



# Annual Report 2013-14

Transforming lives through intensive, orchestral education



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*BRAVO is the best thing that ever happened to me.*

*BRAVO is a part of me.*

*I will always play an instrument.*

*Music is my life.*

Aleana McCowan, age 10

BRAVO Rosa Parks violist

## A Message from Bonnie and Seth

Dear BRAVO Friends and Supporters,

We're delighted to share the news that **Maestro Carlos Kalmar** has invited the *BRAVO Rosa Parks* string orchestra and chorus to open for the Oregon Symphony at their annual Waterfront Concert in downtown Portland on August 28, 2014. In August of last year, our program had not even started, so we'd say it's been a pretty incredible first year for BRAVO!

In September 2013, after eighteen months of planning, BRAVO launched the first El Sistema\*-inspired program in Oregon for nearly 200 students at Rosa Parks School, which has the highest rate of poverty in the city. After so many months of preparation with our board and staff, it was a thrill to meet the students and families who would be joining us for this musical journey. The fall was a time of excitement and challenge for our students, staff, and key volunteers, as we all had to establish new routines together and build the culture of our community through an intensive schedule of daily practice. Our focused effort was rewarded when **KGW News Channel 8** broadcast a feature story on our first public concert in December. Later that month, we performed for the Multnomah County Commissioners and in the lobby of the **Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall**.

In the spring we felt momentum build as our students and teachers got to know each other. The children's musical abilities developed and our repertoire grew steadily with regular performances at Rosa Parks and throughout Portland (see p. 5). We finished the year on a high note, or several high notes, with visits by internationally touring Guest Artists (see p. 4), a packed house for our spring concert, and performances with **Mayor Charlie Hales** at City Hall and with **Superintendent Carole Smith** at Portland Public Schools headquarters.

If we could highlight only three achievements this year they would be these:

**Outstanding retention** – of 41 students who started in September with our After-school program, 36 have signed up to continue next year. This is an intensive program that asks a lot of our participants, and we are proud to have won this level of commitment to the program from nearly all of our students and their families. Interest is very high for next year and we have a wait list for available spots in all grades. See p. 3 for a list of BRAVO students in 2013-14.

**World-class artistry** – BRAVO Guest Artists include musicians from all over the world, some of them at the top of the field, and many of Portland's musical leaders. Our students are even on a first-name basis with many of them, and recognize them on stage when we attend concerts downtown. They feel that they belong to this community of artists and see BRAVO as their own pathway to high achievement.

**Civic engagement** – BRAVO students already are learning to think of themselves as ambassadors for their school and community not only in this neighborhood, but throughout Portland. They appreciate the recognition they are receiving for their hard work, and they look forward to performing in support of public events and celebrations, and to discovering new parts of our city through these outreach opportunities.

The tremendous successes and joyful sense of accomplishment in this first year would not have been possible without the visionary support and daily collaboration of our operational partners: **Principal Tamala Newsome** and the staff and teachers of Rosa Parks School; and **Unit Director Ashley Brown** and her staff at the Regence Boys and Girls Club. We are also grateful for the generosity of our hundreds of individual donors, charitable foundations, our Board of Directors, our staff and volunteers, and our many community partners. You'll find many of them recognized on pages 6 and 8.

Thank you again for your passion for this important work, for helping us realize a powerful dream in our community as part of an international movement, and for your participation in this beautiful process of social transformation for us all through the power of music. We look forward to seeing you at BRAVO concerts all across Portland in the coming year.

With gratitude,



Bonnie Reagan, MD  
Board President



Seth H. Truby  
Executive Director

\*Established by Jose Antonio Abreu in 1975, El Sistema is Venezuela's national system of youth orchestras serving each year more than half a million children, over 80% of whom live in poverty.

## Program Accomplishments

submitted by Program Director Mark Woodward

### Student Outcomes

Through a schedule of time-intensive rehearsals and concerts, BRAVO has increased its students' ability to concentrate, expanded their leadership skills through peer-to-peer teaching, strengthened their comfort with public speaking and performing, nurtured their expressions of gratitude, and cultivated a greater sense of belonging. To begin evaluating student outcomes, we conducted surveys with classroom teachers and parents/guardians, and we developed an assessment of musical skills which we administered in the middle and end of the year. BRAVO is establishing a long-term evaluation partnership with the Center for Student Success at Portland State University to track longitudinal performance for students in our program. In addition, BRAVO was chosen to participate as a collaborating site in a multi-year study of El Sistema-inspired programs across the United States.

