

## About The People's Music School

The People's Music School (TPMS) is a tuition-free music school focused on serving under-resourced children across Chicago - and beyond. The mission is to deliver access to the benefits of high-quality, immersive music education. Through intensive instruction and performance, 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. In Chicago, the school serves 850+ students annually hailing from over 50 zip codes, and over 90% are of color. 100% of the seniors graduate high school and enroll in college.

The school's students have performed with Yo-Yo Ma, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Third Coast Percussion, Jimmy Chamberlin of the Smashing Pumpkins, and have partnered with Chicago Public Schools, Bottom Line college prep, Louder Than A Bomb and Obama Summit, among many more. The school has been featured widely in the media for its innovation, impact and excellence including Billboard Magazine, New York Times, The Today Show, ABC 7 Chicago, Chicago Tribune, Crain's Chicago Business, Chicago Sun-Times, Univision, CBS News, and WGN.

## A Brief History of TPMS

The People's Music school opened its doors for the first time in 1976. Founded by Dr. Rita Simó, a Juilliard-trained pianist from the Dominican Republic, the legacy of tuition-free music education began in a repurposed barber shop, until a vacant lot on a residential block in Uptown eventually became its permanent home.

In 2008, TPMS launched an El Sistema-inspired youth orchestra program in Albany Park in partnership with Hibbard Elementary School. In 2014, former TPMS instructor Jennifer Kim-Matsuzawa returned to TPMS as President & Artistic Director after achieving active leadership roles at Bain & Company and PepsiCo, bringing renewed vision and energy to the organization. Across the next five years TPMS doubled in size, expanding to the Back of the Yards through a partnership with Lara Elementary School—and most recently—to the Greater South Side, with support from Bronzeville Classical Elementary. In 2020, TPMS' founder Dr. Rita Simó passed away in her home after serving the Chicago community for over 40 years. Her legacy lives on through the resilient community she has built and the lives she has transformed.