

YOU CAN PLAY A PART!

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

To donate by 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 online at buffalostringworks.org/contribute

To donate by text:

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.



P.O. Box 195
Buffalo, NY 14213

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Be our audience, no matter where you may be!



buffalostringworks.org
info@buffalostringworks.org



P.O. Box 195
Buffalo, NY 14213



@BuffaloStringworks



IMPORTANT DATES



**MLK VIRTUAL
CONCERT PREMIERE**
MONDAY, JAN. 18 @ 1pm

VIRTUAL BENEFIT CONCERT
SATURDAY, MARCH 13
More details to come!

**SPRING 2020 VIRTUAL
CONCERT PREMIERE**
SATURDAY, APR. 10 @ 1pm



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



Dear BSW Family,

While it's true the 2020-21 academic year started unlike any other, I am so proud to report that music continues to ring through our virtual classrooms. Now 4 months into this new normal, we see more smiles, hear more laughter, and discover more creative ways to make music together. COVID-19 has pushed us to re-energize and re-evaluate but it has been worth every sleepless night and every moment of Zoom fatigue. We were always much more than just music lessons but now, we have truly become problem-solvers. With your generosity, we've provided nearly **30 laptops** to our students, delivered **6 hotspots**, and offered countless hours of tech support. You've made it possible for our students to thrive not only in our music classrooms but in their daily academics as well. Since March 2020, we've built up our confidence and we finally feel ready to bring on **30+ new students in January 2021**. NEW students, you ask!? Well yes! There's more about that in the following pages.

COVID-19 has laid bare the stark inequalities in our country's educational systems and with the curtain pulled back, rigorous and inclusive arts programs like Buffalo String Works are needed more than ever. We have grown by leaps and bounds over the last 7 years: our budget this year is **\$371,765** and we are on track to becoming a **\$500,000** organization in the next 2 years. Your ongoing support - whether you're cheering us on in our virtual concerts, liking our Facebook posts, volunteering in our Zoom classes, or making a financial investment - ensures that ALL youth in Buffalo will one day have access to the music education they deserve. These are uncertain times but one thing is certain: with music uniting us, our community will **prevail and thrive**.

In Solidarity,

Yuki Numata Resnick
Executive Director



BSW BRIGHT SPOTS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Adrian Garcia

I am in the 6th grade and have been part of BSW for two years.

What is your favorite BSW memory?

My favorite memory at BSW is when I had my first concert. My first concert was very special to me even though I was nervous, but I felt really great afterwards and that's when I knew I wanted to be in BSW.

What are you most proud of at BSW?

I am most proud of the work teachers put in us students, they have so much patience if you get something wrong.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Joshua Carter

I am BSW's AmeriCorps VISTA. I do capacity-building work such as helping plan the Teacher Training and Student Leadership Programs, and help with our virtual Zoom classroom and in-person Play-Ins!

Tell us a fun fact!

I am from Connecticut, and my favorite food is clam chowder!

What drew you to BSW?

I have been playing the cello since the 4th grade and music has always been a huge part of my life. BSW is not only a great music program but a great way to help others in a way that is unique to Buffalo.



WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW!



READ: Our first-ever **Annual Report** is available on December 4! Check it out on our website: buffalostringworks.org.



WATCH: Our **November Virtual Concert** is now posted on our YouTube channel (@BuffaloStringWorks)!

EDUCATE: In WNY, 20% of children are food insecure. Many families rely on **FeedMore WNY** for support during the holiday season. FeedMore WNY programs offer nutrition assistance and education, community meal services, and more.

FeedMore
wny

ACT: The **Buffalo Community Fridge**, an eye-catchingly colorful refrigerator on the corner of E. Ferry Street, is a source of healthy meals for Buffalo's East Side community, and it's all free of charge. Anyone is welcome to drop off food!

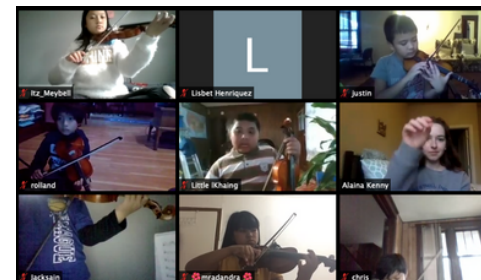


30+ NEW STUDENTS and NEW MUSIC READINESS COURSE!

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged us to navigate innovative ways of offering our program and we rose to the challenge! We have streamlined online operations since March 2020 and we have a **95% virtual attendance rate** with our returning students. With this under our belts, **we're ready to bring on up to 30+ new students in January 2021!**

We're unveiling a Music Readiness course (written by BSW Teaching Artist Laura Jay!) for these new students and to truly do it right, **we're launching Bucket Drumming and Recorder classes!**

This means that when these students are finally in-person with us, they will hit the ground running with that violin, viola, cello, or bass!



WHAT'S NEXT FOR BSW?

by Joshua Carter, AmeriCorps VISTA

We are excited to launch three new initiatives this year which will provide students and staff leadership opportunities and strengthen inclusion and diversity in our programs.

The purpose of our **Teacher Training Program** is to increase the diversity of educators both at BSW and in the education workforce at large. The program will create formal opportunities for interested BSW students to gain teaching experience. We aim to shift students' perceptions of music education and teaching as a profession, and show them they can become teachers themselves!

Our **Student Leadership Program** will give students the opportunity to gain leadership experience through a

Student Council as well as a Practice Partner mentorship program. Student Council members will work together to represent the BSW student body in BSW leadership, while Practice Partners will provide a one-on-one mentorship opportunity between older and younger students. We are so excited for our students to grow as leaders!

Now in our seventh year, BSW is ready to expand beyond our West Side home. **Expansion to new communities and schools** will give BSW the opportunity to diversify our student enrollment and reach a greater range of families in Buffalo. We are beyond thrilled for these initiatives to become reality!

PARTNERSHIP with the EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

This fall, we partnered with a cohort of five Masters students through the Eastman School of Music's **Designing Creative Initiatives for Musical Enterprises** practicum. Cohort members played a lead role in a research and feasibility study of BSW's possible expansion to the second location in Buffalo.

"...Getting to build on the already great practices at BSW, learn about the Buffalo area, and apply our skills to advance a real world mission with impacts on real kids and communities was very exciting!"

- Eli Campbell ('21), M.A.,
Music Leadership

With this cohort support, not only are we now ready to expand across the city but it was a wonderful excuse for Yuki to (virtually) revisit her alma mater AND reconnect with a former classmate, Rachel Roberts, ESM's Associate Professor of Music Leadership. Stay tuned for more news about our big plans in the next year!