### Pedagogy and Repertoire

BRAVO has carefully built a body of choral and orchestral repertoire for first-year music students that suits the cultural diversity of this community. These hand-selected arrangements of folk, classical, and popular melodies have linked the pedagogical effects of singing in a choir (solfège) with the rigors of studying an orchestral instrument in an ensemble setting. The students have developed a deeper understanding of the building blocks of music, a greater capacity for internalizing new literature, and a deeper sense of musical community. Some favorites from our repertoire are:

**Ode to Joy - Ludwig van Beethoven**  
**Shosholozza - South African folk song**  
**Stand By Me - Ben E. King et al**  
**The Birch Tree - Russian folk song**

**Tallis Canon - Thomas Tallis**  
**Un elefante se balanceaba - Mexican folk song**  
**Chorale from Symphony #1 - Johannes Brahms**  
**We Shall Overcome - American civil rights song**

## *BRAVO Rosa Parks Student Roster 2013-14*



Luis Chan-Hernandez practices using the microphone to address the audience as Jelly'sha Dunn looks on.

- VIOLIN I:** Alayjah Thor, Amanda Houston, Fiala Kostriba-Matthews, Iona Truby, Jaqai Miller-Solitaire, Jelly'sha Dunn, Kateryna Bosyuk, Lilya Bosyuk, Samantha Padilla, Zacharius Chestnut\*
- VIOLIN II:** Aislin Gutierrez, Amaryon Thompson, Benedicte Niyungeko, Esmeralda Arriola, Conrad Hurdle, Genesis Moten, Hezekiah Moten-Littleton, Ilya Prokhorov\*, Luis Chan-Hernandez, Gabriel Junio, Marcus Jones\*, Mariana Kauffman
- VIOLA:** Aleana McCowan, Ann Marie Thomas-Willingham, Ecknovic Beya Kim\*, Gabriela Delgado, Ja'Martay Bentley, Kieaszha Gregory\*, Nia Matthews, Olena Bosyuk, Omarion Pervish, Perla Rolon, Xavier Slocum-Robinson\*
- CELLO:** Adajion Simmons, Alex'zay Simmons, Apple Hudson, Braejon Brewer, Brent Buckles, Camelliah Arbella, Daniel Dronov, Iverson Brewer, Santos Coot-Hernandez, Symone Wesley

\*Participated for less than the full school year

In addition to the students listed above, *BRAVO Rosa Parks* served approximately 150 students in kindergarten and first grade through the In-school Program, consisting of half hour group violin lessons twice a week. 24 of these students will join the After-school chorus and orchestra as second graders in the 2014-15 school year.

## *BRAVO Fridays* Guest Artist Series 2013-14

The *BRAVO Fridays* Guest Artist Series at Rosa Parks is an important feature of our program, bringing to Portland's poorest public school a distinguished group of both local and international-caliber professional musicians. BRAVO Guest Artists spend at least one half hour playing musical selections and interacting with our students, answering questions about their childhood musical experiences, sharing favorite pieces in the repertoire, telling stories about distant countries where they have traveled to perform, and explaining the role music plays in their lives. BRAVO Guest Artists are also invited to stay and rehearse with our students in smaller sectional groups, and some even stay for the entire two hours of our program to practice with the full orchestra. We value the ethnic diversity and wide range of musical styles represented in *BRAVO Fridays*, and we have listed below a few of the more than 30 Guest Artists who contributed their time and talent to BRAVO in our first year.



Guest Artist Jennifer Arnold of the Oregon Symphony works with the viola section

<b>Jennifer Arnold</b>	<b>Violist with the Oregon Symphony, Mousai Remix String Quartet</b>
<b>Joel Belgique</b>	<b>Principal Violist with the Oregon Symphony</b>
<b>Betsy Branch</b>	<b>Violinist, specialist in international fiddle styles</b>
<b>Kenji Bunch</b>	<b>Award-winning composer, violist with the Oregon Symphony</b>
<b>Arnaldo Cohen</b>	<b>Pianist, Brazilian international touring soloist</b>
<b>Alban Gerhardt</b>	<b>Cellist, German international touring soloist</b>
<b>Lorrie Heagy</b>	<b>2011 Alaska Teacher of the Year, national consultant for El Sistema USA</b>
<b>Carlos Kalmar</b>	<b>Conductor, Music Director of the Oregon Symphony</b>
<b>Gonzalo Ruiz</b>	<b>Baroque oboist, international touring soloist</b>
<b>Ines Voglar</b>	<b>Asst Principal Second Violin, Oregon Symphony; Venezuelan native</b>
<b>Jazz ensemble</b>	<b>Eddie Parente, violin; Adlai Alexander, guitar; Andre St James, bass</b>



Maestro Carlos Kalmar with Perla Rolon and Omarion Pervish

*I like that we play music every day and learn new songs every day and play in a lot of concerts and perform in front of people and make friends and have special guests who play for us and that's what I like about BRAVO.*

Fiala Kostriba-Matthews, age 7

## Concerts and Field Trips in 2013-14

A key component of the BRAVO program is regular performance in the school, the surrounding community, and the wider Portland metro area. These are opportunities to take our students to important civic and cultural landmarks they wouldn't otherwise visit, introduce them to government and arts leaders, and help expand visibility for BRAVO. Public performance and participation in civic events is also an important way we teach our students to be contributors in their community. Below are some highlights from the past year:



Parents and supporters look on as Program Director Mark Woodward leads *BRAVO Rosa Parks* in the lobby of Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.



