

CONTRIBUTE

We provide our program at no cost to families and we welcome donations of any amount.

Your generous donation will go towards instrument acquisition, music books and materials, venue rental, teacher honoraria, and administrative costs.

For a donation of \$500, we offer individual student sponsorships.

To contribute via check:

please make it payable to Buffalo String Works and mail to:

Buffalo String Works
P.O. Box 195
465 Grant St.
Buffalo, NY 14213

To contribute via credit card:

please visit:

www.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
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Buffalo, NY 14213



CONTACT US



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info@buffalostringworks.org

**We send e-newsletters every 2 months and printed newsletters twice a year.
Be sure to sign up for our mailing list at buffalostringworks.org.**

As always, thank you for your support and interest in Buffalo String Works.



Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

Save the Dates



ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Wednesday, Dec. 19
6pm

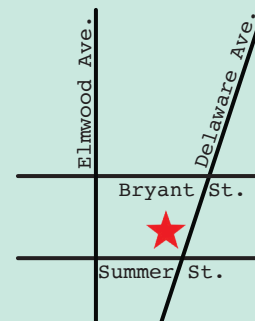
Buffalo Dream Center
286 Lafayette Ave.



BENEFIT CONCERT

Saturday, Feb. 16
5-7pm

Clement Mansion
786 Delaware Ave.



A Message from our Executive Director, Virginia Barron

Dear Friends,

I hope you've had a lovely Thanksgiving weekend! Though I grew up in Canada, I've always truly enjoyed this American holiday, a time to be with friends and family, to unplug a bit, to eat well and to have some space to reflect and be thankful for all that we have. There is so much to be thankful here in the Buffalo String Works family and we would not have gotten to this place without your support! And what a place it is, it has been a remarkable year.

We are bursting at the musical seams on Lafayette Avenue! 4 short years ago, Buffalo String Works opened its doors to 17 eager young violin students, we now have 87 students enrolled, not only on violin, but also viola, cello and double bass! Our dreams of a string orchestra are coming true. A joyful noise emanates from the Dream Center, now three days a week.

I'm so proud to say that we have presented over 15 concerts this past year, from Asbury Pointe Retirement Community, Burchfield Penney Art Center and Kleinhans Music Hall to Silo City, Canalside and Larkinvill. We offered a 2-week summer program, partnering with Neglia Ballet and the Burchfield Penney Arts Center, culminating in an exhilarating performance of dance, music and original artwork.

In addition to the generous support from local foundations and individuals, BSW has received two national awards from both El Sistema USA and Carnegie Hall PlayUSA. It is such an honor to be recognized by these two esteemed organizations! It gives us confidence and energy to reach out even farther and deeper, so that our program can be truly sustainable for many years to come. As always, your generous gifts have been and will continue to be gratefully received!

From all of us here at Buffalo Strings Works, I wish you and your family a warm and restful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

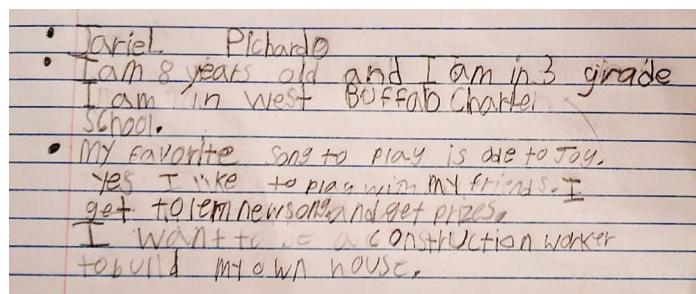
Sincerely,

Virginia Barron



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Introducing **Jariel Pichardo**, a 3rd grader at West Buffalo Charter School!



Jariel's favorite song to play is Ode to Joy, he loves hanging out with his friends at BSW (and getting prizes!), and when he grows up, Jariel wants to be a construction worker and build his own house.

PLUS 1 + BEIRUT

We are thrilled to report that Buffalo String Works is the beneficiary of a partnership between the indie band, Beirut and the non-profit organization, Plus 1. With Plus 1's support, \$1 of every US-based ticket sale for Beirut's upcoming tour will go towards BSW. (Never forgetting our neighbors to the north, \$1 of every Canada-based ticket sale will benefit Sistema Toronto!)



