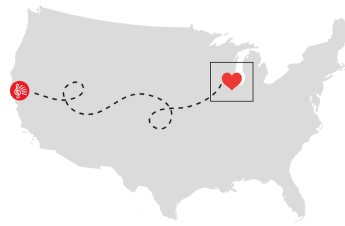




OUR MISSION

We deliver access to the transformational benefits of high-quality, tuition-free music education. Through intensive instruction and performance, our students **achieve excellence in music that transfers to other areas in life.** They grow musically, socially, emotionally and intellectually, and develop a foundation of responsibility, self-esteem, resilience and purpose.

WHERE WE ARE



We serve under-resourced youth in **4** program sites across Chicago:

- Back of the Yards
- Greater South Side
- Albany Park
- Uptown

With **1** pilot program in East Palo Alto, CA

WHO WE ARE

Our story began in 1976 with Dr. Rita Simó, a Juilliard-trained pianist from the Dominican Republic who rented out a former beauty salon with \$630 in order to provide free music lessons for all. Our community now spans:

850+ students, ages 5-18

90%+ of color (45% African-American, 40% LatinX)

60+ committed, talented, inspiring, paid teaching artists

10,000+ students served since 1976

94%+ attendance rate after shifting to online classes in March 2020

10,000+ hours of cost-saving service performed by our families every year

WHAT WE DO

Intensive, outcomes-driven, free music instruction (average 3 hours/student/week, with 250,000+ learning hours delivered per year.

Industry-leading student retention (90%), musical progression (98%), and growth mindset development

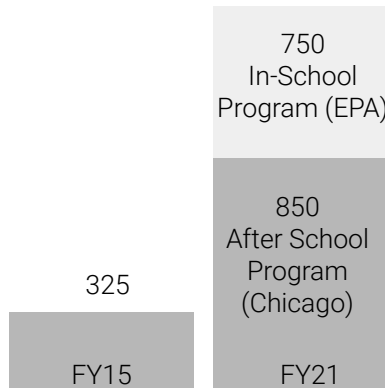
14 different kinds of instruments
25 ensembles of diverse music genres
93 performances last year
40 paid summer interns
30 summer ambassadors in 2019 representing us across 9 countries

100% committed to realizing a child's potential and self-worth through music

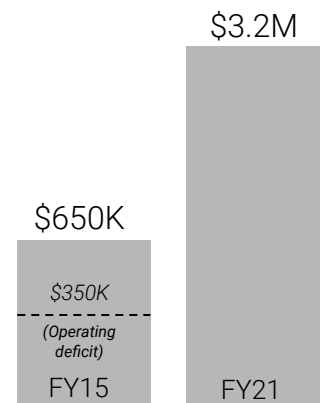
A SYSTEM WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

This year we launched our **first national pilot expansion** in East Palo Alto. With your commitment, we are on track to serve **750** deserving, under-resourced youth in the Ravenswood school district and **further grow** our Chicago student base.

Students Served



Operating Budget



BEYOND THE MUSIC

Our impact beyond music has been studied in an **independent, national, longitudinal evaluation effort.**

Our students demonstrate industry-leading gains in not only music, but also in social and emotional life skills with a growth mindset - proven to lead to success later in life.

RISING STARS

100% of our high school seniors graduate and attend colleges from Harvard to Grinnell, Stanford to Loyola, Northwestern to DePauw. They study biomedical engineering, psychology, computer science, communications, nursing, and yes... music!

We're so proud!

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

We build pride across Chicago through **innovative, ground-breaking, high-quality partnerships**, including:

Grammy-winning Third Coast Percussion, Jimmy Chamberlin (Smashing Pumpkins), Emanuel Ax, Yo-Yo Ma, International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Chicago Symphony, Obama Foundation, and more.



COMMUNITY PARTNER

"[TPMS] is a **catalyst** for improved self-esteem and academic success. The students are getting accepted into top high schools. It's cool, and their peers look up to them."

- Scott Ahlman
CPS principal

FAITHFUL FUNDER

"[TPMS is] a **unique, innovative and highly effective gem** in Chicago, well-deserving of distinguished recognition"

- Fry Foundation

INVESTED COLLABORATOR

"From the students, to the teachers, to the staff, **everything you all do is so engaging, well planned, and creative...** [TPMS] is such an inspiring organization to be around."

