

# Midori Friends

Making Music Building Futures



## The Transformative Power of Music

2021-2022 *Impact Report*



Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

Midori & Friends is proud to begin our 30th season serving the New York City community by providing access to music education to thousands of students, families, and classrooms. Thanks to your unwavering support, New York City students have the opportunity to study an instrument with professional musicians, explore new musical genres and cultures, and foster creative self-expression through mentorship and performance opportunities.

Midori & Friends is committed to delivering a safe space for young students in New York City public schools to learn, play, and sing. We have commenced critical music education programs that spark joy, bring us together, and develop hope for the future. Midori & Friends partnered with 66 schools and community partners to serve 18,957 students and community members. 2021-2022 programs included Play to Learn instrument and vocal instruction; Celebrate! Music workshops and concerts; and the inaugural NEXTGen Musician leadership and advocacy program, engaging 9 teens from the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens.

Midori & Friends Teaching Artists and performance ensembles connected with students in-person and virtually, both during and after-school to foster collaboration, develop confidence, and improve student musicianship. We look forward to sharing future updates on culminating performances by Play to Learn students, community concerts with Celebrate! Music ensembles, and arts education advocacy campaigns by the NEXTGen Musician teen cohort.

Your support makes it possible for us to cultivate the next generation of life-long learners and leaders. Thank you for standing with us and helping us keep music education alive in New York City.

With much appreciation,

  
Larisa Gelman  
Executive Director

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# History

*“It has always been our mission, our goal, to have a variety and diversity of music. I wanted systemic change; I wanted the ability to mobilize different genres and musicians.”*  
-Midori

In 1992 our Founder, world-renowned violinist Midori, began performing solo concerts at PS 160 in Jamaica, Queens to bring exceptional music to students in New York City schools. 30 years later, that initial concert series has evolved into a leading music education program serving thousands of NYC PreK-12 students and partnering with over 60 public schools and community sites in neighborhoods throughout the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens.

Midori was born in Osaka, Japan in 1971 and began her violin studies with her mother, Setsu Goto, at an early age. As someone deeply committed to furthering humanitarian and educational goals, she has founded several non-profit organizations including NYC-based Midori & Friends and Japan-based MUSIC SHARING foundation.

**30 Years of Building Futures**

**1992**  
Founding Year

**300,000**  
Students Served

**1,500**  
World Music Concerts

**\$34.4 million**  
Invested in student programs

2021 - 2022  
School Year

18,957  
Students &  
Community  
Members  
Impacted

66  
Schools &  
Community  
Partners

56  
World Class  
Artists Hired

## Mission

Midori & Friends provides transformative tuition-free music education, access to live performances, and leadership development for youth from underserved communities.

For 30 years, Midori & Friends has invested in over 300,000 students in NYC by providing tuition-free music education programs. We serve local communities by providing programs that develop self-confidence, creativity, and ambition in our young people. As it ignites positive social change in the rising generations of students and their families, our dynamic music education programs enrich our city and the individual lives that make it great. We believe that by acting to realize the principles of equity, inclusion, and a strong, diverse population, we help to create an environment of goodwill upon which our city depends if its citizens are to flourish.

Midori & Friends makes the music of today and builds the futures of tomorrow.



# 2021-2022 Partnerships

For the 30th anniversary season, we were proud to collaborate with 66 schools and community-based organizations to provide music education programs.

## The Bronx

Celia Cruz Bronx High  
School of Music  
Icahn Charter 5  
MS 244X  
PS 226X  
PS 315X  
PS 536X  
PS 70X  
PS 85X  
Theater Arts Production  
Company School

## Brooklyn

JHS 259K  
MS 936K  
PS 102K  
PS 127K  
PS 160K  
PS 163K  
PS 170K  
PS 185K  
PS 194K  
PS 206K  
PS 207K  
PS 236K  
PS 290K  
PS 52K  
PS 59K  
PS 65K  
PS 748K  
PS 7K  
PS/IS 157K