Mayor Charlie Hales applauds the orchestra after bravely taking a turn with the conductor's baton in the beautiful atrium at City Hall.

<b>Dec 4</b>	<b>BRAVO Winter Concert</b>	Debut public performance for <i>BRAVO Rosa Parks</i> , Charles Jordan Community Center
<b>Dec 22</b>	<b>Prelude Series Arlene Schnitzer Hall</b>	Performance in the lobby prior to the Oregon Symphony Comfort and Joy Concert
<b>Jan 20</b>	<b>MLK, Jr Celebration Anthem Church</b>	<i>Keeping the Dream Alive</i> community-wide celebration organized by the World Arts Foundation, Televised locally, broadcast worldwide on the internet
<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>Winemaker's Dinner Portland Art Museum</b>	Opening performance at the Boys and Girls Club's annual fundraising gala
<b>Feb 27</b>	<b>Black History Month Rosa Parks School</b>	Orchestral and choral performance for community celebration of Black History Month, Joined by the Northwest Freedom Singers gospel choir
<b>Apr 18</b>	<b>BRAVO's first birthday Rosa Parks School</b>	Joint performance with student marimba band from Sojourner Elementary School in Clackamas
<b>Apr 27</b>	<b>Venice Exhibit Portland Art Museum</b>	Opening performance in Whitsell Auditorium for Family and Community Day, Followed on stage by musicians from the Oregon Symphony
<b>May 22</b>	<b>BRAVO meets the Mayor City Hall</b>	Performance for Mayor Charlie Hales and invited guests
<b>May 30</b>	<b>Portland Public Schools BESC</b>	Noon performance for staff at the central administration office for PPS, Including Guest Conductor Superintendent Carole Smith
<b>June 9</b>	<b>Youth Violence Prevention Regence Boys and Girls Club</b>	National gathering of YES program administrators, hosted by STRYVE of Multnomah County Health Dept.

*Thank you for gracing us with your music - you're an example for the entire district!*

Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith

## Major Supporters

The wonderful accomplishments of our first year would not have been possible without the visionary support of **Drs. Bonnie and Pete Reagan**, long-time Portland residents and engaged citizens of our community who generously provided seed funding. Their bold philanthropic leadership leveraged a generous grant from the **Vibrant Village Foundation** and led to all the gifts that followed. We are so grateful for the hundreds of individuals, foundations, and corporations who together comprise our family of BRAVO supporters and believe wholeheartedly in our mission of social change through music. Your contributions are having a transformative impact on the lives of children right here in our community.

### \$25,000 and above

BRAVO Board of Directors  
Vibrant Village Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous  
Oregon Community Foundation  
Renaissance Foundation

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Jane Hartline and Mark Greenfield  
Ronni Lacroute

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

Carole Alexander  
D'Addario Foundation  
Kate Thompson and Bill Scott

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Asi Somos (Peter Samson & friends)  
Beeman Fund of OCF  
Laurie and Paul Flint  
Caroline and David Greger  
JoAnne Hermens  
L'Chaim Fund of MRG Foundation  
The Commerce Bank of Oregon  
Robert Lockwood and Janet Gibbens  
Magic Pebble Foundation  
Lori and Shawn Martin  
Tieneke Pavesic  
Judith Pulman  
Janet and Larry Richards  
Joe and Francine Smith  
The Jean Vollum Fund  
Jane Willsea



BRAVO violinists Benedicte Niyungeko and Iona Truby excited to perform at the Portland Art Museum

### And over 200 gifts under \$1,000

**Major In Kind Support** includes the donation of instruments, music stands, photography, and other goods and services. A special thank you to the following companies and individuals:

David Kerr Violin Shop  
Elk Cove Vineyards  
Kennedy Violins  
Manhasset Specialty Company  
PosterGarden Fund for Arts, Culture and Gardens

David McLaughlin  
Henderson Graphics  
Kimberly Warner Photography  
The Old Church  
Steve Sakaguchi

## Financial Summary 2013-14 Fiscal Year

EXPENSES		REVENUES	
\$144,546	Salaries	\$114,468	Individuals and businesses
\$23,812	Other personnel costs	\$59,500	Foundation grants
\$16,675	Instruments, supplies	\$4,000	Government
\$185,033	DIRECT COSTS	\$177,968	CONTRIBUTED REVENUE
\$16,964	INDIRECT COSTS	\$894	OTHER INCOME
\$201,997	TOTAL EXPENSES 2013-14	\$178,862	TOTAL REVENUES 2013-14
		\$30,176	Unrestricted Net Assets 2012-13
		\$7,041	TOTAL EQUITY JUNE 30, 2014

## Three Year Timeline

In April, the BRAVO board and staff completed a 2014-17 Strategic Plan under the guidance of consultant George Thorn made possible by a grant from the Cultural Leadership Program of the Regional Arts and Culture Council. One important product of the planning process is our three year timeline for program growth and expansion. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving a copy of the full plan.

