Cultural Exchange** with students of the Jean Racine High School in France. I also get to work together with our Education Director, Andrew Borkowski, and our Interim Executive Director, Maria Ta in **developing new partnerships**. Still, my favorite thing at BSW is going to our sites, getting to know our students, and seeing the transformational power of music. I love seeing the kindness of our students when they help one another and the way they work to play amazing music together! This is truly a testament to the beautiful and relentless work of our faculty, who day by day bring and share their talents and expertise with our students.

I would like to finish this letter by thanking you for your support of BSW. Our programming and the many smiles it brings would not be possible without your contribution. **Thank you for helping us bring music and joy to our children!**

Ricardo Saeb
Deputy Director



OUR MISSION:
TO IGNITE PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP THROUGH
ACCESSIBLE, YOUTH-CENTERED MUSIC EDUCATION.



what's up, bsw?

BSW SPRING CONCERT

Andrew Borkowski, *Education Director*

For our **10-year anniversary concert on June 5th** we have a lot of exciting pieces to share with our community! First, in our first-ever collaboration with the composition program at the University at Buffalo, you'll hear **two pieces that have been composed exclusively for Buffalo String Works** which will be performed by all students from our Niagara Street location. These composers spent time learning about the sounds and techniques our students are most interested in and then incorporated them into their pieces, along with storytelling and choreography components too. We are also very excited to be joined again by **BSW parent, Jerome Suah**, in a performance of his song, "**One Love**", that will feature almost all BSW students from all three sites! This will be a wonderful celebration of BSW's students and families, and we're excited to see you there!



LIFELONG LEARNERS PROGRAM UPDATE

Lizzie Seward, *Lifelong Learners Program Coordinator*

BSW's latest venture is taking place at the Westminster Community House. Here, the program "Music Notes for the Future" is teaching seniors the violin!



Students are combining music therapy, aural skills, and violin technique to get a holistic idea of how to become a musician. This past week, a guest artist - our very own teaching artist Alex Cousins - visited the class to perform on the cello and answer any questions students had about the music making process. Afterwards, we took part in an improvisation activity on the classic fiddle tune "Boil Em Cabbage Down"!



My favorite part about teaching this class is the enthusiasm displayed by students. Everyone in the class reminds me that it's the little things that make the biggest difference - like nailing your first scale, or being able to bow a song correctly. Keep up the great work, BSW!

BSW Bright Spots

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Lincoln, Primary Hall Student

What's your favorite part of music class?

My favorite part of music class is when we stretch and sing the do re mi song!

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

I would be able to make lightning!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Rayne, Teaching Intern

What's your favorite song to play?

This song my friend wrote, a guitar piece called Scandaga named after a river in New York State. He showed me how to play and we're the only people who know how to play it.

How do you see your work at Buffalo String Works aligning with your personal goals and passions?

Understanding how music can help better reflect or share a person's identity, that's part of what drew me here. The kids have so many different backgrounds, seeing how they choose to express it is something that I look to study in graduate school.

Outside of music, what are your hobbies and interests?

I've taken a liking to cooking, baking, and knitting.



BSW INSTRUMENT DRIVE

Isaiah Brown, Communications Manager and **Whitney Dann, Development Manager**

Give back at our **Spring Concert on June 5** this year! We are thrilled to announce we'll be holding an instrument drive to support the continued growth of our program. As our community of budding musicians expands, so does our need for instruments. We're calling on generous donors like you to help provide the gift of music to **30 new students next year!**

We need violins, violas, and cellos of **any size and condition** - your contribution will make a world of difference. Wondering how it works? Bring your instrument to our "pay what you can" Spring Concert this June, or contact our Program Manager, Sarah Cole, to arrange an alternative drop-off time. sarah@buffalostringworks.org.

New students arrive, existing students size up, and old instruments need to be retired - you could bridge these gaps! Your donation ensures that every student has the opportunity to flourish at Buffalo String Works.



YOU CAN PLAY A PART!

Your investment today ensures that tomorrow's musicians have a voice.

To donate via check:
Please make payable to Buffalo
String Works and mail to:
Buffalo String Works
P.O. Box 195
Buffalo, NY 14213

To donate online:
Visit us at
buffalostringworks.org/contribute

Buffalo String Works is a 501(c)3 organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



P.O. Box 195
Buffalo, NY 14213



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Be our audience,
no matter where you are!



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