## Manhattan

District 2 Pre-K: Battery  
District 2 Pre-K: E. 76th  
District 2 Pre-K: Midtown  
East  
District 2 Pre-K: Midtown  
West  
District 2 Pre-K: Peck Slip  
District 2 Pre-K: Reade  
District 2 Pre-K: 3rd Ave  
District 2 Pre-K: Tweed  
New Design Middle School  
PS 102M  
PS 152M  
PS 36M  
PS 38M  
PS 4M  
PS 72M  
PS 98M  
PS 180M  
Quest to Learn

## Queens

JHS 157Q  
JHS 67Q  
PS 101Q  
PS 124Q  
PS 203Q  
PS 229Q  
PS 232Q  
PS 333Q  
PS 48Q  
PS 51Q  
PS 54Q  
PS 62Q  
PS 63Q  
PS 66Q  
PS 98Q  
PS/MS 200Q

## Community-Based Organizations

Forest Hills Park  
Queens Public Library:  
Howard Beach  
Peninsula  
Seaside  
Woodhaven

# Students

Midori & Friends programs directly serve students in grades PreK-12 attending high-need schools in culturally diverse, socio-economically challenged neighborhoods throughout the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. Students develop as musicians, evolve as leaders, and become global citizens.



“Playing violin makes me more confident because learning an instrument is such a huge accomplishment.”

*3rd Grade Violin Student, PS 70X, Bronx*

# Schools

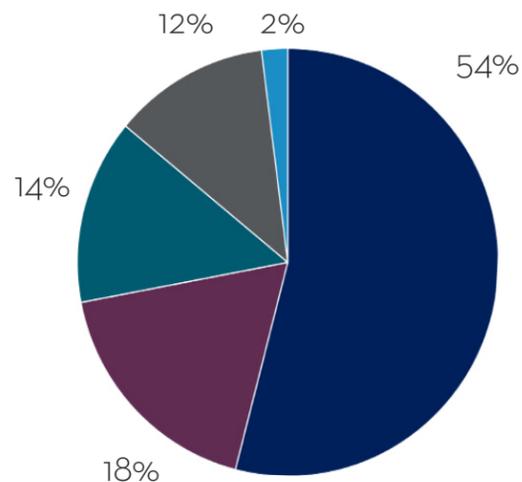
We are proud of our longstanding school partnerships ranging between 10-30 years. Through long-term residencies, Midori & Friends' programs become an integral part of a school's culture and curriculum.

“The culminating event was remarkable! We truly enjoy and value the wonderful partnership we have established and look forward to continuing working with Midori & Friends.”

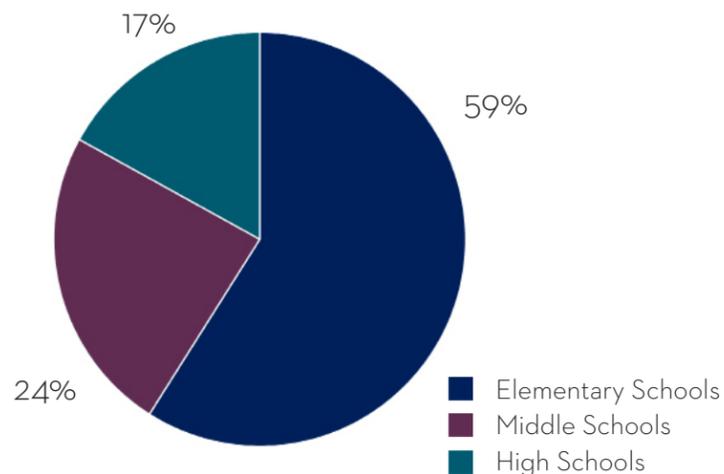
*Agatha Alicandro, Principal PS 127K, Brooklyn*