### 2014-15

- Schools served: 1 - Rosa Parks; After-school program expands to 60; In-school program for approx. 144; Total students served approx. 204; add bass section to orchestra.
- 7 Teaching Artists, 2 FT Administrators

### 2015-16

- Schools served: 2 - Rosa Parks and one other elementary; After-school program at RPS expands to 80; In-school program for approx. 288 at two sites; Total students served approx. 368
- 10 Teaching Artists, 2 FT Administrators

### 2016-17

- Schools served: 3 - Rosa Parks, one other elementary, one middle; After-school program for 140 at 3 sites; In-school program for approx. 288 at two sites; Total students served approx. 428; add winds and brass.
- 14 Teaching Artists, 2 FT Administrators, 1 PT Administrator

## Our People

BRAVO relies on the committed involvement of dozens of wonderful people in paid and volunteer roles. Here are the key people who have contributed their time, talent, and energy in our first year:

### STAFF

Eri Nogueira, Teaching Artist, violin  
 Stefana Berceanu, Teaching Artist, viola  
 André St.James, Teaching Artist, cello  
 Mary Johnson, Family Coordinator  
 Laurita Jauregui, In-school Program Manager  
 Mark Woodward, Program Director  
 Seth Truby, Executive Director

### BRAVO VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Jennifer Williamson, Volunteer Coordinator  
 Laurie Flint, Guest Artist Coordinator  
 Ann Bakkensen, BRAVO Librarian  
 Oscar Fernandez, BRAVO Spanish Translator  
 Kimberly Warner, BRAVO Photographer

### COMMUNITY MUSICIANS

Elizabeth Blachly-Dyson  
 Mary Brandenstein  
 Sonya Brookins

### STUDENT INTERNS

Kate Morics, Reed College  
 Kristina Dill, Lewis and Clark College  
 Diego Murray, Pacific Crest School  
 Keely McMurry, Pacific Crest School  
 Julius Correl, home school

### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Ginny Adelsheim  
 Greg Anderson  
 Jean Ady  
 Barb Arzt  
 Anne Bagwell  
 Karen Bailey  
 Scott Bricker  
 Joe Cantrell  
 Will Dixon  
 Lindsay Durant  
 Kathryn Elssesser  
 Cindy Hackett  
 Sarah Hart  
 Dawn Hawthorne  
 Caitlin Huang  
 Jonathan Huang  
 Justin Huang  
 Jane Hurlburt  
 John Hurlburt  
 Erica Liebert  
 Rosie Lovings  
 Bill Madill  
 Linda Magee  
 Lauren McCune  
 Collin McKean  
 David McLaughlin  
 Debbie Olsen  
 Peter Reagan  
 Erica Rubin

### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS (cont.)

Peter Samson  
 Steve Sakaguchi  
 Robin Schauffler  
 Matt Shanahan  
 Rylan Suehisa  
 Rachel Sokolow  
 Kate Thompson  
 Tom Truby  
 Willa Clare Truby  
 Inge van Waardenburg

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bonnie Reagan - President  
 Annelisa Smith - Secretary  
 Tracy Rimel - Treasurer

Nan Anderson  
 Tim Boot  
 Olivia Godinez  
 Cynthia MacLeod  
 George Olsen  
 Leslie Tuomi  
 (Terry Hsu, founding board member)



Volunteer Ginny Adelsheim helps new BRAVO students Iverson and Braejon Brewer build paper mache violins on the first day of the program.

*I appreciate this program not just for the music, but because it teaches our children that they can learn something worthwhile, and that's a lesson they will take with them for the rest of their lives.*

*My child really needed BRAVO at this point in his life and it is making all the difference for him.*

- a grandmother who is the custodial parent

*A special thank you to Kimberly Warner, Joe Cantrell, Kathryn Elssesser and Bonnie Reagan for these photographs.*

## Contact BRAVO

If you would like to arrange a program visit or find out more about BRAVO, please contact us:

**BRAVO Youth Orchestras**  
**PO Box 17356**  
**Portland, OR 97217**

[www.facebook.com/BRAVOYouthOrchestras](http://www.facebook.com/BRAVOYouthOrchestras)

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