

URBAN HARPIST



Volume VI, Issue I

Winter Concert 2023



Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I reach out to you. My journey over the years has been nothing if not extraordinary as I encounter each group of talented young musicians. In fact, I have met students who have been nothing short of inspiring and who have remained true examples of who the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble was created for.

The Urban Youth Harp Ensemble stands as a testament to the transformative power of music education. The capable and skilled teachers, Dr. Molly O’Roark and Dr. Jennifer Betzer provide a nurturing environment for students to hone their musical skills and cultivate a deep appreciation for the arts.

Our commitment to fostering a love for music and providing a platform for artistic expression is unwavering. However, we recognize that this journey is made possible through the generosity of individuals like you who understand the value of music education and its positive influence on the lives of our young musicians.

Lastly, I invite you to join us in empowering these talented young individuals by supporting the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble with a donation. Your generosity will directly contribute to the continuation of our program, enabling us to provide quality musical education and unforgettable performance experiences for our students.

To make a donation, please visit urbanharp.org. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact on the success of our program and the lives of the students we serve.

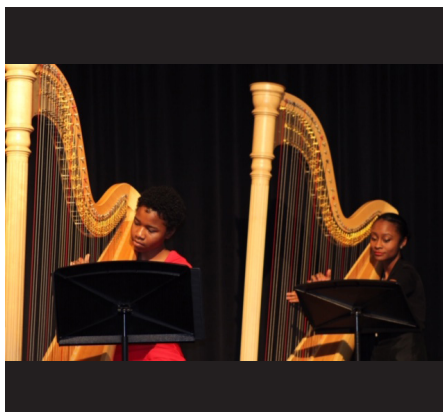
On behalf of the entire Urban Youth Ensemble students, the masterful teachers and the dedicated board of directors, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your consideration and support. Together, we can create a harmonious future filled with music, inspiration, and the joy that comes from nurturing the artistic passions of our community’s young talents.

Roselyn Lewis

Executive Director, Co-Founder

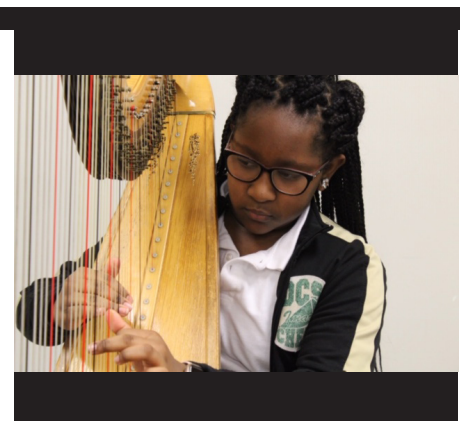


DONATE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Executive Director’s Message</i>	1
<i>Academy News</i>	2
<i>Senior Corner</i>	3
<i>25th Anniversary</i>	3
<i>New Chairman Letter</i>	4
<i>Donors and Supporters</i>	4



The Junior Academy

Junior Academy students recently completed their first concert of the year. Sixth and seventh grade students performed a hybrid of an in-person and virtual concert. The fourth and fifth grade Drew Elementary orchestra students were invited to the performances on October 4th and 5th.



Eighth grade students performed a livestream concert for their families as well. Students prepared a combination of ensemble and solo pieces, each piece having a spooky theme. Next: Winter Concert.

The Senior Academy

The Senior Academy is comprised of seven seniors, eight juniors, thirteen sophomores and six freshmen. At this level students are becoming more comfortable with their craft and occasionally perform out of the classroom environment. These students are no strangers to the Metro Atlanta music world. Sage Harrison and Myron Leonard performed at the TDP 30th Anniversary Concert at Spivey Hall. The nearly 100 year old founder of TDP was in attendance at the performance.

The Afterschool Program

The Urban Youth Harp Ensemble after school program is an integral part of the harp instruction. It has expanded to the beginner and advanced class. There are twelve students currently enrolled in the beginner class, learning to read music. In the advanced class the students have had prior experience playing the harp.

2023 - 2024 Youth Ensemble Audition Results



How do we begin to measure the accomplishments of such talented young harp students? We know they take their craft seriously because they continue to excel. Impressive! Join us in applauding the skills of the following young virtuosos:

Sophomore Madison Ford has been selected as the principal harp at the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Junior Waverly Alcook has been accepted into the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music program.