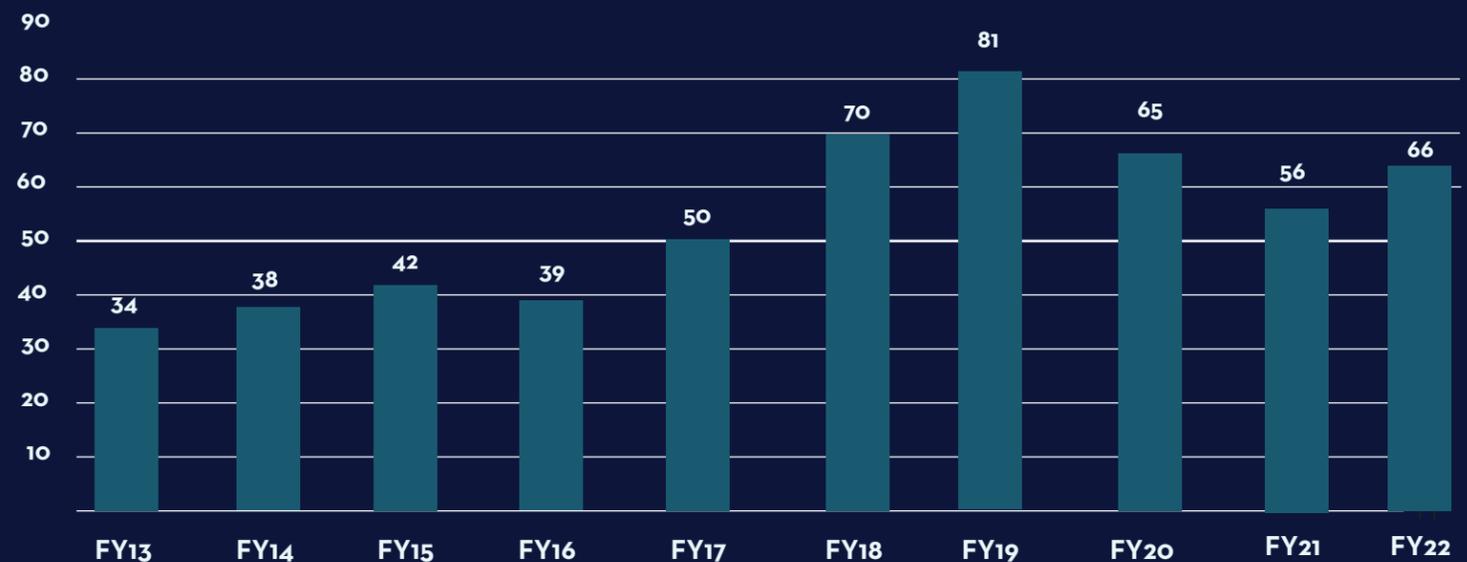
### Student Demographics



### School Type



### Total School Partnerships Per School Year



# Community

Midori & Friends is the realized vision of one great artist that has been supported by a dedicated community of thousands. Our impressive community consists of students, alumni, parents, principals, administrators, artists, Board of Directors, staff, steadfast donors, government leaders, and other cultural organizations. As we look back on the last 30 years, we can all take immense pride in the fact that we touched the lives of thousands of individuals through music.

Midori & Friends artists are talented working musicians and educators, are often hired year after year at the same site, embedding themselves in the school's culture and community. Our 44 Teaching Artists and 12 performing ensembles are accomplished musicians and gifted educators versed in engaging students with varied backgrounds and learning styles (60% Male, 40% Female, over 57% non-white). We are fortunate to have a dedicated Board of Directors and talented staff. The 17-member Board consists of 11 women and 6 men: 31% Asian; 16% Black, 5% Hispanic, and 48% White.



