

San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory



Year **One** Report 2010-2011



It has been an exciting year for San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory.

After three years of developing our vision with help from the League of American Orchestra's Institutional Vision Program, San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory (SDYS) embraced a 10 year goal: Make Music Education Accessible and Affordable for All. In order to accomplish this ambitious goal SDYS launched the Community Opus Project in the fall of 2010. Through this program SDYS is addressing the need for inclusive music education throughout the county. There are certainly opportunities for music education at some schools and community centers, but for underserved populations in the San Diego region there simply is not equity in access.

San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory is leading a movement to restore music education in schools by being a catalyst for change in the community. By partnering with schools, research institutions, social service agencies, professional artists, and parents we know that we are creating true collective impact in San Diego County. In the Community Opus Project's first year we have connected so many who believe in the power of music to transform a community and the results have been fantastic. With these achievements SDYS aspires to be a national model that other communities can emulate. You'll find some of the Opus success stories and outcomes in this report.

We are only at the beginning of this important journey to benefit all of San Diego. By using our 66 years of artistic success as a strong foundation, we are rallying the community to bridge the music education gap. We invite you to join us in making our neighborhoods more vibrant and nurturing for all students regardless of their socio-economic status. Only with the energy of every person and organization that believes in the power of music will we succeed. San Diego County's children are depending on you to become involved!

Sincerely,

Dalouge Smith
President & CEO

Rob Gaan
Chair, Board of Directors



President & CEO Dalouge Smith with Opus Student Luna Enriquez

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY OPUS PROJECT?

In the fall of 2010 San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory launched the El Sistema-inspired Community Opus Project at Otay and Lauderbach Elementary Schools in Chula Vista with 65 third graders. Prior to SDYS' involvement neither campus had music classes. Through Opus SDYS provides students in underserved communities with free instruments and expert instruction three times a week, and the halls at participating schools are now full of music. Opus students performed at UCSD, Copley Symphony Hall, and side by side with Castle Park Middle School and

High School ensembles in their first season of concerts. They also take part in intensive camps twice a year that allow them to delve deeper into music theory, voice training, music history, sectionals, and orchestral training. At their first camp the students learned about all of the historical and musical aspects of

Dvorak's New World Symphony before they played an arrangement of it for the Chula Vista Community.

However, the Community Opus Project is much more than a music program; it engages families in the education process and builds character and confidence in children who have few opportunities to shine. Through SDYS' network of partners the Community Opus Project connects students with professional artistic mentors in the San Diego Symphony, points families to resources at the Chula Vista Community Collaborative, measures student development and family engagement through UCSD's Center for Human Development and CREATE, and tracks the cognitive effects of music education with the Neurosciences Institute. By closely collaborating with the League of American Orchestras and El Sistema USA we have been able to communicate the impact of the Community Opus Project to a national audience.

Because of the first very successful year of Opus, and with support from the Chula Vista Elementary School District, SDYS will be expanding the reach of the program from two to six schools; 250 families in Chula Vista will benefit from the program in 2011-2012!



SDYS' INSTITUTIONAL VISION

10 YEAR GOAL

Music Education is Accessible and Affordable for All

Core Purpose:

Inspiring students to develop performance skills and character through music education.

Core Values:

Personal Achievement – *Motivating and facilitating performance excellence*

Community Leadership – *Developing respectful and responsible citizenship for the greater good*

Inclusiveness – *Embracing diversity and promoting collective learning*

CORE ACTIVITY AREAS

Program: Establish El Sistema inspired community music programs for pre-K to 12th grade students

Measurement: Track students' academic, personal, and musical achievement in comparison to their local, state, and national peers

Partnership: Collaborate with other community organizations to align Program, Measurement, Community Awareness, and Community Action efforts

Community Awareness: Promote the impact of music education by communicating the programs' outcomes and SDYS' leadership role

Community Action: Partner with teachers, administrators, and school boards to build support for restoring and strengthening music education in the school day for grades K-12

In just **9 short months** the Community Opus Project has provided a spark for change...

TRANSFORMING STUDENTS



- Opus students have increased feelings of self-efficacy and self worth
- Students learned to become teachers by teaching siblings, parents and each other every week
- The Opus students learned the importance of collaboration and cooperation in and outside of the ensemble
- Students had better attendance in class and teachers reported better behavior and class engagement

UNITING FAMILIES

- Parents increased their time spent at the schools supporting their children
- Older siblings bonded with younger siblings by teaching them songs and inviting them into the music making process
- Parents who had difficulty helping students with homework because of language barriers found ways to participate in their children's education through the universal language of music
- Families supported each other and embraced the collaborative orchestra spirit while organizing carpools, snacks, potlucks and rehearsals



STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS



- Opus students became ambassadors for the schools when performing in the Chula Vista community and beyond
- History and language lessons were fortified when discussing the origins of songs and writing El Sistema pen pals
- The Community Opus Project enhanced learning at the schools by providing a holistic arts experience to students

PARTNERS FOR COMMUNITY OPUS PROJECT SUCCESS:

Chula Vista Elementary School District
Sweetwater Union High School District Visual
and Performing Arts
Neurosciences Institute
UCSD Center for Human Development
UCSD CREATE
Chula Vista Community Collaborative
San Diego Symphony
La Jolla Music Society

Mainly Mozart
Youth Orchestra Los Angeles, LA Phil
South Bay Alliance for Arts Education
AERO San Diego
San Diego El Sistema Cadre
El Sistema USA
Abreu Fellows at New England Conservatory
The Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall
UCSD Extension Academic Connections



CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

84 EAST "J" STREET • CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910 • 619 425-9600

EACH CHILD IS AN INDIVIDUAL OF GREAT WORTH

July 14, 2011

Dalouge Smith
President & CEO
San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory
1650 El Prado #207A
San Diego, CA 92101



Superintendent Escobedo learning cello from an Opus student

Expanding
Opus with
school district
investment!

Dear Mr. Smith:

As Superintendent of the Chula Vista Elementary School District, I am pleased and honored for the opportunity to develop a partnership with the San Diego Youth Symphony for the purpose of providing music experiences for nearly 250 elementary school-age students at six different schools. This past year's pilot program at J. Calvin Lauderbach and Otay Elementary Schools was a resounding success that piqued high interest at other schools and with our Board of Education members.

In these times of financial uncertainty, not only in California but across the United States, we are still very committed to offering opportunities for students to experience the delight and pleasure that comes from music. The District has committed fiscal resources to support this partnership with the San Diego Youth Symphony. We hope this is only the beginning to a long-term relationship with the San Diego Youth Symphony in bringing music to the Chula Vista Community.

Sincerely,

Francisco Escobedo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

JN/FE:DB

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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FRANCISCO ESCOBEDO, Ed.D.

Empowering Commu

Community Opus Project Instrument Petting Zoo at Chula Vista Community Collaborative's Day of the Child



"The children stand taller now that are in Opus. They are so proud of themselves and know that they can do anything in life." – Opus Instructor



Performance at SDYS' 2011 Encore at Mi Casa Gala



Strengthening Schools

"With the addition of the Community Opus Program to our afterschool curriculum we believe we are better able to provide our students a holistic education that will nurture skills not being tapped by other courses being offered. This program not only introduces our students to the world of music making, but also teaches them important lessons in responsibility, leadership, and commitment."

– Rosario Villareal, Principal, Otay Elementary School

YOU CAN HELP BRING MUSIC TO ALL

unities Through Music

Transforming Students

Opus student Diego was so excited about the music he was learning that he began teaching his little brother Jesus how to play his viola at home. Soon they started pretending that one brother was the conductor and one brother was in the orchestra. SDYS gave Jesus an instrument so that he too could learn music. When asked what instrument we should give his little brother Diego responded: "Violin. That way we can play duets together." Diego has since begun to compose his own songs for them to perform together.

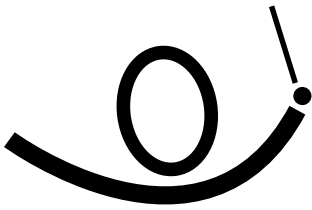


Students drawing pictures about what Dvorak's New World Symphony means to them at Opus Camp



Uniting Families

"The students have just developed so fast and learned so many things in such a short amount of time. It's great for the family; it's great for the community. Now I'm friends with a lot of the mothers and fathers of the other kids that we never had any contact with up until this program." – Opus Parent



San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory

Since 1945 San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory has given thousands of young musicians the opportunity to study and perform classical music at the highest level. It is the sixth oldest youth orchestra in the United States and the resident youth orchestra in the City of San Diego's historic Balboa Park. SDYS' program has grown from one advanced orchestra to three advanced symphony orchestras and six large ensembles for students at the intermediate and introductory levels. We now serve over 1000 students in our large ensemble community programs. In 2011 SDYS' Board of Directors were honored with the University of San Diego's Kaleidoscope Award for Exceptional Governance.

COMMUNITY OPUS PROJECT FOUNDATION, CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS

Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation
County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program
Cynergy
Ford Motor Company Fund
James Irvine Foundation
Kinder Morgan Foundation
League of American Orchestras
Mandel Weiss Charitable Trust
NAMM Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Nordson Corporation Foundation
Opus Community Foundation
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1650 El Prado, #207A, San Diego, CA 92101
619-233-3232 • www.sdys.org



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ADVISORY COUNCIL

These community leaders assist the Board of Directors, President & CEO, and Artistic Director of the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory with expertise and enthusiasm to advance the organizational mission and vision.

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Dalouge Smith

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