

Community Partners Monthly Highlights

August 2025

In August, musicians served more than **600** community members of all ages, through **18** events across **7** New Jersey counties.



Sounds of Equality

On August 1, James Tsao, Alexandra Neglia, Christine Terhune, and Hyewon Kim performed at Garden State Equality's new headquarters in Asbury Park for a Next Gen event, presented in partnership with Garden State Equality to celebrate equality and pride. The program welcomed people of all ages to experience classical music as a powerful tool for advocacy, joy, and belonging. Featuring a vibrant mix of classical and pop selections, including songs by Lady Gaga, Rihanna, and John Lennon, the performance fostered a warm and inclusive atmosphere that honored visibility, artistry, and purpose through music.

Hamilton YMCA

On August 7, Thierry de Lucas Neves, Jesús Sáenz, Christine Terhune, and Angelique Montes performed the Ladies First program for an attentive audience at Hamilton YMCA. This program featured women composers ranging from the 1500s to the present day, including Anne Boleyn, Clara Schumann, and Florence Price. Many attendees, familiar faces from our mainstage concerts, were delighted to enjoy an afternoon of chamber music in a more intimate setting.



Made possible by generous support from PSEG Foundation.



Palisades Medical Center

On August 14, Helenmarie Vassiliou, Ann Kossakowski, Frank Foerster, and Hyewon Kim performed at Palisades Medical Center. This live string quartet performance provided doctors, nurses, and visitors with a soothing musical experience during their lunch break, accompanied by a stunning view of the New York City skyline. A listener shared, “This is the most relaxing lunch I’ve ever had!”

Made possible by generous support from
Hackensack Meridian Health.

Good Grief Expressions Camp

On August 20, Xin Zhao, David Blinn, and Jonathan Spitz visited the campers and counselors at Good Grief’s Summer Expressions Camp in Morristown, a program for young people who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The trio performed “The ABCs of Feelings and Music”, encouraging the kids to share how different pieces of music made them feel. A standout moment came during a mischievous movement of a Beethoven trio when the campers opened up with vivid imagery, from the Cheshire Cat and Tom and Jerry to Harry Potter’s invisibility cloak, showing how deeply the music sparked their imaginations.



Newark Public Libraries

This month, Brennan Sweet, Xin Zhao, Thierry de Lucas Neves, and LonFon Law brought the Musical Storytime program to all seven branches across the five Newark wards, engaging children and families with live music, colorful songs, and interactive storytelling. The children excitedly learned about each musician’s instrument and the colorful sounds it could make. They joined in sing-alongs like “The Colors Song” and “If You’re Happy and You Know It”, and listened to musical accompaniments of *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Walsh and *My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Seuss. The programs were a joyful blend of music, literacy, and imagination.

As always, thank you for your support of the Community Partners program.
Stay tuned for the next edition of Monthly Highlights!