- Grammy-winning
Third Coast Percussion

Mia is a bright, talented, vibrant vocalist, a high school senior and part of The People's Music School for eight years. Mia has not only distinguished herself as a leader onstage, but across our community. Mia is from the Garfield Ridge neighborhood near Midway Airport, and makes the long commute to Uptown for her lessons and rehearsals after school.

People's is a family affair for

Mia's family - her older sister started at People's first, and is now a student at The University of Miami. Mia's father, Gerry, is a Chicago Police Officer who goes above and beyond our service requirement by keeping our students safe. Gerry has been honored by our community for his work on our security protocols and his continuous assistance with various safety matters.

"**My parents have made so many sacrifices** for me and my sisters to be here," Mia said. "Ever since I was little, my parents have been so encouraging of my love for music."

Music has opened up new worlds of opportunity for Mia. Mia worked intensively with her vocal teacher and People's program staff to prepare an audition and application to one of the most premier summer music opportunities in the world - the Berklee College of Music's ASPIRE: Five-Week Music Performance Intensive in Boston. As part of People's summer ambassador program, Mia represented our community and had a transformative experience.

Mia has big plans for the future: "Whatever I do in life - whether it's music, or business, or medicine - I know that I always want to carry the compassion that I learned at People's with me," said Mia. "**[People's] sees potential in all of its students.** Even when a student is having trouble in class, or at home, or when the whole world's telling them they're not enough, everybody has an opportunity at the music school - everybody matters. **At People's, you can be whoever you want to be.**"

- Mia, age 17





Chicago Tribune

[Rita Simo, visionary founder of the People's Music School, has died. 'Rita always strove for justice.'](#) (Sep. 2020)

CHICAGO
SUN*TIMES

[People's Music School is helping shape kids' futures one note at a time \(Oct. 2019\)](#)



[People's Music School Bringing Free Music Classes To South Side Kids With New Location In Bronzeville \(Aug. 2019\)](#)

CHICAGO'S VERY OWN
WGN9

[Chicago's New Mayor Lori Lightfoot Kicks Off People's Music School Celebration \(Jun. 2019\)](#)



[Hundreds Of Kids Unite For 'Performapaloozathon' At The People's Music School \(May, 2019\)](#)

Chicago Tribune

[At People's Music School, parents clean toilets, repair leaks, work security — all for a shot at a world-class education for their kids \(May, 2019\)](#)



[ABC7 News Showcases TPMS President Jennifer Kim-Matsuzawa as part of Asian-American Heritage Month \(May, 2019\)](#)

UNIVISION

[La iniciativa que brinda educación musical gratuita a pequeños en Chicago \(Free Music Education for Children Across Chicago\) \(May, 2019\)](#)

CRAIN'S
CHICAGO BUSINESS.

[Woman-Up Series: Four Non-Profits, Four Financial Turnarounds \(Jun. 2018\)](#)

billboard

[Chance the Rapper, Common, Lin-Manuel Miranda and The People's Music School at Obama Summit \(Nov. 2017\)](#)

billboard

[Billboard Magazine interviews TPMS about performing for the Obamas \(Nov. 2017\)](#)

CRAIN'S
CHICAGO BUSINESS.

[Can Yo-Yo Ma Save Chicago? He's Certainly Trying – with People's Music School \(Jun. 2017\)](#)

dna info CHICAGO

[Kids Facing Racism, Trauma Find Safe Haven At People's Music School \(Apr. 2017\)](#)

CBS Chicago.com

[The People's Music School Selected to Launch OneChicago Campaign, Affirming Chicago as Sanctuary City for Immigrants \(May, 2017\)](#)

wttw11 | 98.7wfmt

[Yo-Yo Ma Talks About The People's Music School \(Dec. 2016\)](#)

CHICAGO
SUN*TIMES

[Matsuzawa Leads Turnaround at The People's Music School \(Jul. 2016\)](#)

dna info CHICAGO

[The People's Music School is Back \(May, 2016\)](#)

built in chicago

[This Music Hackathon Brings Chicago's Best Technologists + Musicians Together \(Mar. 2016\)](#)

Chicagolno

[What Music Ed is Learning from Tech Start-ups at The People's Music School \(Feb. 2016\)](#)

CBS Chicago.com

[The People's Music School is "Someone You Should Know" \(Dec. 2014\)](#)

The New York Times

[The Cost of The People's Music School: A Week Waiting on the Sidewalk \(Feb. 2011\)](#)