

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

We are delighted to announce three new board members.

Cathy Combs graduated from Stanford and taught high school Spanish for many years. She was an MFM docent from 1988–1996 at West Valley, Montclair, and Bullis elementary schools. Cathy served previously on our board (1990–2000), including two years as President. A member of People of Note, Cathy also enjoys singing with Schola Cantorum.



Jeanne von Gunten began as an MFM docent in 1988 at Almond School in Los Altos, where she continued teaching music for 18 years. She has an undergraduate degree from Bob Jones University in Music Performance to which she later added a California Teachers Credential as well as a Masters in Philosophy. Jeanne currently works as a substitute teacher and sings with Peninsula Women's Chorus.

Liz Rome graduated from U Mass, and then earned a graduate degree in Biology from Harvard. She worked in biotech when she first moved to this area. An artist herself, Liz loves bringing the visual arts into schools as an art docent. She has served in various capacities on the board for Los Altos Art Docents, including President. MFM gives a hearty welcome to Liz, Jeanne and Cathy!

Board Retreat: Board and staff joined together for a retreat in January. We opened with a festive dinner at the home of board member Sharon Barkoff, and featured special guest Judy Sleeth, founder and executive director of Art in Action. Judy spoke eloquently of the value of arts education as an integral part of school curriculum. The following day, we rolled up our sleeves to work. The morning session took a strategic look at the opportunities and challenges in our docent and paid instructor programs, while the afternoon focused on board structure, with an eye toward enhancing effectiveness through the addition of standing committees and task forces. The board looks forward to being a strong partner in MFM's continued momentum and success.

From the Executive Director



A great beginning to 2011 and the 35th anniversary year for MFM! Often, at this time of year—the midpoint of the fiscal year—nonprofits evaluate their progress. At the top of the agenda is the agency's financial health. How are we doing? I am honored to report that MFM is on track to have a banner year. We are experiencing not only stability but even expansion in financial support from funders—no small feat in this economy. MFM recently honored this impressive group at All That Jazz (see article, page 2).

The success of an organization is its ability to deliver upon its mission.

The success of MFM is due, in large part, to the overwhelming and increasing support we receive. MFM not only retains valuable donors for multi-year giving but celebrates great momentum in attracting new donors. We were recently honored for our community service with the Los Altos Community Foundation's Pillar Grant award as well as becoming a new grantee with the Bill Graham Foundation. Our supporters value what MFM brings to the community while standing beside us in advocating the value of music in our lives and, especially the lives of children. So, here's to you for making the start of our 35th year a smashing success!

Nurturing a Lifelong Love of Music



It's a typical Monday night: I arrive home refreshed at 10 pm, humming a glorious run from Brahms. As I sit down to finish planning my lesson for the

next morning, I consider which musical pieces I will pair with the journal prompt my sophomores will be writing about. I love surprising them with a lesser-known Chopin piece, and playing "name that tune" at 8 in the morning. My day-to-day life is set to a soundtrack of familiar tunes—some I learned as a young girl when my mom was an MFM docent in my

classroom, others I learned from caring music teachers along the way (my grandmother among my favorites), and the newest ones I continue to discover each week in my community chorus. My early exposure to music appreciation, and later, my studies of music theory, have instilled in me a deep love for that which most aptly augments the written and spoken word. I owe a debt of gratitude to Music for Minors for helping to cultivate that love. Now, in my work as a high school English teacher, I'm looking for my own little ways to *play* it forward.

The author, Diana Combs, is a former MFM student (1990–1996) currently teaching high school English.



Upcoming Events

- **February 24:** Drumming Rhythm Games
- **March 5:** Mardi Gras Mystique
- **April 2:** Family Concert with Dr. Noize

All That Jazz

We were delighted to have 100 guests at our January 12th celebration of many from our community who are stalwart supporters of music in our local schools. Held in the Pavillion at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton, the evening featured jazz standards and favorites, expertly performed. The audience was delighted by the dazzling quality of the music and Mark's soaring trumpet solos. Thank you to these gifted musicians, and to board member Sharon Barkoff who beautifully catered the event. It was an evening made even more memorable by the generous and committed individuals in attendance.

Pictured at left: Mark Inouye, Principal Trumpet for the San Francisco Symphony, swinging with the Jazz Connexion, including board members Bill Hockett on bass and John Sylvester on saxophone and vocals.

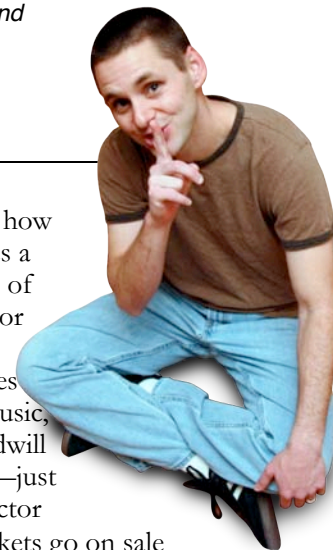
Zany But Always Musical: Dr. Noize!

We are excited to present Doctor Noize, aka Cory Cullinan, April 1st and 2nd in school workshops and a Family Concert. Doctor Noize inspires audiences with his innovative approach that enables participation in the creative process. His stage shows feature him performing multiple instruments, and arranging and recording songs live on the spot, inviting audience members to come onstage and contribute their own talents. He has received numerous awards and rave reviews. His release of *The Ballad Of Phineas McBoof* spawned a national #1 hit song —

"Banana"—on XM Sirius Kids Radio, and scored awards ranging from a Parent's Choice to being named one of Dr. Toy's 100 Best Children's Products.

