

the bsw beat

THE BUFFALO STRING WORKS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2023

SAVE THE DATE!



Buffalo State Concert Series

Saturday, Apr. 22 @ 2pm
Rockwell Hall
1300 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222

Vocalis & BSW

Sunday, Apr. 30 @ 4pm
Asbury Hall
341 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14202

BSW Benefit Concert

Thursday June 8 @ 6pm
Asbury Hall
341 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14202



Follow us!

at
@buffalostringworks
on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to
stay up to date with everything BSW!

Dear BSW family,

Salutations!

My name is Tyler Adamthwaite and I have been working with BSW since August. I am originally from Denver, where I began playing violin in my school's fifth grade band and orchestra program. I have always felt a knack for improvising and composing and decided to pursue writing music as a career. I hold a Bachelor of Music in Music Composition from Colorado State University and a Master of Fine Arts in Music Composition from Brandeis University. This semester I am also finishing my PhD in Music Composition from the University at Buffalo.

My primary role at BSW is as a Teaching Artist, working with the kids at our Niagara Street site to provide them with a holistic music education through **promoting their leadership and creativity**. In addition to this, I also transcribe songs and compose original pieces for BSW. In the future, I would like to use my skills for BSW and other non-profit music organizations to curate pieces which reflect the cultures that they serve.

In June of 2023 you will have the chance to hear the beginning of what I hope to be a long-term project called **The Great Sharing**. This project is a massive collaborative effort among the BSW staff and families to collect songs from our community and translate them to classical string instruments. It is very important to us because this process allows our students to see their own **cultures reflected in the music they are playing** in addition to the usual pieces young musicians learn, like those by Bach and Mozart.

This school year we collected a few songs from our parents, which I transcribed for string instruments. Then I used the melodies to create an entirely new composition for the entire student body, from all levels of BSW, **to play together**. It is my hope that this will foster the feeling of community, leadership, and musicianship that we promote to our students by showing off everything that **music can bring to a gathering of people**.

Tyler Adamthwaite
BSW Teaching Artist



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



what's up, bsw?

Student Leadership Update

Yamilette Garcia, BSW Student Leader

Hello, my name is Yamilette and I've been at BSW for four years. I play the violin and I'm part of the **BSW Student Council**. I joined Student Council to learn how to work on a team and **create new friendships**.

Currently in Student Leadership, we are working on some exciting projects! We have been working with another youth organization, the Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology. Together, we are creating a youth-run symposium to talk about the access to quality arts education in schools. Overall, we

are very excited for this event, and hope that it will be an opportunity to advocate for the arts.

We are also collaborating with another organization, **Family Promise**. Family Promise is a shelter for families experiencing homelessness that makes sure families can stay together. During pop-up lessons, we have the opportunity to connect with other kids in the Buffalo community. It feels **rewarding to share our music** this way.

Thank you for supporting us!



Executive Director Transition

Jim Sampson, BSW Board Chair

Dear BSW community,



I am pleased to share with you that **Maria Ta** has agreed to become our Interim Executive Director.

Maria is currently the founder and CEO of the Ta Collective. Prior to that, she was the Program Director and co-leader of Ujima Theater. Maria brings a rich personal and professional story that uniquely qualifies her to help lead BSW through this transition and into the future. Born in Buffalo, she grew up on the West Side, attended Buffalo Public Schools, and graduated from Canisius College.

At Ujima, she helped guide the organization after the untimely death of its founder, Lorna Hill, ensuring the organization fulfilled its mission. Not only did the plays go on, but she was also part of the cast, an important

leadership role.

Maria is thoughtful and curious, already spending much time learning about Buffalo String Works' unique culture, mission, and vision, our dedicated staff, and amazing kids and families.

Everyone on the search committee (me; Yuki; Chirag Desai, BSW Board Member; and Linda Ray, longtime BSW donor and consultant) agrees that Maria is the right choice. I would like to thank them for their thoughtful involvement in this process. I am also grateful to Yuki for her willingness to use the 'overlap' time, while she is still at BSW, to help with a good transition.

I know you will all join me in welcoming Maria and supporting her success!

Best,
Jim

CSI Update

Amy Kelly, BSW Teaching Artist

Last September, BSW started a new program at the Charter School of Inquiry. Jeremiah Towe and I were excited to start first- and second-graders on bucket drums and violin as part of CSI's after-school enrichment program.

The biggest hurdle has been a shortage of instruments. The young musicians have to share their instruments, so they only get to play their violins during our time together. Thankfully, because of a recent donation, all students should be able to bring violins home in the next few weeks. Despite this obstacle, these students have made **great progress**, and performed at CSI's Kwanzaa concert in December!

Recently at our family orientation, the first graders **performed an original song** we wrote together: "Chicken Noodle Soup." CSI will have an end of year concert where our violinists and bucket drummers will be highlighted, and BSW's benefit concert in June will feature all of our String Works' students from all of our sites. I think we're going to need a larger performance venue soon!



Student Spotlight

josiah, BSW cellist

What's your favorite thing about playing the cello?

Playing fast stuff. My favorite song to play is "Dragonhunter," and I am good at the cello!

You have two older sisters at BSW—what's that like?

It's nice. It's good that I see them, and we practice together at home.



Staff Spotlight

salina mobae, assistant site manager

How did you get started at BSW?

I first learned about Buffalo String Work from Mrs. Yuki and another violinist, who visited my school after school. I began playing the violin in the sixth grade.

What do you enjoy about being an Assistant Site Manager?

Being an Assistant Site Manager has its perks, one of which is helping out with tasks like passing out refreshments and escorting to places they need!



National Foreign Language Month



INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE
OF BUFFALO

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUFFALO

March is National Foreign Language Month. In celebration, we want to highlight the International Institute of Buffalo!

The mission of the International Institute of Buffalo is to make Western New York a better place for, and because of, immigrants and refugees. Founded in 1918, the International Institute seeks to strengthen Western New York by assisting refugees and immigrants to become independent, informed and contributing members of the community, and by promoting and supporting cultural competence, multiculturalism and global connectedness throughout the region.

In addition to refugee resettlement, the International Institute offers translation and interpretation services. They train and certify translators and interpreters and provide their services for an hourly rate. You can find out more at <https://iibuffalo.org>.

DID YOU KNOW: Interpreters translate spoken language in real time while translators work with written content.

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.



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Be our audience,
no matter where you are!



PO Box 195
Buffalo, NY 14213



buffalostringworks.org
info@buffalostringworks.org



@buffalostringworks