

# NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

## Community Partners Monthly Highlights

# March

*In March, musicians served more than **900** community members of all ages, through **21** events across **eight** New Jersey counties.*



## T. Thomas Fortune House

On March 2, Brennan Sweet, Naomi Youngstein, Brett Deubner, and Angelique Montes performed the Musical Changemakers program at T. Thomas Fortune House in Red Bank, a National Historic Landmark and former home of civil rights advocate T. Thomas Fortune. Held in the salon, the intimate setting created a powerful connection between the music and the rich history of the space.

## Asbury Park Boys & Girls Club

On March 10, Francine and Jonathan Storck introduced their Music That Makes You Move program to the Boys & Girls Club in Asbury Park.

The students had a great time guessing the cultural origins of each piece and drawing creative parallels between instrument sounds and animals. Some imagined the violin mimicking a bird, while others thought the deep tones of the bass resembled a bear.





## P.G. Chambers School

In March, David Southorn, Francine Storck, Christine Terhune, Jonathan Spitz, and Jonathan Storck brought music to life at P.G. Chambers School in Cedar Knolls, which works with students having physical and developmental disabilities. Students had the opportunity to see, hear, and interact with string instruments as they moved along to classics like “If You’re Happy and You Know it” and Joplin’s “The Entertainer.” The room was filled with energy and enthusiasm, creating a joyful and immersive musical experience. This residency was generously sponsored by the MCJ Amelior Foundation.

## Essex County Teen Arts Festival

On March 27, Debra Biderman, David Fein, Bryan Hernandez-Luch, Levi Boylan, and Bart Feller took part in Essex County’s first in-person Teen Arts Festival at the Turtleback Zoo in West Orange, presented by the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs.

Themed “Teen Arts Go Wild,” the event welcomed teens, ages 13–19, for a full day of creative expression.

Debra and David served as adjudicators, offering feedback to student performers, while Bryan, Levi, and Bart led a workshop titled, “So You Want To Be a Professional Musician,” sharing performances and career insights. This opportunity was made possible by generous support from the TD Charitable Foundation.



## York St. Project Gala

On March 27, Eric Wyrick, Brennan Sweet, Brett Deubner, and Jonathan Spitz performed at York Street Project’s Celebration of Hope gala in Jersey City. They were joined by Jersey City Poet Laureate Melida Rodas in a powerful collaboration that paired her original poetry with Montgomery’s “Strum”. The performance concluded with the final movement of Mendelssohn’s Octet, where the quartet was joined by Jim Tsao, Maya Shiraishi, David Blinn, and Hyewon Kim. This piece celebrated York Street Project’s vital work supporting women, children, and families in need.



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