"This program makes it possible for so many of our students to excel. It makes the musicians at our school rise to their personal best."  
*David West, Orchestra Director,  
Celia Cruz Bronx High School for Music*

"I was so proud to be a part of one of the first Midori & Friends programs to return to in-person instruction since the pandemic closures. The students at MS 936K were excited and ready to learn. The students and I loved being back in the classroom!"  
*Kerrick Sasaki, Violin Teaching Artist*



"I love learning a new instrument because one day I want to be a musician. I want to pay it forward and teach other kids. That's why I joined guitar."  
*Dushani, 4th grader PS 62Q,  
Queens*



"Midori & Friends does so much more than just provide students with the opportunity to learn to play an instrument. It teaches them life lessons and skills that will help them navigate through their life. It's a privilege and an honor to be part of such an organization."  
*Yuka Hashimoto,  
Board Member since 2019*

2021 - 2022

2,495  
Instrument  
Instruction  
Hours

1,312  
Instrument  
Instruction  
Students

50  
Student  
Recitals

44  
Teaching  
Artists  
Employed

# Play to Learn

Honed over three decades of implementation in public schools, **Play to Learn** provides instrumental and vocal instruction for students in and out of school time. Midori & Friends Teaching Artists work with students to instill courageous self-expression, the joy of learning, and a spirit of service through high-quality music education programs. Students showcase their artistic growth in a culminating performance, which amplifies youth voices, their creativity, and the transformative power of the arts to ignite positive social change.

**Play to Learn** follows the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts and Blueprint for Teaching & Learning in Music: to Create, Perform, Respond, and Connect.

### Instruments Offered:

Chorus  
Guitar  
Violin  
Winds

Harp  
Percussion  
Ukulele  
Brass



“I feel our students are motivated and fulfilled creatively through the arts programs that we offer, specifically in music with Midori & Friends.”

*Dr. Sibylle Ajwani,  
Principal, PS 229Q*



2021 - 2022

12,466  
Students  
Engaged in  
Concerts

1,672  
Students Engaged  
in Workshops

87  
Concerts  
Presented

76  
Artist-led  
Workshops

12  
Ensembles  
Engaged

# Celebrate! Music

Midori & Friends' **Celebrate! Music** program invites young learners to become global citizens in an active exploration of world music. By learning about the richness of cultural traditions, works of art, and musical customs around the globe, in class and through live performances, students cultivate a global perspective that nurtures empathy and understanding.

**Celebrate! Music** brings engaging world music ensembles and corresponding workshops into New York City public schools. Students experience live artist performances and interactive workshops with Teaching Artists, over the course of a celebratory four-session residency. Midori & Friends provides professional development for classroom teachers to help facilitate curriculum connections in the classroom and school community.



## Workshops

Students participate in a cultural curriculum of four artist-led workshops for an immersive experience in global traditions and music making, inspiring self-expression, social connection, and creativity. In collaboration with school partners, students will participate in highly interactive musical activities and demonstrations from world-class artists, introducing students to the history, culture, and traditions of each ensemble.

## Concerts

Performances are 45-60 Minutes, presented in an interactive and engaging format. Artists will lead audience members in call and response activities, instrument demonstrations, and conclude with a Q&A session.

