

Our Mission:

To nurture in children
a lifelong love
of music by
providing quality
music education
programs in schools
with our trained
volunteer and
professional
educators.

From the Board President

Ever wonder what happens at an MFM board meeting? This year a new tradition has begun: Board meetings start out with a game! At the October meeting, the game was “MFM Trivia.” See how you do! (Answers on page 2.)



Executive Director Sonja Palmer, left; Board President Mary Powell, right

1. Which school district is the latest to adopt MFM's in-school music education program on a district-wide basis?
2. What grade level are we adding in the Redwood City school district?
3. Name three MFM staff members who focus primarily on programs.
4. How many total students did we serve last year? How many will we serve this year?
5. How many school districts do we serve?
6. To what exciting event taking place on Saturday March 5 will our wonderful newsletter readers be invited?

From the Executive Director

I am delighted to share news of the amazing crescendo at MFM with a growing focus and intensity!

This year, MFM increased its service to the community by 43% and now serves over 10,000 children in 400 classrooms. In addition to our expansion to 5th grade in the Redwood City School District, we recently adopted the school district of San Carlos! This is personally meaningful to me, as a resident of San Carlos with two small children. MFM's growth is a testament to our quality solution to the continued challenge schools face in maintaining core music education programs.

In keeping with this theme, MFM has launched the Crescendo Campaign. We are excited to have an endorsement for our mission and appeal message from Jon Nakamatsu, internationally-acclaimed concert pianist and Van Cliburn Competition Gold Medalist: “I sincerely hope that Music For Minors, and thereby our youth, receive the support they so deserve... Music For Minors is invaluable.” As you consider ways you can personally make a difference, I invite you to choose MFM for your charitable contributions this season and be instrumental in the growing impact we have on so many young people.

To celebrate our high achievements, MFM is planning an exciting party on March 5: Mardi Gras Mystique – A Fund-a-Need Benefit. Invitations go out in early January. Please join us for this exhilarating fundraiser at the Los Altos Golf and Country Club featuring authentic libations, cuisine, and entertainment. Invitations will be coming in January.

“Music and arts education for today's youth is not an option; it is a necessity.” Spoken so eloquently by our friend Jon Nakamatsu. It really is that simple!

—Sonja Palmer

Welcome Back, Wonderful Docents and Instructors!

We launched what promises to be another great year with our annual MFM Kickoff on September 1st. This event reunited docents, instructors, staff, and board members with guest presenter and renowned Orff-Schulwerk educator Doug Goodkin. Doug led us through rhymes, body percussion, and other Orff-inspired active learning games appropriate for our young elementary-aged children. It was a resounding success and fun for all participants!

We sincerely honor the community that supports MFM as music programs throughout the Bay Area continue to be debilitated by ongoing budget cuts. Given the importance of music education to cognitive and social development, we continue in our commitment to nurturing a love of music by providing quality school-based music. It would not be possible to deliver on this mission without the committed hearts of our returning docents, instructors, and supporters!

— Jean Tyan



All That Jazz: Celebrating the MFM Community



In January we will be hosting a private concert and reception to honor all of our contributors who give so generously of their time, talents, and financial support. We are thrilled to announce that Mark Inouye, Principal Trumpet of the San Francisco Symphony, will be performing for this special appreciation event. It will be a memorable evening of scintillating jazz and inspiring company.

To learn more or make a donation:

Contact us at (650) 237-9130 or visit www.mfm.org

Answers to MFM trivia game on page 1:

1. San Carlos School District. 2. 5th grade. 3. Jean Tyan, Debbie Fowler, Jo Read. 4. 7,000; 10,000. 5. 12. 6. Mardi Gras Mystique: Music for Minors' Fund-a-Need Benefit

Guitar Workshop



MFM Guitar Workshop students are pictured above.

