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The People's Music School to celebrate Social + Musical Impact at *Let It Shine* Gala

Chicago, January 22, 2018- The People's Music School (TPMS), the first and only completely tuition-free music school of its kind in the country, announces its [gala, \*Let It Shine\*, on Saturday, May 11 at Morgan Manufacturing](#).

*Let It Shine* welcomes friends, supporters, artistic partners, and community leaders to celebrate over 40 years of social and musical impact in Chicago. TPMS delivers access to the benefits of high-quality music education and mentorship to nearly 700 students in Chicago, through four sites in Uptown, Albany Park, Back of the Yards, and Greater South Side. Through their studies with TPMS, students develop essential life skills, find their voice, and grow through a range of high-impact partnerships and residencies the organization has formed, from Yo-Yo Ma and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, to Chicago Public Schools and Bottom Line college prep, to Louder Than A Bomb and Obama Summit, and many more.

Since 2015, the school's student population and annual revenue have more than doubled, and TPMS aims to continue this growth and take in more students off their long waiting list. As TPMS is 100% tuition-free, and supported by private donations, funds raised through the gala are essential to continuing their programs. Jennifer Kim-Matsuzawa, President and Artistic Director, notes, "We are Chicago's special gem, empowering the next generation of citizens and artists with the support of thousands of volunteers, funders, teachers, artists, alumni, and more."

*Let It Shine* will be held at Morgan Manufacturing in the Fulton Market district and feature a cocktail reception, seated dinner, and special student and guest performances throughout the evening, including a performance by Grammy-award winning artists Third Coast Percussion, another artistic partner of the school. TPMS will honor Genevieve Thiers, the groundbreaking entrepreneur, civic leader and opera singer who embodies this school's "Raise Your Voice – And Let It Shine" theme. Additional awards will recognize exceptional community leaders and teaching artists who have enabled TPMS to build cultural assets across the city. Jennifer and Ashley Keller and Katy and Jonathan Kletzel -- business leaders, community investors and board members of TPMS -- will serve as co-chairs of the event.

Tickets for the event can be purchased [online](#). The event will begin at 6:30pm on Saturday, May 11 at Morgan Manufacturing (401 N. Morgan St.), located near the 90/94 expressways, two blocks southwest of the blue

line, and two blocks north of the green line. Valet parking will be available. To learn more about the event and sponsorship opportunities, please see our [website](#) and contact [development@peoplesmusicsschool.org](mailto:development@peoplesmusicsschool.org)

## About The People's Music School

The People's Music School is the only completely free music school, focused solely on Chicago's underserved children. Our mission is to deliver access to the benefits of high-quality, immersive music education. Through intensive instruction and performance, our students achieve excellence in music that transfers to the classroom and beyond. They grow musically, socially, emotionally and intellectually, and develop a foundation of responsibility, self-esteem, resilience and purpose. The school serves 700 students, ages 5-18, over 90% of color, with a 100% graduation rate through four program hubs in Uptown, Albany Park, Back of the Yards and Greater South Side. The school has been featured widely in the media for its innovation, impact and excellence in Billboard Magazine, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Crain's Chicago Business, Chicago Sun-Times, CBS News, PBS, WGN, and more. To learn more about The People's Music School and upcoming events, please visit: [www.peoplesmusicsschool.org](http://www.peoplesmusicsschool.org).

## About Genevieve Thiers

Genevieve Thiers is an entrepreneur, disruptor, civic leader, investor and opera singer in Chicago. Her first company, [Sittercity.com](http://Sittercity.com), is America's first company to take caregiving services online. She has invested in dozens of women-in-tech companies and is dedicated to fixing the imbalance of women in tech. Genevieve and her companies have won over 18 awards, including the INC 500 list twice, SBA Small Business Young Entrepreneur of the Year in the White House, the CEC Momentum Award, a CNN Young Heroes feature, and more. She has also been featured thousands of times in the press for her work, by the TODAY show, Ellen, the View, MSNBC, the CBS Early Show, CNN, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and more. Genevieve's civic investment includes [New Founders Conference](#), which brings together innovators to redesign our systems and leadership to allow America 2.0 to emerge. As a performer, Genevieve has sung lead roles with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Goodman Theater, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

## About Third Coast Percussion

Founded in 2005, Third Coast Percussion (TCP) is a Grammy-winning, artist-run quartet of classically-trained percussionists forging a unique path with virtuosic, energetic performances. The ensemble has been praised for "commandingly elegant" (New York Times) performances, the "rare power" (Washington Post) of their recordings, and "an inspirational sense of fun and curiosity" (Minnesota Star-Tribune). TCP maintains a busy touring schedule around the world, presenting across the United States, Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Poland; and at venues ranging from concert halls at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and De Doelen to clubs and alternative performance spaces such as New York's Le Poisson Rouge and the National Gallery's West Garden Court. TCP is a champion of new music, commissioning dozens of new works by composers including Glenn Kotche, Chris Cerrone, Donnacha Dennehy, Timo Andres, David T. Little, Ted Hearne, and Augusta Read Thomas.

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