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
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       Seth H. Truby  
Board President        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
- **Tallis Canon** - Thomas Tallis
- **Shosholoza** - South African folk song
- **Un elefante se balanceaba** - Mexican folk song
- **Stand By Me** - Ben E. King et al
- **Chorale from Symphony #1** - Johannes Brahms
- **The Birch Tree** - Russian folk song
- **We Shall Overcome** - American civil rights song

**BRAVO Rosa Parks Student Roster 2013–14**

**VIOLIN I:**
- Alayjah Thor, Amanda Houston, Fiala Kostrba-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, Kieazsha 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.
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.

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

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 Kostrba-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:

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

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

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<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>REVENUES</th>
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<td>$144,546 Salaries</td>
<td>$114,468 Individuals and businesses</td>
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<tr>
<td>$23,812 Other personnel costs</td>
<td>$59,500 Foundation grants</td>
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<td>$16,675 Instruments, supplies</td>
<td>$4,000 Government</td>
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<td>$177,968 CONTRIBUTED REVENUE</td>
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<td>$16,964 INDIRECT COSTS</td>
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<td>$201,997 TOTAL EXPENSES 2013-14</td>
<td>$178,862 TOTAL REVENUES 2013-14</td>
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$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

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

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS (cont.)**
- Peter Samson
- Steve Sakaguchi
- Robin Schaufler
- Matt Shanahan
- Ryan Suehs
- Rachel Sokolow
- Kate Thompson
- Tom Truby
- Willa Clare Truby
- Inge van Waardenburg

**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 Moric, Reed College
- Kristina Dill, Lewis and Clark College
- Diego Murray, Pacific Crest School
- Keely McMurry, Pacific Crest School
- Julius Correl, home school

**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)

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS (cont.)**
- Peter Samson
- Steve Sakaguchi
- Robin Schaufler
- Matt Shanahan
- Ryan Suehs
- Rachel Sokolow
- Kate Thompson
- Tom Truby
- Willa Clare Truby
- Inge van Waardenburg

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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 Elsesser and Bonnie Reagan for these photographs.

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**Contact BRAVO**

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

**BRAVO Youth Orchestras**
- www.oregonbravo.org
- contact@oregonbravo.org
- Portland, OR 97217
- 503.686.3124
- www.facebook.com/BRAVOYouthOrchestras

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