Board of Directors

Ms. Roselyn Lewis

Executive Director

Dzauya Nkuchwayo-Fogle

Board Chairman

Mr. William Stanly, Jr.

Mr. Michael Young

Mr. Don Doron

Mrs. Sabrina Simmons

Ms. Sigele Winbush

Dr. Larry Copeland, Jr.

Mrs. Cynthia Turner

Mrs. Carolyn Munford

Ms. Gwen Ellis

Ms. Monica Hargrave

Mrs. Billye Aaron

Ms. Sadie Dennard

Staff

Dr. Molly O'Roark

Dr. Jennifer Betzer

Audition Results



Congratulations to sophomore Alex Price for his acceptance at the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony and Myron Leonard, also a sophomore, has been accepted as the principal harp for the Emory Youth Symphony. Senior Sage Harrison begins her fourth year as the principal harp with the Atlanta Youth Symphony.

The tutelage of Elizabeth Remy Johnson of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Ellen Foster has contributed to the exceptional development of these students.

The Seniors Speak

“Hi! My name is **Tannilea Schliffer** and I plan on going to college for either marketing or public relations. I want to own a publishing company in the future and that’s why I’m going to double major as well. I plan on continuing my harp journey beyond high school. While it is my first year playing the harp, it’s very fulfilling. I’m very thankful for this opportunity to play the harp!”

“Hello, my name is **Ka’Mara Zackary** and I want to enlist in the Air Force and do real estate after I graduate.”

“My name is **Aoki Hawkins** and I am a senior. I have played harp for 2 years. After high school I plan to study architecture and interior architecture. I hope to study abroad for college and view structures all over the world.”

“My name is **Erin Howard** and I have grown in the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble for 7 years. I am in the middle of the college application process. I hope to study international business and travel the world.”

“Hi, I’m **Samaya King** and have been in harp for 4 years. I want to attend a four year university and study chemistry to become an orthodontist. Currently I am a semifinalist for the Gates Scholarship.”

“My name is **Imari Ricks** and I am a senior at Drew Charter School. I have been playing the harp for 7 years. I plan to attend a 4 year institution and major in Biomedical Sciences.”

“Hello! My name is **Sage Harrison** and I am a senior who has played harp for 7 years. I want to be a professional orchestral harpist and attend the Manhattan School of Music.”

Urban Youth Harp Ensemble’s 25th Anniversary

2025 will mark the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble’s 25th anniversary. We are incredibly excited to celebrate this milestone moment. We are planning a full and exciting year of festivities and would like to bring as many friends, alumni and alumni parents back to share in the occasion with us.

If you’re an alum or alumni parent and would like to be involved, please fill out this form (also available on the QR) to be added to our communication list.





A Note from the New Chairman of the Board

The success of the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble and the students we serve is evident in the number of students we have supported over the years and the increasing interest from year to year. Our program’s relevance is evident through our ongoing residency at Drew Charter, relaunch of the after- school program, student participation in competitions throughout the Southeast, and re-engagement with program alumni. Each of these activities demonstrates that our mission to deliver quality musical instruction on the harp, develop music reading skills and musicianship remains relevant.

Twenty-five years as a nonprofit organization is not a long time. For the students we have served, it is the time that has provided a positive life-changing experience that we plan to continue. My personal goal is to further engage our parents and community of supporters, in ways that further Urban Youth Harp Ensembles reach and impact to the students we serve. I am excited about the program’s future and invite you to join us on this journey.

Best regards,

Dzauya Nkuchwayo-Fogle



THE ZEIST FOUNDATION, INC.



Thank you to all of our donors and supporters. It was because of your unwavering support from 2020 until now that has helped sustain the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble. For a complete list, visit our website.

CONTACT US: ROSELYN LEWIS • EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • URBAN YOUTH HARP ENSEMBLE
 3259 BRIARWOOD BOULEVARD • EAST POINT, GA 30344
 404.271.5899 • ROSELYN@MINDSPRING.COM • WWW.URBANHARP.ORG