



March 2010

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Students of the YOURS Project



## YOURS Project Grows by Leaps & Bounds

On January 25th, 72 students at the William G. Hibbard Elementary School in Albany Park received new instruments as they joined the YOURS Project's REACH Orchestra.

The People's Music School's YOURS Project was founded by Deborah Wanderley dos Santos and is based on the Venezuelan methodology commonly known as "El Sistema." The program meets every day after school and seeks to create social change through intense music instruction.

The YOURS Project ("Youth Orchestra Urban Rita Simo," named after People's Music School's founder Rita Simo) started in October of 2008 with 35 children and the addition of the REACH Orchestra brings the number of participants in the program to over 140.

This new orchestra was made possible through a partnership with the Women's Board of the Ravinia Festival and is named after Ravinia's educational program, Reach\*Teach\*Play.

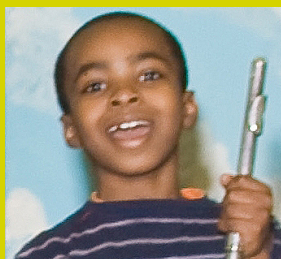
"We are thrilled to partner with the Women's Board of the Ravinia Festival," said Ms. dos Santos.

### More Information:

[www.peoplesmusicsschool.org](http://www.peoplesmusicsschool.org)

[www.ravinia.org/  
WomensBoard.aspx](http://www.ravinia.org/WomensBoard.aspx)

[www.fesnojiv.gob.ve/en.html](http://www.fesnojiv.gob.ve/en.html)



The People's Music School was founded in 1976 by Dr. Rita Simo and is the only free community music school of its kind in the US. Combined with its outreach programs like the YOURS Project modeled after El Sistema, the School offers fundamental music instruction to over 500 children every year. If you'd like to help children learn music, \$250 allows a child to be in an ensemble for a year, \$500 pays for a musical instrument, \$1,000 allows a child to join the youth orchestra (YOURS), and \$1,500 pays for a year's worth of private lessons at People's Music School. All donations are welcome.

Rita Simo, Ann Murray and Jeff Kelly blow out the candles for our 34th birthday



## The 34th anniversary was held at People's Music School on February 20

Our birthday celebration featured a concert highlighted by many of our teachers, students from the YOURS Orchestra and Argentinean guest Dario Ntaca—a virtuoso pianist, conductor and founder of the Greater Buenos Aires Youth Symphony. The performances were only rivaled by the food spread provided by parents of our students and the cake presented to our founder, Rita Simo. The day concluded with our library being renamed the Ann Murray and Jeff Kelly Library, for the contributions by these long-standing board members. We hope to see you for our 35th anniversary next year!

## Highly Anticipated 26th Annual "Performathon" Coming on April 10

Performathon reflects People's Music School to change the world through music, and will feature

student performances from 10am to 6pm in our on-site concert hall. The Performathon is free and open to the public, so please come out and support our students and help us to continue providing free music instruction. Donations help us change the world through music and will be accepted throughout the day. To learn more about Performathon and why we host it every year, please visit our website: [www.peoplesmusicsschool.org](http://www.peoplesmusicsschool.org)

## Welcome Denise McCracken

The People's Music School is proud to welcome our new Development Manager Denise McCracken. Denise began lending her writing skills to the School on a volunteer basis in 2008 before assuming her current position this January. Denise has a degree in English from the University of Kansas and a law degree from Notre Dame. Denise's two dogs, Sasquatch and Francis, are happy she's found a job close to home.

## Student-Teacher Profile



For the last six years, student Jeremiah Nunez and teacher Jaime McCool have made up one of the many dynamic duos at the People's Music School.

Jaime started teaching piano at the School in 1995 after receiving her degree in composition and piano performance from Columbia College. Jaime is skilled at working with children with special needs, making her a terrific fit to work with Jeremiah, who has autism.

Jeremiah began taking piano lessons at the School at age eleven and says that he keeps coming back to Jaime because they have fun together. Along with his favorite composer Beethoven, Jeremiah also enjoys playing jazz and cartoon themes. Jaime says that Jeremiah has an excellent ear and boasts that her pupil only needs to be corrected once when trying to learn a melody.