



MARCH 2021

NEWSLETTER



Dear BSW Family,

This March we welcome the flowers that will soon start to bloom, celebrate the women who have made and continue to make a striking impact in history, and reminisce on the past months as we surpass 1 year into the COVID-19 pandemic and the last time we saw all of our students in person.

So much has evolved in and outside of our classrooms yet music continues to unite us. Recently, the BSW community came together in solidarity to bring awareness and share the events happening in Myanmar affecting our families and friends. Once again, using the magical universal language of music. Our Virtual Benefit Concert: They Would Only Walk reminds us of the shared journeys and battles that our refugee and immigrant families face being away from their countries of origin.

You have helped us achieve the unexpected in our community. The love for music within each and every one of our students and families is our driving force and we thank you so much for being an important part of our BSW story.

With Gratitude,

Lisbet A. Henriquez,
Program Manager



IMPORTANT DATES



VIRTUAL BENEFIT CONCERT

MARCH 20 - 27

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

SPRING 2020 VIRTUAL CONCERT PREMIERE

SATURDAY, APRIL 10 @ 1pm

END OF SEMESTER CONCERT PREMIERE

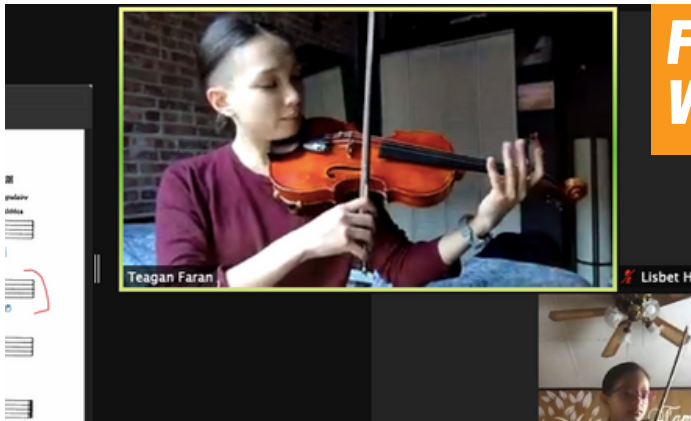
SATURDAY, JUNE 20 @ 1pm



Subscribe to
youtube.com/buffalostringworks
for Virtual Concert notifications!

WHAT'S UP, BSW?

**INVEST IN TODAY'S
YOUTH NOW**



FROM PUERTO RICO, WITH LOVE

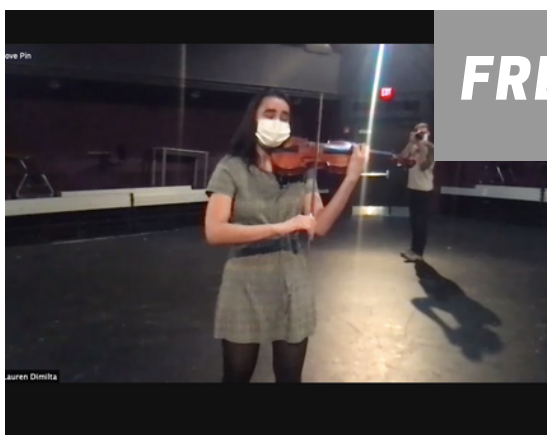
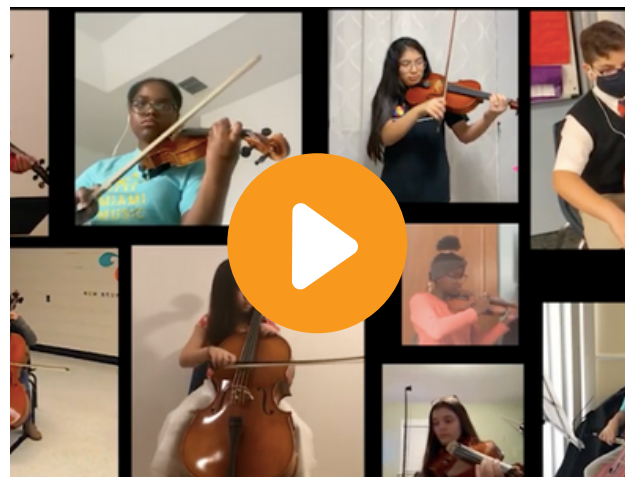
Our classes are officially **bilingual**! We welcomed **10 new students** through our partnership with **Say Yes Buffalo** and the **Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy**. The Rodriguez family in particular couldn't wait to join us! Less Mary, Mom of Caleb (6) and Frances (9) says, "Frances used to play violin in Puerto Rico but we had

to move to Buffalo when the pandemic got really bad so she couldn't continue. I am very happy BSW gives Frances an opportunity to play the violin again!" Frances and Caleb are taught by Teaching Artist, Teagan Faran, who leads the class in English and Spanish.