Recent News

Duo Axis, a collaboration between Zachary Sheets (flute) and Wei-Han Wu (piano), came to visit BSW in mid-November and totally blew our minds with the new sound worlds they created on their instruments. Every single student was entranced by their performance, with students excitedly whispering, "is THAT a flute?! HOW did he make that sound? It sounds like a cat screaming!" Our orchestra students were treated to an extended workshop during which time they had the opportunity to try out new sounds of their own as they embellished and re-invented a staple of the BSW repertoire, Mountain Song (Nepalese Folk Song).



As you've undoubtedly heard, we have 87 students this year - here are some of our newest students hailing from Thailand, Eritrea, and Iraq.



We performed at Buffalo Without Borders for the first time! It was such a privilege to play for the International Institute's annual gala event.



BSW visits Community Music Works

As we continue to grow here in Buffalo, we are fortunate to join a national community of like-minded organizations, eager to share ideas and learn from each other. BSW Lead Teacher, Leanne Darling, shares her experiences from a recent collaborative opportunity:

Virginia Barron and I traveled to Providence, RI on Nov. 8th to visit Community Music Works (CMW), an amazing program made up of 150 students and a professional performing ensemble made up of CMW teachers. The visit was part of the PlayUSA grant we received from Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. BSW is one of 15 organizations from around the country that received grants to aid in our growth and development. Each organization sent representatives to Providence to visit CMW, share ideas, and discuss challenges we each face.

During the visit, we observed private lessons and group meetings by the students and had many discussions with CMW educators and administrators and fellow visiting colleagues. Community Music Works, as their name describes, uses music and music education to create and strengthen community and equally prioritizes educating students in community activism and music. We were inspired by how thoughtful, self-aware and motivated the students were, and how teachers used leading questions and creative solutions to give the students more agency over their development. It was also so valuable to hear from organizations all over the country and to hear about the important work they are doing with their students. We both came away energized and motivated to bring these ideas to BSW in the future.



Pictured above: representatives from 2018-2019 PlayUSA Cohort:
Atlanta Music Project (Atlanta, GA)
Buffalo String Works (Buffalo, NY)
Community Music Works (Providence, RI)
El Sistema Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK)
Enriching Lives Through Music (San Rafael, CA)
INTEMPO (Stamford, CT)
Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra (Kalamazoo, MI)
Kidznotes (Durham, NC)
Music for Life (New Orleans, LA)
MYCincinnati (Cincinnati, OH)
Opportunity Music Project (New York, NY)
Scrollworks (Birmingham, AL)
The People's Music School (Chicago, IL)
Tocando (El Paso, TX)
Youth Orchestra of St. Luke's (New York, NY)

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



NAME: Elena Smith

INSTRUMENT: Viola

SCHOOL: SUNY Buffalo State

DEGREE: B.A. in Music

YEAR: Senior

POSITION WITH BSW: Intern

What drew you to join BSW's teaching faculty?

The program sounded like a great teaching opportunity for strings and a fantastic community. The ability to get an internship credit for being a part of it enabled me to commit the time to be involved.

What has been the most challenging aspect of working with BSW?

There is a lot that goes on! Getting to know the program, kids, and ways things are run are challenges of the best kind. I had very little teaching experience in a group setting before getting involved at BSW, and it was a challenge adjusting to the new setting.

What are your goals post-graduation? Has BSW influenced your plans in any way?

It has long been a goal of mine to teach strings and BSW has strengthened that goal. I'd previously been focused solely on the idea of teaching in a school, but BSW is such an incredible program and it would be a privilege to work professionally with a group so focused on the community. The teachers and kids are encouraging and inspiring, and I hope to stay involved after my internship.

NEW BASS PROGRAM

Did you know we have a new bass program now?



Headed up by Associate Director, Megan McDevitt, we are so proud to announce our inaugural bass class. We can't wait for bassists to take over the world!

Be sure to attend their concert debut at our annual holiday concert on Dec. 19 @ 6pm @ the Buffalo Dream Center.