

BIG NIGHT:



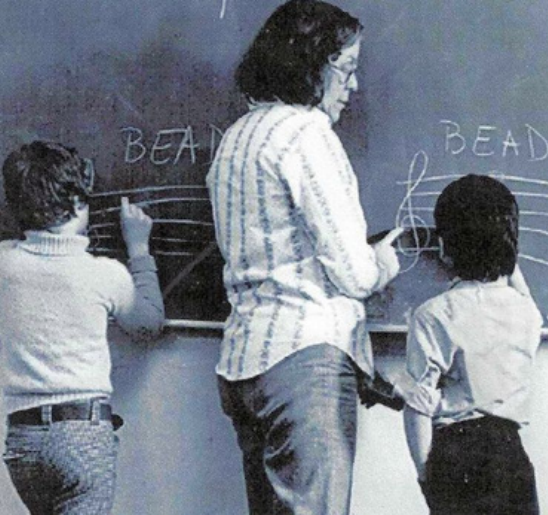
The
People's
Music
School

FIFTY YEARS OF DARING TO PLAY

CELEBRATING RITA SIMÓ'S AUDACIOUS,
ENDURING VISION OF MUSIC FOR ALL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026
6-10PM
THE GERAGHTY

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



For 50 years, The People's Music School has been delivering on its founder's bold vision.

In 1976, Dr. Rita Simó opened the doors to The People's Music School in Uptown, bringing her vision of a completely free music school to life. Fifty years later, The People's Music School has provided free, intensive music education to thousands of students across Chicago who face financial barriers to accessing music education. From our humble beginnings as an old beauty parlor storefront in Uptown, to our current programming reaching 800+ students representing over 55 ZIP codes, The People's Music School has enabled Chicago's children to unlock their creativity, find their voices, and achieve their dreams. For fifty years, we've provided access to the benefits of an intensive music education - and we've done it 100% tuition-free.

That's why we're asking for your support for **Big Night: 50 Years of Daring to Play**, the People's Music School's ninth annual Big Night gala. At our biggest night of the year, we will celebrate five decades of bold dreams, proud accomplishments, and growing impact.

This year, we will posthumously honor Dr. Rita Simó, founder of The People's Music School, as we recognize and celebrate her legacy of impact. A Dominican immigrant and Juilliard-trained pianist, Rita founded "The Music School for the People" in 1976 in a former beauty salon, staffed by volunteers and made possible by the donation of a baby grand piano. She had dreamt of having her own place to teach and share the joy of learning music with others, and her tenacity made that dream a reality that endures five decades later. She believed all children should have access to music education, regardless of their family's socioeconomic status. Her joyful spirit, fierce commitment to equity, and deep pride in her Dominican heritage made her a beloved leader in Chicago. A pillar in Chicago's arts community and a tireless voice for equitable community access, she spent many years on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Rita's fearless legacy lives on in every note played at The People's Music School.

**"I'm not a do-gooder.
I'm giving the kids what they deserve."**

RITA SIMÓ (1934 - 2020)

We hope you will join The People's Music School in celebrating 50 years of honoring Rita's impact and supporting our mission. Your support of our Big Night will enable intensive, tuition-free, after-school music programming and will demonstrate your commitment to a historic, nationally recognized organization on the leading edge of creating life-changing student outcomes through access to intensive music education.

On our Big Night, help us secure the next 50 years of providing music for all, just as Rita did 50 years ago. We'll see you at the Geraghty.

Gratefully,



Miriam Owens
President and Chief Executive Officer
The People's Music School



BIG NIGHT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TITLE SPONSOR - \$50,000

- 20 tickets (2 tables) to our Big Night Gala
- Acknowledgment of support on print and e-mail invitations and event materials
- Logo on event website with link to sponsor website
- Logo on invitations
- Mention in all social media and promotions leading up to event
- Prominent logo placement on stage
- Signed memorabilia from performers

PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$25,000

- 20 tickets (2 tables) to our Big Night Gala
- Acknowledgment of support on print and e-mail invitations and event materials
- Logo on invitations
- Mention in all social media and promotions leading up to event
- Prominent logo placement on stage

ARTIST'S LEVEL - \$10,000

- 20 tickets (2 tables) to our Big Night Gala
- Acknowledgment of support on print and e-mail invitations and event materials
- Logo on invitations
- Mention in all social media and promotions leading up to event

FAN CLUB - \$5,000

- 10 tickets (1 table) to our Big Night Gala
- Acknowledgment of support on e-mail invitations and event materials

BUY A TABLE - \$3,500

- 10 tickets (1 table) to our Big Night Gala

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPONSOR?

Scan the QR code or visit peoplesmusicschool.org/bignight50years to learn more and pay online. Or, complete and submit the Sponsorship Commitment Form on the following page. Questions? Please contact jennifer.riskind@peoplesmusicschool.org.





BIG NIGHT: 50 YEARS OF DARING TO PLAY SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

Please select your intended level of sponsorship:

- ☐ Title Sponsor - \$50,000
☐ Presenting Sponsor - \$25,000
☐ Artist's Level - \$10,000
☐ Fan Club - \$5,000
☐ Table - \$3,500

Contact Information

First Name	Last Name	Company
Address		Address Line 2
City	State	Zip
Email Address	Phone Number	

Preferred Payment Method

- ☐ I will be paying online at peoplesmusicsschool.org/bignight50years.
☐ I will be paying offline via check mailed to:
The People's Music School, 931 W Eastwood Ave, Chicago, IL 60640
☐ I will be paying via ACH transfer.

The People's Music School thanks you for your support!