



# 100% tuition-free. 100% life changing.

The mission of The People's Music School is to deliver access to the 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.



## Our Vision

The People's Music School (TPMS) envisions a society where all children have access to the unique social, emotional, intellectual benefits achieved through musical excellence. We believe music is transformative and empowers the lives of youth, families and communities.

Dr. Rita Simó, a Juilliard-trained classical pianist, was inspired by the free music education she received as a child in the Dominican Republic. Her dream became a reality in 1976, when she opened the doors of The People's Music School in a vacant storefront in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago.

Today, TPMS has expanded to serve 750 students from 55 ZIP codes across the Chicago metropolitan area.

## Our Programs

- Young students begin their musical journeys with **General Music**, a program that teaches the foundations of music designed for elementary students grades K-2.
- **Music Theory** curriculum at The People's Music School trains students to think critically and apply new tools for creative self-expression.
- **Lessons**, both private and group, offer students the opportunity to refine their skills, nurture their creativity, and demonstrate musical excellence.
- **Ensembles** offer our students the opportunity to collaborate as young musicians, learn from their peers, and perform for live audiences.
- Our **Service, Leadership, Artistry, and Mentorship (SLAM)** honors program gives advanced, older students the opportunity to build on their skills of discipline, teamwork, critical thinking and self-assurance and apply them as they face new challenges and experience new opportunities.

# 750

students enrolled

# 21

instruments taught

# 65+

teaching artists

# 2,900+

learning hours per year

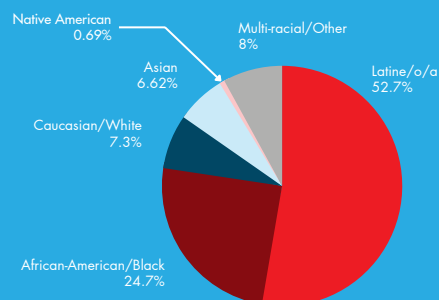
## Our Unique Model

We're 100% focused on removing all barriers to access.

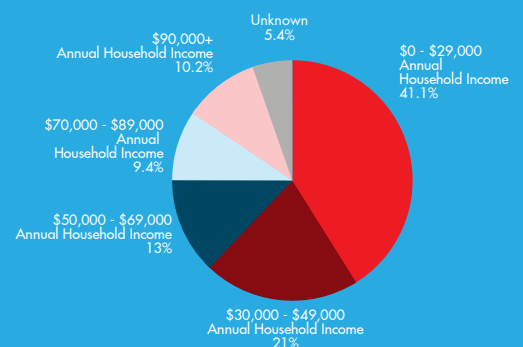
- **Financial:** rigorous music education provided at zero-cost
- **Geographical:** We work in the communities we serve - free bus transportation at our community sites and one-on-ones with families to create schedule accommodations for students
- **Cultural:** Families receive bilingual communications; faculty are provided resources for culturally responsive music education
- **Social-emotional:** Faculty receive trauma-informed professional development and training

## Our Community

### RACIAL DIVERSITY



### SOCIOECONOMIC DIVERSITY



## Our Partnerships

**School Partnerships:** By bringing our programming to where students are, we reduce barriers to access, allowing our programming to reach students who otherwise would not be able to participate.



**Artistic Partnerships:** In joining forces with arts organizations across the city, we enrich the music education our students receive by providing unique performance experiences and opportunities for growth.



**Case Study - Hyde Park Academy High School:** We transformed the previously dormant 6,000 square foot music space on the campus into a thriving music and arts hub. We enrolled 130 students in our first year and forged connections with local community groups, as well.

**Case Study - Chicago Sinfonietta:** James Sanders, violinist from the Chicago Sinfonietta, provided one-on-one coaching and mentorship to select SLAM students this year. Sinfonietta musicians also joined forces with us for Performapaloozathon, playing side-by-side with our SLAM orchestra for the event's headlining piece.



## Our Impact

# 80%

year-over-year student retention

# 100%

high school graduation rate

# 100%

college acceptance rate

Our data shows that the longer students remain in our program, the deeper and more sustainable the impact, in particular given the learning disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in our student community.

Students that persist in our program through their senior year graduate high school and go on to attend college 100% of the time. However, even students that stay with us for two to three years see dramatic increases in growth mindset and grit.

Our goal is to create the conditions that give every student that joins TPMS an opportunity to persist in a long-term journey of growth and progress in our program.

"Throughout the seven years I was a part of this program, I found a community of people that supported me in all of my endeavors. I worked with teachers who were inviting, treated me with respect, and nurtured my creativity. Most importantly, I found my spark. Singing became my outlet for self expression."

Avril D.  
TPMS Alumnus

"For our family, we are always in awe of how our girls are both so confident and how they have such a wonderful sense of community because of TPMS. They have built lasting friendships with students from all over Chicago, they interact with people from different cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. They feel heard, they feel capable, and they have tapped into their own unique creativity."

Monik Harden  
TPMS Parent

"The inspirational growth and development I've seen in our students, fostered by TPMS's unwavering dedication and passion, have opened new horizons of creativity, confidence, and personal growth. I wholeheartedly applaud the TPMS partnership for its unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a strong sense of belonging."

Hiliana Leon  
Principal, Hibbard Elementary School

## How to Get Involved



- **Spread the word:** Tell a friend, follow and boost us on social media, or host an event! We always need more people to know about the great work happening at TPMS.
- **Donate:** Every dollar you donate goes towards eliminating barriers to access in music education and enriching young lives in Chicago.
- **Attend an Event:** Head to our website to see our calendar of upcoming concerts, recitals, community programming, and more.
- **Join a Committee or Task Force:** Committee and task force members serve as advisors and experts that guide our work.
- **Volunteer:** Get in touch to volunteer at one of our nearly 30 performances per year!

## Get in Touch

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