

# the bsw beat

## THE BUFFALO STRING WORKS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2022

### SAVE THE DATE!



#### Holiday Concert

Wednesday Dec. 14 @ 6pm  
Asbury Hall  
341 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY

#### CSI Concert

Thursday Dec. 15 @ 4pm  
Charter School of Inquiry  
404 Edison Ave. Buffalo, NY

#### Junior Jerry Jam

Sunday Dec. 18 @ 11am  
Asbury Hall  
341 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY



#### BSW Signing On!

Keep tuning in to  
**WEBR 1440 AM** radio  
to hear about BSW on radios around  
Western New York!

Dear bsw family,

#### I'm happy to finally be able to introduce myself!

My name is Juan Herrera and I am the Site Manager for our two brand new locations, Charter School of Inquiry and NativityMiguel Middle School.

I feel very fortunate to be working with Buffalo String Works. My first interaction with BSW happened in March of 2021 when a friend asked if I'd be interested in playing percussion alongside the Burmese community in protest of the military coup that is happening in Burma (Myanmar). This left a lasting impression on me and the more I learned about BSW, the clearer it became that this is an organization whose bottom line is to help and support people. I have a deep respect for BSW and so the fact that I get to work here now is very fulfilling. Thank you for having me!

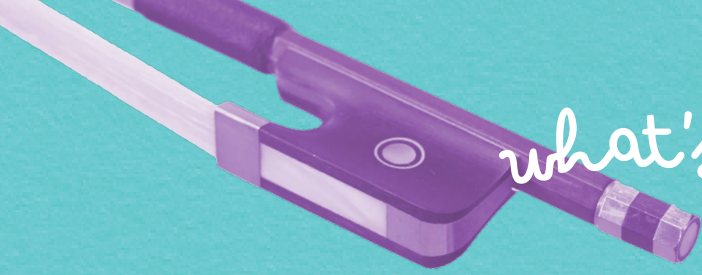
As for our new sites, we are just a few weeks into programming and **the 62 new members of our family are absolutely loving it.** Big thanks to our teaching artists, Ms. Sarah, Ms. Julia, Mr. Brian, Mr. Evan, Ms. Amy, and Mr. Jeremiah for making classes so enjoyable for our students! I wish I could go back in time and relive the moment when each class opened up their instrument cases for the first time. The excitement and joy was infectious! Students will soon be receiving their BSW t-shirts, basketball season is starting at NativityMiguel, and CSI's first performance is already in the works. Lots to look forward to!

I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes from my favorite childhood comic, Calvin and Hobbes: "Know what's weird? Day by day, nothing seems to change, but pretty soon, everything is different." Your support, donations, encouragement, attendance, and enthusiasm may not seem like a big deal in the moment, but **it's thanks to you and your everyday acts of kindness and generosity** that our Buffalo String Works students are where they are today. Thank you for all that you do!

Juan Herrera  
CSI + NativityMiguel Site Manager



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



# what's up, bsw?

## BSW Holiday Concert

Andrew Borkowski, Education Director

This year's BSW Holiday Concert will feature all of our students playing repertoire in their Large Ensembles that they have been working on since the beginning of the semester. Over the course of this year these students will be honing skills that help them work well on a team, including Problem Solving and Collaboration skills, and working once a week in their Large Ensemble gives them plenty of opportunities to do so.

This concert will showcase many of the pieces our teams have been working on together, including a piece that Team A has been working on called "Hunter's Moon," which gives everyone an equal opportunity to both shine as well as support each other. We'll also hear our Team C students, in their second full year as BSW students, play a beautiful arrangement of "Ode to Joy." Our newest students, Team D, will be showcasing their talents in a piece together for the first time after having just started on their instruments in September! We'll also be hearing some new music from our Advanced Ensemble, as they continue to tackle more challenging repertoire, in addition to Team B and some chamber music. **We hope to see you at this exciting concert!**

The concert will be held on **December 14 at 6pm at Asbury Hall/Babeville (341 Delaware Ave. Buffalo).**



## Please Welcome...Team D!

Emily Leaphart, Team D Teaching Artist

### There's a new team in town, folks!

BSW is very excited to welcome Team D to our program this year. These students are our beginner violinists, violists, and cellists, and they are off to a great start.

