



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2021

CONTACT: Carol Burden

(609) 394-8700

cburden@trentonmusicmakers.org

TRENTON MUSIC MAKERS OPENS MID-YEAR TO NEW STUDENTS

*Grant from the NJ Arts and Culture Relief Fund
Provides Welcome Resources*

Trenton, NJ – Just in time to fight the winter doldrums, a grant from the NJ Arts and Culture Relief Fund will allow Trenton children and teens to try out something new, from the safety and familial support of home. Trenton Music Makers is opening four new string classes for beginners; students can start work on a new skill, receive a high-quality instrument, and engage with Trenton Music Makers’ range of gifted and dedicated teaching artists.



“Remote learning has provided really wonderful, focused opportunities for the kids who were already a part of the orchestra,” explains Interim Program Director Freddy Contreras, “and especially now that the online format has us working in smaller groups, it’s a great time to start as a beginner.”

Kindergarten and first-grade children meet twice weekly, joined by a caregiver from home. Beginning with second grade and through high school, the program meets three days per week online, including small-group lessons, music theory and ear training class, collective composition projects, and one full-orchestra online hangout: “Fast-Forward Orchestra.” A violin, viola or cello is provided to every student. Trenton Music Makers Orchestra will be offered live, 4-5 days per week, as soon as it is safe to do so.

The full program is available to Trenton families on a 100% scholarship basis.

The new classes will be funded by a generous grant from the New Jersey Arts and Culture Relief Fund, which is lending support to Trenton Music Makers’ work to supplant funds lost due to the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, while building new resiliency and improved strategies for that time that it will be safe to reopen in person.

Details and registration forms are available at www.trentonmusicmakers.org.

ABOUT TRENTON MUSIC MAKERS

Trenton Music Makers is a creative youth development program that uses an intensive ensemble-based music curriculum to help Trenton children develop the executive functions and social-emotional skills necessary to succeed at school and in life. Students in pre-kindergarten attend music class during school; K-12 students attend after school, starting with two days per week, and growing to four days by Grade 2. They participate in orchestra rehearsals, percussion instruction and choir, small-studio lessons, and tutoring and leadership classes. Students also take part in community-building activities and performances across the city. Students in the advanced ensemble receive teacher training, and have the opportunity to mentor students in the beginner ensembles. TMM welcomes any child to participate, regardless of musical ability, cultural background, or financial resources.

Trenton Music Makers is inspired by El Sistema, the Venezuelan initiative that uses music education as a vehicle for social development. The El Sistema philosophy of peer music teaching and support is at the heart of the organization's mission, and as a result, its teaching artists strive to foster the development not only of great musicians, but also caring individuals who will grow up to be active members of society. It is grounded in the belief that every child can learn to express music deeply, receive its many benefits, and make the best life choices as a result of this learning.

For more information, visit www.trentonmusicmakers.org,
Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Instagram @TrentonMusicMakers
and on Twitter @TTNMusicMakers.

###