

## Community Partners Monthly Highlights

# April 2026

In April, musicians served more than **4,500** community members of all ages, through **25** events across **10** New Jersey counties.



### NJMEA School Coachings

In April, through our partnership with the New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA), musicians conducted coaching sessions at eight schools. Coaches included Brennan Sweet (Union High School), Angelique Montes (Nutley High School), Darryl Kubian (Churchill Junior High School), Martin Andersen (Elizabeth High School), Andy Lamy (Frelinghuysen Middle School), Mark Timmerman (Timberlane Middle School), and Bart Feller (Readington Middle School). "Their expertise and insight greatly helped students improve as they work towards their spring concerts!"

### Instrument Discovery Zones

Musicians continued to educate and inspire patrons of all ages through Instrument Discovery Zones, inviting audiences to explore and create music with a variety of instruments. Continuing our commitment to accessibility, we presented a Relaxed Performance on April 16 during Autism Acceptance Month, creating a more inclusive and supportive concert experience for patrons of all abilities, including individuals with autism, sensory sensitivities, and cognitive or physical differences.





## Robotics and STEAM Symposium

On April 21, New Jersey Symphony was presented at the Robotics and STEAM Symposium at St. Peter's University in Jersey City. With approximately 170 students and teachers from high schools across Jersey City in attendance, participants engaged in a variety of partner-led sessions and activities, including robotics with Liberty Science Center and 3D printing with the Jersey City Free Public Library, among others. Mark Timmerman developed a STEAM tabling experience titled "Good Vibrations," which featured a carrot marimba, a DIY French horn, and water bottle pitch pipes, to highlight the physics of music.

## Spring into Music Gala

On April 23, the Spring into Music Gala & Auction brought together patrons, community leaders, and artists at Pleasantdale Chateau in West Orange in support of the New Jersey Symphony. The evening featured performances by Adriana Rosin, Xin Zhao, Naomi Youngstein, Jim Tsao, Fatima Aaziza, Ming Yang, Sasha Neglia, John Connelly, Ann Kossakowski, Brett Deubner, Mike Stewart, Hyewon Kim, Matt Kolodzieski, and Zach Marzulli, with a program including works by Vivaldi, Ethel Smyth, Johann Strauss, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and Max Richter. This year's gala also honored the 35th anniversary of the Youth Orchestra and featured a collaborative performance by the Fields Ensemble, led by Terrence Thornhill, alongside Youth Orchestra coaches.



## The Montclair Foundation

On April 25, the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players completed the fourth and final performance of the Montclair Foundation's inaugural Cultural Arts Series. Featuring David Southorn, Youngsun Kim, Izia Weyman, and Angelique Montes, alongside Resident Artistic Partner Allison Loggins-Hull, the program included two of Allison's works, *Homeland* for solo flute and *Patchwork* for viola and cello, as well as Florence Price's String Quartet No. 1 and Dvořák's String Quartet No. 12 often referred to as the "American Quartet". The evening was attended by Jonathan Koppell, the President of Montclair State University, and Shea Scruggs, the Director of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State. Mr. Scruggs introduced a group of students performing a Mozart Quintet.

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