These students have worked hard from day one on broad musical skills such as new rhythms and ear training. Once they received their instruments their workload more than doubled, but these students have happily risen to each new challenge.

Dennieliz, violinist, says, "I've wanted to play violin ever since I heard my teacher at school play violin for me!" She was so happy when she found out she could learn it at Buffalo String Works. Gay, violinist, says "I loves to pluck my violin and practice at home." This enthusiasm is palpable in each Team D classroom.

The team has already learned several songs, and they even have them memorized. As they progress to bowing on the instrument, they will keep learning new repertoire and continue to perfect their posture and bow hold.

Be sure not to miss the December concert, where the D squad will make its debut. All of BSW is so excited to hear their progress. As Moo Hsa, violist, said, "My sister is going to be so proud!"

Believe me, we all are!



## Advanced Ensemble

Ethan Leong, BSW Cellist

For this year, Advanced Ensemble consists of people who take a more musical approach to the pieces and are willing to start playing with others and playing music that require a lot of teamwork. As for my different classes, my time at BSW mostly revolves around Advanced Ensemble and quintet, mostly where the "playing together" really starts to take place.

My private teacher is Mr. Robbie [Hausmann, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra cellist]. I really like how my private teacher really goes into depth on the pieces I play, and really helps me on the passages where I struggle and I feel like I



really learn more. [Playing without a conductor] feels really nerve-racking because I'm so used to having a conductor. It also feels like you have a much greater responsibility and a sense of being much more independent.

It feels really good to be a role model because the younger kids look up to people who like playing in orchestras, and hopefully that persuades them to carry on learning their instruments.

## Student Spotlight

morgan, csi student

### How does music make you feel?

Music makes me feel more calm. When there's music in a movie it helps me understand the movie more. Music is calming.

### Are you excited about playing an instrument?

I'm really excited about playing the drums! The drums help me work out a lot of my energy.



## Staff Spotlight

jacob haas and job nabong, bsw interns

### What do you want supporters to know about BSW?

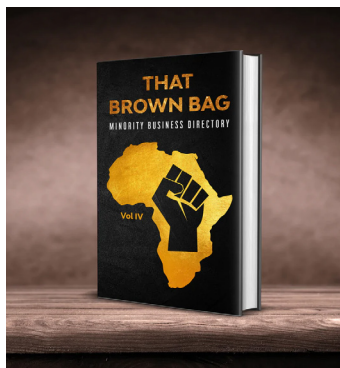
Jacob: BSW is wonderful not only for the youth in the Buffalo area, but for the Buffalo community at large. BSW thrives on how community-focused they are.

### What have you learned in your internship?

Job: I feel that BSW gives kids a chance to learn about music and benefit from it in the future.



## What Can YOU Do Now?



### THAT BROWN BAG

That Brown Bag is a comprehensive resource of Black & Brown owned business in and around Buffalo and Western New York. Compiled and authored by Shantelle Lynette Patton, this business directory connects local consumers with businesses whose owners are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Each submission includes the business name, owner/contact person's name, address and/or phone number, along with social network handles, email addresses, and/or business website links.

The goal of the directory is to give local consumers a resource guide to find minority-owned businesses in the City of Buffalo and surrounding areas, encouraging an exchange that will strengthen the black and brown dollar from which the business originated.

Find out more and order a copy at <https://www.brownbagcertified.com>.



# STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Be our audience,  
no matter where you are!



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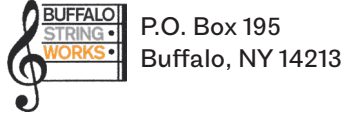


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