



January 2016

www.musicforminors2.org
Phone: 510-733-1189
Email: info@musicforminors2.org
PO Box 2661, Fremont, CA 94536-0661



A huge MFMII **THANK YOU** to the **Newark Betterment Corporation** and the **Newark Education Foundation** for their support of our MFMII program in all of the Newark Unified School District kindergarten and first grade classrooms this year, as expansion continues. MFMII also thanks the **Niles Rotarians** for their support of our training program this year. Niles Rotary's motto of "service above self" is repeatedly shown in their community and international support. MFMII thanks **Whole Foods Market** for funding from their Nickels for Non-Profits program from July-September, for docent support. Thank you to **all our donors** this past year for their generous contributions.

Docent Training

Congrats to all our 2015 Docent Graduates who numbered 40! That means **hundreds of children will have music in their classrooms this year**. Thanks to Susan Schwartz, Docent Training Coordinator/Docent Manager, Veera Kazak, Program Manager, and Sohrab Kazak, Training Assistant, who supported our Training Teacher Carol Zilli and all the trainees in Fremont so beautifully. Trainees represented schools in Fremont, Newark, Castro Valley and Pleasanton/Dublin, so the expansion continues. New Docents look forward to the real training when they enter the classroom. Happy Docents mean Very Happy Students!

Pure joy! This really captures the fun-filled training and joy felt by our wonderful Castro Valley community volunteers who took our docent training at the Castro Valley School of Music from September-November, thanks to generous business owner, Shane Sharkey.



Castro Valley SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Back To MFMII Night

Back to MFMII Night in October was a dynamite event starting with the amazing sound of Taiko drums. Docents and their children were led by expert drummer, Terry Eustice of Wadaiko Taiko, and were thrilled to be creating their own music on these powerful and beautiful instruments all made by Terry and his talented team.

More instruments followed as trainees and experienced docents played boomwhackers, choir chimes, maracas, drums and rhythm sticks and even homemade kazoos! It was a great kick-off for our 28th year of service to children.

New this year! MFMII is pleased to sponsor **FREE interactive Taiko drum presentations for MFMII classes**, on a first come, first served basis. Terry is an inspiring instructor who will teach your students about rhythm, cooperation, teamwork and following directions to create dynamic music. Classes will come away from this inspired and wanting to learn more. Contact MFMII for more details.



Do you like to dance?

Join Music for Minors II for an evening of musical fun and JOY as we present a **HAPPY FEET DANCE WORKSHOP on 13 January @ 7-8.30 pm @ Niles School**. The workshop is free to MFMII docents and classroom teachers/principals of MFMII schools. FUSD teachers will be given staff development credit on completion of this workshop. Community at large: \$15 includes workshop, handouts and CD. Reserve your spot by calling MFMII at 510-733-1189 or email sharon.filippi@sbcglobal.net.



Susan

MFMI welcomes new staff members to our team and 2 exciting projects.

Susan Schwartz is our new **Docent Training Coordinator and Docent Manager/Mentor** and has already demonstrated an excellent background in teaching music for over 30 years. Susan is a former MFMI Docent, Docent Training Coordinator, Docent Director and board member so she knows the program and is already a great asset to the organization.

Eva Cheng is our new **Event Coordinator** and will continue to plan our fun-filled events. Be sure to check out our calendar in this newsletter January that you won't want to miss.



Eva

Melissa Dykstra was our Docent Training Assistant in Castro Valley this year and did an outstanding job. She will now become our **Castro Valley Liaison Coordinator and Recruitment Coordinator** for that area. Hats off to Melissa and we look forward to her great ideas for program growth in Castro Valley. MFMI still has an opening for a Recruitment Coordinator for Fremont. See our website for this job opening which seeks volunteers to be trained in the community and schools.



Melissa

Hip, hip, hooray to our **Docent Mentors** and **Training Team Members** who are implementing two of our exciting innovative projects this year: **Docent Mentor Program and Lesson Plan Project (LPP)**! Both projects have already offered a lot of support for our new docents and the LPP is offered to all of our docents as a source of time-saving lesson planning which provides a more consistent core curriculum by grade level, which meets state standards for arts education.

NEW! MFMI Kids' Choir

Nothing does it like a choir filled with beautiful voices with a great director. MFMI is blessed to have **Lydia Concepcion**, MFMI Docent and talented musician with creativity galore, as the choir director of the first, brand new MFMI Kids' Choir.

The 17 member choir is blossoming with harmonious singers in grades 3-6, from MFMI schools in Fremont and Newark. Their December Concert featured singing, dancing and playing drums, xylophones and handbells, for their parents, friends and relatives. Their performance at the Dale Hardware Tree Lighting was a joyous success. Santa hats off to our talented singers who are now singing in harmony and producing quality music. These blossoming stars will share their musical joy next in February, at LOV Newark's annual event at Thornton Junior High School.

If your child loves to sing, they too can join the choir for the 2nd semester (Feb 10th - May 20th). **Auditions are on 20 and 27 January @ 4.30-5 pm**, at Niles School. The choir meets Wednesdays @ 3.30-4.30pm, at Niles School. Email: mfm2kidschoir@gmail.com for more details or check out our website.





Storage / Office Space Wanted!

MFMI is looking for an office space with a storage area for training materials. Office does not have to be large and storage area preferably would be 8'x10'. Please contact MFMI at 510-733-1189 or email zillic45@gmail.com.



Musical Presentation - "Travels With Christina"

On December 14th, **concert violinist, Christina Mok**, a parent at Chabot Elementary School, came into all the Kindergarten classes of Docent Liz Baker and took the children around the world in her "Travels With Christina" presentation that was just amazing. The children were mesmerized at Christina's skills on the violin while playing the classics such as "Stars and Stripes Forever" pictured here and "The Blue Danube" and "Trepak". Each country visited through music was also portrayed pictorially. What a musical treat for these wee ones. We thank Christina and hope that she can visit some other classes as well in the future.

Holiday Get-Together

MFMI celebrated the holidays with great food, fun, singing, and people on Sunday, Dec. 13th at Carol Zilli's home. Docents, Board Members, Staff and other volunteers joined in the spirit of the season. The Sing Along was a highlight, especially the dramatization of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and the ornament exchange game. It was wonderful to meet spouses of our docents and their beautiful children who had fun creating their homemade wreaths, egg shakers, and other holiday creations. MFMI is blessed with such good people!



Winter songs continue to fill the air with the joyous voices of children and their docents as we enter the new year. We hope you will attend our events this year and perhaps decide to join us as a docent, board member, or committee member, to experience more deeply what volunteerism alone can give - the feeling that you've been a part of helping others - a reward down in your heart that will last forever, because you have made a real difference in children's lives and your own!

WISHING EVERYONE A MUSICAL NEW YEAR!



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