EL SISTEMA USA National Symposium and Seminario

Johnny Kyaw and Linnea Lay were nominated by their BSW teachers to participate in the national El Sistema Symposium in February. **They were two of 115 students** from across the country to participate in the collaborative piece, "What We Will Be."

Click on the image to the right to watch the performance!



FREDONIA JOINS BSW

Here at BSW, we love any opportunity to connect with string students on all levels. Our recent collaboration with SUNY Fredonia is connecting us with **12 Music Education and Performance students** who are observing BSW classes and giving workshops to our students. Audrey Potter (Fredonia '22), the leader of this initiative, shares, "As soon as I read BSW's mission statement, I immediately knew it was something I

wanted to be a part of... BSW is doing such meaningful and inspiring work, I've really enjoyed working with everyone there, and I can't wait to come back again. **I hope someday every community can have a program like this!**"

BSW BRIGHT SPOTS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**BECOME A MONTHLY
MUSICMAKER TODAY**

Bruk Taffere, 9

Bruk Taffere is one of 35 brand-new Intro to BSW students and he has been doing an amazing job in class. Bruk shared a little bit about himself while proudly holding his drumsticks.

Fun Fact: I love to help people.

What do you like about music? I like music because of the beat and I am excited to learn violin because it has a very good sound.

What are you most proud of at BSW? I am proud that I am doing all my work, asking questions, learning Mississippi Stop Stop, and different notes.

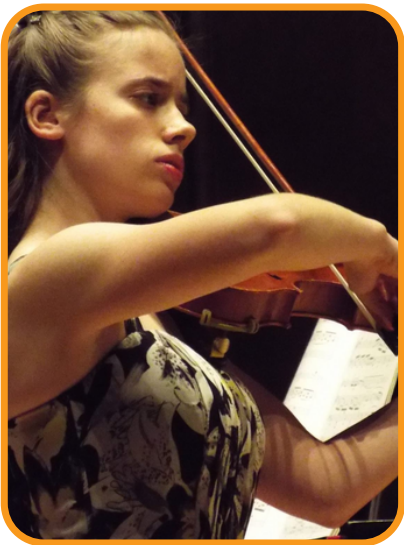


TEACHING ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Shannon Reilly, Violin Teaching Artist

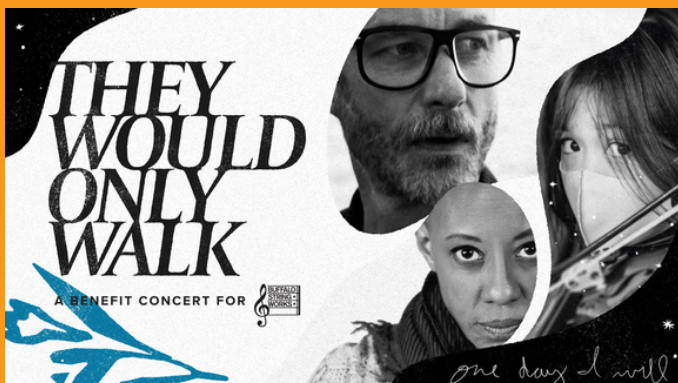
What is your favorite BSW memory? ...the day that my class asked me about ways they could use their music to make a difference in the world. This was right at the beginning of 2020. My students continuously impress me with their desire to help other people, and now their energy has led BSW to create Student Leadership and Teacher Training programs.

What are you most proud of at BSW? I am proud of how dedicated our students are in spite of online school. They work through difficult internet, sound issues, screens cutting out, Zoom call problems, the works - and they still practice and work hard and want to create music. Our students are inspiring.



THEY WOULD ONLY WALK: 7th ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT

BUY YOUR TICKET



Have you purchased your tickets for our Virtual Benefit Concert yet? If not, this is your chance!

Tickets start at just \$20 and they are selling FAST! The event premieres on **Saturday, March 20** at **7pm** and remains available for on-demand viewing **through Saturday, March 27** at 11:59pm.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW?

EDUCATE

Mass protests have been taking place across Myanmar since the military seized control on February 1.



ACT

Sign the petition to deploy UN Peacekeeping forces and protect the people of Myanmar.



SUPPORT

Watch our virtual concert to raise awareness about the current political unrest and coup d'état in Myanmar.



YOU CAN PLAY A PART!

To make an investment in today's youth, click the button below.

**EMPOWER A BSW
MUSICIAN TODAY**

You can also text **BSWFamily** to **716.216.3777**.

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

Spring 2020 Virtual
Concert Premiere

SATURDAY, APRIL 10 at 1pm



Subscribe to
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STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Be our audience, no matter where you may be!



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