



BUFFALO STRING WORKS NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 6

May 2022



PRESENTS:

B.S. DOUBLE YOU!!

**A 2-IN-1 BENEFIT +
SPRING CONCERT**

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1, 2022

5PM VIP HOUR

6PM PERFORMANCE

ASBURY HALL

341 DELAWARE AVE

FEATURING

BUFFALO STRING WORKS STUDENTS

BUFFALO CHAMBER PLAYERS



BUY TICKETS AT:

[BIT.LY/BSWSUPERHERO](https://bit.ly/bswsuperhero)

OR USE THE QR CODE ABOVE!

YOU CAN ALSO BUY TICKETS AT THE DOOR!

Dear BSW SuperFans,

This year has been such a whirlwind, from moving into our new Niagara Street home to launching a new program for young adult refugee students in collaboration with Journey's End Refugee Services. And of course, all of this under the slowly-lifting (we hope?) cloud of a 2+ year pandemic. Admittedly, we're running a bit ragged but never fear! We are summoning all of our superpowers to launch **B.S.Double You: A 2-in-1 Benefit + Spring Concert on Wednesday, June 1!**

We invite YOU to join us whether you simply want to purchase a digital recording of the concert or you're excited to take the plunge and join us at our in-person event, live at Asbury Hall!

Double You, you ask? Well, not only is this a 2-in-1 concert but we're also packing our spring appeal into this exciting event. **All donations made this spring will be DOUBLED**, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who is matching contributions up to \$10,000!

What more can we offer you? Those feel-good vibes of knowing that your spring contributions and ticket purchases are **opening up summer camp spots for BRAND NEW STUDENTS** to get a head start on BSW!

Are you ready to don that superhero cape and be that BSW Superfan I know you are? **Check out more details at bit.ly/bswsuperhero**. You can make a difference NOW and send our students off on the best summer ever!

Your BSW Superteam of Staff, Faculty, Board Members, Volunteers, and Families!

WHAT'S UP, BSW?

BSW PILOT PROGRAM WITH JOURNEY'S END

Sarah Cole, BSW Program Manager

Buffalo String Works is excited to launch an eight-week-long pilot program for adult string education with Journey's End participants at our West Side location!

Journey's End is an organization that **provides resources and mentorship for the young-adult refugee community** in Buffalo. This past February, several BSW Teaching Artists traveled to the West Side Community Services Center to share music and offer hands-on introductions to string instruments. Our Teaching Artist ambassadors **connected with the Journey's End mentees** quickly, and we soon realized that a pilot program would be a great way to continue the teaching experience.

The pilot program launched on March 31st and will continue through the spring semester. The Journey's End students will show off their new string skills at our end-of-year benefit concert on June 1st at 6 p.m. Come join us to show your support for these students and our two organizations!



Journey's End first BSW class!

BSW INTERNSHIP

Evan Courtin, BSW Teaching Artist

The Buffalo String Works Internship Program is in full-on world domination mode! Ok, maybe just a bit of an exaggeration. Replace "world domination" with "community uplifting."

The Internship Program at BSW is designed to give young adults an opportunity to **explore their interest in music education** and **address a lack of equal representation** in the workforce. BSW offers internships to those who identify as part of a minority demographic and have expressed an interest in pursuing music education as a career. We match our Interns with a BSW Teaching Artist and provide them a space to study, which allows them to actively engage in classroom planning and leadership. By the end, Interns will have gained valuable experience, begun to refine their teaching skills, and have earned a stipend to boot.

Our Intern this year is Drew Kemp! This is their second semester with BSW. Drew's first semester saw them learning from our Teaching Artists and engaging with our students in the virtual realm, but now they are with us in person. When Drew is with us, they spend almost the entirety of their time **working directly with the students of BSW**, receiving feedback and guidance along the way. At the moment, Drew is teaching my Team C violin students a song that they have collaboratively written together. I'm pretty excited to hear what they've come up with!



Gwen and Damon Banks work with BSW students.

REFLECTIONS ON RESILIENCE

Andrew Borkowski, BSW Education Director

In the Fall of 2021, Carnegie Hall invited Buffalo String Works to participate in a project through their PlayUSA initiative called Reflections on Resilience. This project was designed to help students explore storytelling through music, as well as different ways to approach instrumental and musical performance. **BSW invited Damon and Gwen Banks to facilitate a four-day workshop on improvisation and group composition.** During the four days, they hosted a workshop for our Teaching Artists about teaching improvisation and group composition to future students. Damon and Gwen Banks also spent time working in group settings with our students, teaching them to play a newly learned song, and how to play it as a solo for the first time in front of their peers. Empowering our students to tell their stories through music is a very powerful way to develop agency and for everyone involved to shape BSW's path forward.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**HSEH NAY SOE
TEAM C CELLIST**



HSEH NAY SOE

What does the cello mean to you?
It means a lot to me, I love practicing it. It feels like fun when I practice it and not like work.

What do you want BSW supporters to know about you?
I feel comfortable at BSW and to me BSW is a family!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**BRIAN DEJESUS
BSW TEACHING ARTIST**



BRIAN
DEJESUS

You were brought up on Buffalo's West side. How does that connect to you teaching at BSW?

I grew up here in the West Side of Buffalo, a few blocks from where BSW gathers. I'm grateful to be able to give back to our community through this beautiful thing we call "music"!

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?

EDUCATE

The treatment Africans are facing in Ukraine is despicable, but why are we surprised?

"Racism unfortunately does not get left behind in times of tragedy, warfare or disaster. In fact, it will only get worse."

Read here:
<https://tinyurl.com/2p88par3>

ACT

Sign petitions via supportukrainenow.org

Support Ukraine Now has a variety of resources and materials to support Ukrainian refugees.

Sign:
<https://tinyurl.com/52rck8xu>

SUPPORT

Donate to Doctors Without Borders

Doctors Without Borders works with healthcare professionals and local authorities to access medical aid.

Donate at:
<https://tinyurl.com/6aztcma5>

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

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 716.265.4772

YOU CAN PLAY A PART!

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



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STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Be our audience,
no matter where you are!