



In partnership with



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MASTER CLASS SHOWCASE TO HIGHLIGHT WORK OF STRING STUDENTS

The Institute of Music for Children partnered with the Harlem Chamber Players to bring master classes with world-class violinist to young musicians.

Elizabeth, NJ – A new partnership between The Institute of Music for Children and The Harlem Chamber Players brought world-class violinist Jessica McJunkins to work with motivated string students from the Institute of Music and the Elizabeth Public Schools. Known for her 'dynamic playing' and 'fearless artistry', McJunkins (a Charlotte, NC native), performs and teaches in New York City and throughout the North and Southeast. There have been 10 master classes leading up to the concert, overseen jointly by McJunkins and Institute instructor Tiffany Tanner.

Aspiring musicians and their teachers, typically consider master classes to be one of the most effective means of musical development. Elizabeth, New Jersey, the 350-year old seat of Union County, has never had a resident Chamber music ensemble, and is sorely overlooked in access to high-level arts and arts education experiences. The Institute of Music for Children has worked for 20 years to redress the latter crisis and believes that this series, sponsored by a grant from the Turrell Fund will help to alleviate the former.

“Because of this collaboration, we are able to take our students to the next level of artistic development. The master classes have inspired both our students and instructors to hone their technique in preparation for our first ever chamber concert,” said Alysia Souder, Executive Director of the Institute.

Similarly, The Harlem Chamber Players continually strive to build an audience for classical music through community and educational outreach. Deryck Clarke, Educational Director for THCP added, “Many of us in The Harlem Chamber Players grew up in the inner city and have benefited from access to affordable music programs. Today many kids who live where we grew up no longer have those same opportunities due to many factors (ie: No Child Left Behind, lack of Arts Education funding, lack of parental and community awareness, etc). We at THCP have a great opportunity to not only inspire but help cultivate future generations of musicians and music lovers of color.”

The classes will culminate with an intimate performance for community members followed by a reception that will acknowledge special honoree, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, a staunch supporter of after-school and summer programs in New Jersey.

The showcase will take place at 3pm on Saturday, April 23rd at Third Westminster Presbyterian Church, 780 Salem Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$20.

The Institute of Music for Children

The Institute of Music for Children, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) arts organization that has been awarded the 2014, 2015 & 2016 Citation of Excellence from the NJ State Council on the Arts for exhibiting the highest standards of excellence in its artistry, operations, governance, public benefit and fulfillment of areas of Council priority. The Institute believes that artistic expression and the creative process prepare children for success and endow them with life skills and self-confidence. The Institute offers year-round instruction in a wide-range of art forms including instrumental and vocal music, drama, dance and visual arts to fulfill its mission of H.A.R.M.O.N.Y — Helping Achieve Responsible Motivated Optimistic Neighborhood Youth. To learn more visit www.instituteofmusic.org

The Harlem Chamber Players

The Harlem Chamber Players is an ethnically diverse collective of professional musicians dedicated to bringing high-caliber, affordable and accessible live classical music to people in the Harlem community and beyond. The Harlem Chamber Players frequently collaborate with Harlem's other arts organizations, schools and cultural institutions in order to build a larger audience for classical music. The Harlem Chamber Players not only bring live chamber music to underserved neighborhoods in the Harlem community, but also create opportunities for classically trained minority musicians. To learn more visit www.harlemchamberplayers.org

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