First row (left to right): Julie Lu, Yoli Lin, Nancy Wilde (instructor), Suzie Hilgeman

Second row: Donna Poulos, Gabi Hederer, Michele Haussler, Melinda King, Katie Lipka, Marina Orzano Heye

Friend Raiser



Board President Mary Powell pictured with Webb and Chris McKinney (Vice President), circled by the Taiko drummers

On Sunday, September 26th, 75 guests joined hosts Chris and Webb McKinney, along with the MFM Board of Directors, for a lively social and musical evening. The event featured a stirring performance by the San Jose Taiko Drummers. In addition, a small group of Montclair Elementary students demonstrated what they are learning in their music education classes using rhythm instruments. To the delight of the crowd, they also engaged the audience in a musical activity.

Docent Training

What an exciting time to be an MFM Docent trainee! There is so much going on that is new in the training experience, including more practical music teaching experiences in new docents' assigned classrooms. In addition, we are proud of our kindergarten and first grade lesson plans, and the showcasing of a variety of docents and instructors who are providing valuable teaching demonstrations.

We have a fabulous group of thirty volunteers in our training class that began on September 21st; we are delighted that they have chosen to share their considerable time and talents with local schoolchildren at MFM participating schools. Thanks to our new docents in training, many children will be able to experience the joy of music making at school.

— Jean Tyan



First row (left to right): *Lisa Perry, Jonelyn Langenstein, Sue-Mi Shin, Carrie Gordon, Lydia Wang, Daphna Mangan, Sara Baldeshwieler*

Second row: *Beth Moeur, Joanne Baker, Tao Flaherty, Jeanne Sole, Clara Chen, Kyoko Yamashita, Karen Tobey*

Third row: *Donna Weiher, Sue Livingston, Tobi Nielsen, Sandra Ochoa, Marie Alberry-Hawkins, Jeanne DeFelice, Paula Liddiard, Beth Nord, Ila Langner*

Not Pictured: *Nancy Baltz, Michele Huie, Kimberly Johnson, Andrea Llenos, Laura Peters, Maria Pires, Zhanna Shpits, Wei-ling Zhu*

Board News

• Rachel Wagner has completed her term on our board. We are deeply grateful for Rachel's numerous contributions throughout her dedicated years of service. She began as a docent in MFM's very first class and taught for many years in the Los Altos schools. In 2002, she joined the board and then served as Treasurer for seven years. Rachel's financial acumen and attention to detail were put to optimal use in overseeing MFM's fiscal operations. We don't know what we would have done without

her! We are delighted that she is continuing on with us in the important role as Resource Room Manager.

• Thank you to our board members for reaching out and making personal phone calls to many of our donors as part of a recent Thank-a-thon initiative. This effort was designed to express MFM's heartfelt appreciation and share agency news. We would like our supporters to understand how important their contributions are, as well as how they are being utilized to bring music education directly into more classrooms.

Save the Dates

- **November 30:** Board Meeting
- **December 1:** Winter Holiday Games Around the World
- **January 21–23:** Board Planning Retreat
- **January:** All That Jazz: Celebrating the MFM Community
- **January:** Spanish Songs & Activities
- **February:** Drumming Rhythm Games
- **March 5:** Mardi Gras Mystique

Thank You, Georgia!



Georgia Sutherland, long-standing Sedgwick Liaison and Docent since 1999, had a special celebration to commemorate her unusual birthday of

10-10-10 this fall. Instead of gifts, she suggested that her guests donate \$10.00 to MFM. Several of them actually donated \$10.10! We are tremendously appreciative of Georgia's creative thinking and the generosity of her friends.

Newsletter editing and layout by Lissy Abraham



Mardi Gras Mystique

SAVE THE DATE

March 5, 2011

Los Altos Golf and Country Club

A FUND-A-NEED BENEFIT FOR MUSIC FOR MINORS
FEATURING AUTHENTIC LIBATIONS, CUISINE AND ENTERTAINMENT



883 N. Shoreline Blvd. C120
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