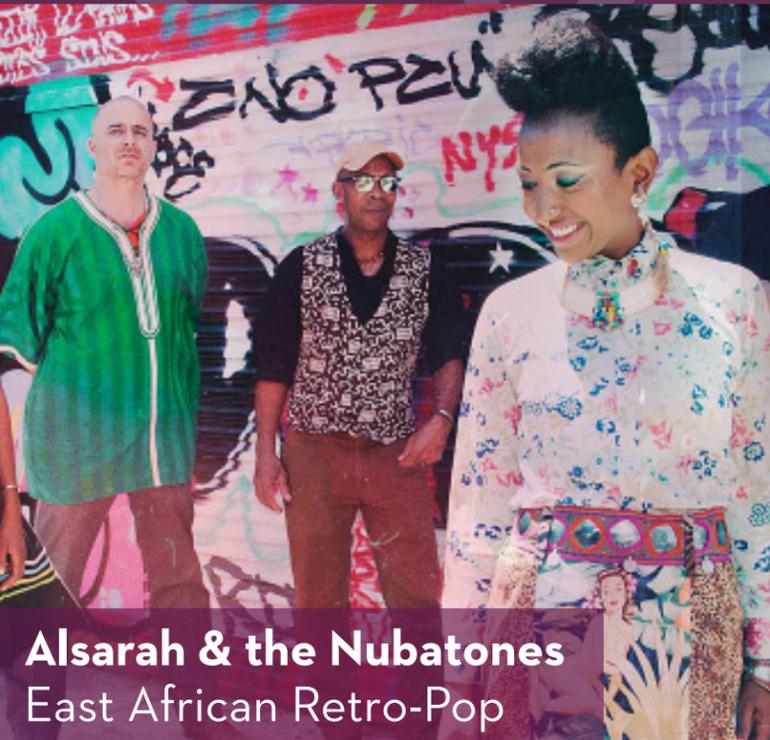
# 2021-2022 Celebrate! Music Ensembles



**La Manga**  
Caribbean Diaspora



**Second Line Arts Collective**  
Early Music Education



**Alsarah & the Nubatones**  
East African Retro-Pop



**Argus Quartet**  
Classical & Contemporary



**Swing Makes You Sing**  
Jazz



**Kaoru Watanabe Taiko Center**  
Japanese Percussion



**ARKAI**  
Contemporary Strings



**AURELIO**  
Traditional Garifuna



**Elena Moon Park**  
East Asian Folk



**Harlem Quartet**  
String Quartet, Contemporary



**The Villalobos Brothers**  
Mexican Contemporary



**Yasser Tejeda**  
Dominican Jazz & Rock

2021 - 2022

126  
Music Lessons,  
Workshops,  
& Mentorship  
Opportunities

9  
Students  
Enrolled

7  
Instruments  
Played

2  
Performance  
Opportunities

# NEXTGen Teen Musician

**NEXTGen Musician**, a youth voices leadership and advocacy program, launched in 2022 for New York City public school teens. Scholarships were provided for students to explore career pathways, in music and beyond, through workshops, private lessons, masterclasses, performances, work-study opportunities, and career labs with critical thinkers in diverse fields of study and extraordinary artists, including world-renowned virtuoso violinist, Midori! Teens sharpened their advocacy skills through storytelling, public speaking, and persuasive writing. The program culminated with a community presentation of their collaborative arts advocacy campaign featuring the next generation of music leaders.



“Thanks to the NEXTGen program at Midori & Friends, I was able to develop my personal artistry and explore new means of expression with a group of accepting, like-minded peers.”

*Penelope Shvarts,  
NEXTGen Teen Musician, guitar*



# Evaluations & Outcomes

As part of Midori & Friends' commitment to providing the highest-quality music instruction programs to students, we have developed an extensive set of assessment and evaluation tools to deepen our approach and understanding of student learning, Teaching Artist performance, program success, and community impact. We directly assess our students and Teaching Artists at various points during the year and solicit feedback from key stakeholders.

## Students

**100%** of NEXTGen Teen students expressed desire to continue the program for a second year.

**93%** of students were proud of their performance at the final recital.

**93%** of students found a sense of responsibility in caring for their instrument/voice.

**92%** said they made a new friend in their Midori & Friends class.

**88%** found a positive collaborative spirit while working as an ensemble or team.

## School Leaders

**88%** of School Leaders recalled satisfied students and parents at the culmination of their Midori & Friends program.

**85%** of School Leaders reported a productive working relationship with Midori & Friends' staff and administration.

## Teaching Artists

**85%** of Teaching Artists disclosed that their students had successfully learned a broad, varied repertoire under their instruction.

**85%** of Teaching Artists noted that students expressed greater stage presence performing individually and as a group.



"I really enjoyed my time in the NEXTGen Teen Musician program. I created many first time memories that will stay with me through my entire life."

