REUNITED THROUGH MUSIC

2021-2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

The People’s Music School
We began this year with a familiar feeling of uncertainty.

We persevered through remote learning, finding creative ways to perform with our peers and improve upon our musicality. We hoped our days of making music together in-person would return soon.

We ended this year on a high note, having experienced some incredible joys together.

We opened our sites to in-person learning, reunited as a community at Big Night, sent our talented seniors off on the next steps in their journeys, and ushered in our biggest audience ever for an outstanding summer performance.
2021-2022 AT A GLANCE

747 students served

60+ talented teaching artists

4+ learning hours per student per week

21 instruments taught

24 student performances, masterclasses, and workshops

25 ensembles of diverse musical genres

In February 2022, we returned to in-person programming! At last, the TPMS community was together again.

We encouraged the TPMS community to #PlayItForward at our 2022 Big Night Gala and raised over $500,000.

We bid farewell to the TPMS Class of ’22, with 23 bright young musicians moving on to post-secondary opportunities.

We performed with Grammy award-winning musician Jeff Tweedy for a record-breaking audience of over 10,000 at Pritzker Pavilion.
"TPMS has been a great experience for my entire family. We love the community and the love and teamwork that comes together in every practice, concert and recital. I think it's a great program especially for families who normally wouldn't be able to afford music lessons for their children."

- TPMS family

"Music is an integral part of our life. TPMS helps by not only teaching our kids to play instruments and read notes but also expanding their minds and developing strategies and disciplines for other areas of their lives."

- TPMS family

"I strongly believe in the power of music as an important tool to make better societies, improving life quality through opportunities and access."

- TPMS teaching artist

"The People's Music School is my second home."

Alam M., guitar student
TPMS Class of '22
IMPACT OF MUSIC

Research shows that intensive music education leads to higher graduation rates, higher salaries, higher rates of voting and volunteering, lower rates of crime, and more. Students who receive a music education are:

2x more likely to complete college
5x less likely to drop out of school
20% more likely to have gainful employment

LOOKING AHEAD

By 2026, the 50th anniversary of The People's Music School, we will significantly impact the lives of 1,000 students living in Chicago's underserved communities through music. We are working to achieve this by prioritizing student acceleration, phenomenal teaching, performance excellence, school partnerships, and national reach.

Just some of our generous partners who made this year possible:

2022 CZI Community Fund • The Caerus Foundation • DCASE • The Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation • MacArthur Foundation • Marjorie Pelino • The Negaunee Foundation • Polk Bros. Foundation • The Reva and David Logan Foundation • AND MANY MORE!
We're not just teaching music. We're transforming lives.

Through intensive instruction and performance, our students achieve excellence in music that transfers to other areas of life. They grow musically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually and develop a foundation of responsibility, self-esteem, resilience, and purpose.

The People's Music School

You can support high-quality, tuition-free music education by giving the gift of music today.

peoplesmusicschool.org