A native of Los Altos, Cory graduated from Stanford where he focused on classical music history, electronic music, and voice. He was then a music teacher at Pinewood School before launching his career as Doctor Noize. Most notably, Cory is an MFM kid! Not only was his mother an MFM docent, but he was taught by the current MFM board vice president and former docent, Chris McKinney. This

is first-hand evidence of how MFM creates a lifelong love of music. Doctor Noize performances offer fun, music, energy, goodwill and humor—just what the doctor ordered! Tickets go on sale in March. Bring your smile and join us for a show.



Newsletter layout by Lissy Abraham

Resource Room Re-lo

The Los Altos Resource Room has moved! Its new home is suite C110 at 883 N. Shoreline Blvd in Mountain View—around the back of the building that houses the MFM office.

Docents enjoy exclusive access to the resource room's contents—CDs, instruments, songbooks, puppets, and other visual aids for teaching young children. Our new Mountain View Resource Room comprises MFM's main collection. Smaller ones are in Redwood City and San Jose to increase accessibility for docents throughout our two-county area.

Be sure to check out the wonderful materials—but don't forget to stop by the office to say hi! — Rachel Wagner, Resource Room Coordinator



Connect with us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/MusicforMinors

San Carlos Humming Along

Our new, expanded district-wide coverage in San Carlos is up and running as of this past fall. MFM is now reaching some 1700 K-4th grade students in 65 classrooms. We have eight talented instructors, two of whom are also experienced docents. San Carlos Unified School District

Volunteer Spotlight: Erik Chen

This winter we are spotlighting Erik Chen, a very special MFM volunteer. His involvement began with docent training in 2008. Erik and his family live in Belmont, and he is employed full-time by Google. Initially he jumped in because he wanted to be sure that his own children would receive music education when they began school. "If it takes me being there doing the teaching, that's what I'll do. Music is that important to me," he says. With perfect pitch, and many years of playing piano and violin, Erik was also seeking a way to use his musical background that had never been part of his professional life. He hopes to share his enjoyment of music with others.

After two years of docenting in Los Altos, this year Erik started an MFM music education program in a new school. His son began kindergarten in the fall at College Park, a Mandarin immersion school in San Mateo. College Park has thus been the focus of Erik's efforts as he has worked with the principal and PTA to secure

approval and funding. This first year, he has been able to recruit several docents to provide music for four full grade levels, and aims for enough docents for a comprehensive K-5 program next year.

When asked to share a special docenting memory, Erik recalls an extremely withdrawn 2nd grader who entered his class mid-year. She shied away from being called upon in any way, but by the end of the year she was enthusiastically volunteering for solos. "I did my job," Erik says, noting how music class truly made a difference in this child's life. Overall, he enjoys the rewarding times when—at the end of music time—the kids plead, "Can we sing this song one more time?"

Erik contributes to MFM in many ways. Last year, for example, he facilitated his students performing on stage with Red Grammer, and demonstrated a music activity at a Volunteer Information Meeting. Somehow he also finds time to join in MFM workshops and events. And that's not all... Erik has a blog where he keeps detailed teaching notes. Check it out for a sneak peak into an MFM music class, along with a valuable pool of lessons and reflections:

<http://pokey-mfm-music.blogspot.com/>

Thank you, Erik, for your commitment and inspired participation!



San Carlos Instructors (left to right): Cathy Luo, Raquel Menjivar, Mary Ellen Pense, RoJeanne Sawey. Not pictured: Ruth Bennett, Cynthia de Lamare, Rebecca Kleinman, Liz Walker

To learn more or make a donation:

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

Join Us for Mardi Gras

Where will you be on Saturday, March 5th? Don your festive mask and step into a night of Mardi Gras Mystique to celebrate the magic of music and its important role in education. Join your friends and MFM for an evening transformed into authentic New Orleans with lavish decorations, Hurricanes, Cajun cuisine and King cakes, live Jazz and Zydeco entertainment, motivational guest speakers, the crowning of our honored King and Queen (it's a surprise!), a chance to win a trip to the Big Easy, and most important, the MFM Fund-A-Need Auction supporting music in local schools. Tickets are now on sale: http://www.mfm.org/news/upcoming_event.html

We offer a very special thank you to the inaugural Mardi Gras Host Committee, an impressive team of supporters who have made generous contributions to sponsor event tables, match donations to the Fund-A-Need Auction, and introduce MFM to their friends. Together, this group has generated nearly \$40,000 alone. Thank you!: *Anonymous, Sharon & Rodger Barkoff, Cathy & Steve Combs, George & Susan Cron, Gunilla & Tom Follett, Michelle & Brett Galloway, Robert Grimm, W. Earl Hall, Bill & Carole Hockett, Grace Johnston, Mady & Mel Kahn, Judy Koch, Mark & Adelheid Levi, Chris & Webb McKinney, Kirby & Carmen Miller, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Mary & Matt Powell, Lynn & Howard Roberts / Alain Pinel Realty, Liz & David Rome, Denise & Woody Shackleton, John Sylvester, The Private Bank of the Peninsula, Jack & Jan Tuttle, and Jeanne von Gunten.*



*Mardi Gras
Mystique*

A FUND-A-NEED BENEFIT FOR MUSIC FOR MINORS

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 5TH
LOS ALTOS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB



883 N. Shoreline Blvd. C120
Mountain View, CA 94043