*Wilton Martinez,  
NEXTGen Teen Musician,  
violin*



# 2021-2022 Supporters

## New York City Council Members

Shaun Abreu, District 7  
Speaker Adrienne Adams, District 28  
Joann Ariola, District 32  
Diana Ayala, District 8  
Erik Bottcher, District 3  
Justin Brannan, District 43  
Carmen De La Rosa, District 10  
James Gennaro, District 24  
Robert Holden, District 30  
Amanda Farías, District 18  
Oswald Feliz, District 15  
Linda Lee, District 23  
Vickie Paladino, District 19  
Mercedes Narcisse, District 46  
Sandy Nurse, District 37  
Lincoln Restler, District 33  
Kristin Richardson Jordan, District 9  
Pierina Ana Sanchez, District 14  
Lynn Schulman, District 29  
Inna Vernikov, District 48

## Corporations & Foundations

Amazon Smile  
Con Edison  
Disney  
First Republic Bank  
The Irwin Scherzer Foundation  
John & Joan D'Addario Foundation  
JP Morgan Chase  
Gerson Family Foundation  
Linda & Isaac Stern Foundation  
Mitsui USA Foundation  
MUFG Union Bank  
Nippon Steel North America, Inc.  
Norinchukin Foundation  
Paul Galvin Memorial Foundation  
The Pierre & Tana Matisse Foundation  
Salesforce Foundation  
Sony Music Group  
Tanaka Memorial Foundation  
Whispering Bells Foundation



Council on  
the Arts

**NYC** Cultural  
Affairs

# Team

Midori  
*Founder & President Emeritus*  
Ron Claiborne  
*Chair*  
Marilyn Cohen  
*Vice Chair*  
Geeta Sharma, M.D.  
*Secretary*

## **Chairs Emeriti**

John D'Addario, Jr.  
Alan Fischer  
Jill Kilnow Jaffe  
Peter D. Lederer

## **Board of Directors**

Midori  
Ron Claiborne  
Marilyn Cohen  
Alan Fischer  
Laraine Fischer  
Peter Glaser  
Daniel Goldhagen  
Setsu Goto  
Deanna Landivar-Ruiz  
Jennifer Hanley  
Yuka Hashimoto  
Robert Merrell  
Marc Richter  
Yukari Saegusa  
Howard Sendrovitz  
Elana Slobodien  
Geeta Sharma, M.D.  
Makiko Tanaka

## **Artistic Advisory Committee**

Emanuel Ax  
Yefin Brofman  
Regina Carter  
Paquito D'Rivera  
Eliot Fisk  
Wynton Marsalis  
Zubin Mehta  
Audra McDonald  
Achinoam Nini  
Mark O'Connor  
Dawn Upshaw

## **Staff**

Larisa Gelman  
*Executive Director*  
Thomas Cawley  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
Luz MacManus  
*Vice President of Development*  
Jacqueline Cannon  
*Director of Marketing & Communications*  
Garrett Obrycki  
*Director of Education*  
Laurent Grant Williams  
*School Programs Coordinator*  
Siena Faughnan  
*Concert Programs Coordinator*  
Justin Withers  
*School Programs Coordinator*  
Ethan Usoskin  
*Marketing & Development Assistant*

# Teaching Artists

Alex Appel  
Zeke Baradash  
Skyla Budd  
Caitlin Caruso Dobbs  
Caitlin Cawley  
Christopher Coffey  
Arthur Dibble  
Susan Dominguez  
Charisa Dowe-Rouse  
Eric Eaton  
Audrey Flores  
Elise Frawley  
Erica Gailing  
Clemens Grassman  
Guido Gonzalez  
EunMoo Heo  
Sten Hoestfaelt  
Erika Hubbard  
Ron Jackson  
Ju Jin-Bornet  
Gregor Kitzis  
Michelle Yeunhae Lie

Sean Lyons  
Ayodele Maakheru  
Anna Majerchczyk  
Adam Moezinia  
Ravish Momin  
Guillaume Muller  
Sana Nagano  
John Ostrowski  
Matt Panayides  
Joan Plana Nadal  
Isabel Quines  
Christopher Ramirez  
Nelson Riveros  
Nicholas Russo  
Kerrick Sasaki  
Jake Sayraf  
Yurina Shin  
Matt Summers  
David Stern  
Grant Swift  
Michael Vannoni  
Lynne Wilson

# Midori Friends

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“Serving the vision of Midori to educate and transform the lives of children in underserved communities is a labor of love and gives time meaning.”  
*Alan Fischer, Chair Emeritus*

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