

Community Partners Monthly Highlights

August 2026

In August, musicians served more than **500** community members of all ages, through **16** events across **6** New Jersey counties.



National Night Out

On August 4, Zach Marzulli and Andy Lamy led an Instrument Discovery Zone at Mildred Helms Park in Newark as part of “National Night Out,” an annual community-building event that brings neighbors, families, and local organizations together to promote community engagement and strengthen relationships between residents and local law enforcement. The musicians greeted attendees and helped children try different instruments, creating a fun and interactive introduction to music. The event was sponsored by TD Charitable Foundation.

Symphony in the Stacks

This summer, New Jersey Symphony presented “Symphony in the Stacks,” a free chamber music series in partnership with the Jersey City Free Public Library. The series brought live music into five JCFPL branches, with one performance for children and one for adults at each location. Programs explored a variety of themes, cultures, and musical traditions, giving library patrons of all ages the opportunity to experience live chamber music. The series was supported by funding through the NJEDA's A.R.T. - Phase II Grant Program.





Strings by the Sea

On August 17, Jim Tsao, Chris Terhune, Helen Vassiliou, and Angelique Montes brought the “Strings by the Sea” program to Surfside Park in Avalon. The group performed a fun mix of selections from *The Little Mermaid*, *Wicked*, *KPop Demon Hunters*, and more. The program was well received by the audience, who enjoyed the opportunity to experience live music in a fun, outdoor setting. Thank you to the Avalon Free Public Library for hosting New Jersey Symphony in Cape May County!

Community Awareness Series

On August 18, New Jersey Symphony collaborated with Kulture Kool to present the “Hooray for Bollywood” program at Canco Park in Jersey City. The event was presented in partnership with the Jersey City Free Public Library’s Community Awareness Series, which celebrates the diverse cultures and communities of Jersey City through educational and cultural programs. Bryan Hernandez-Luch, Jesus Saenz, Mike Stewart, Sarah Seiver, and Jimmy Musto performed alongside talented dancers in a beautiful outdoor setting.



Music & Wellness

On August 24, Jim Tsao, Naomi Youngstein, Chris Terhune, and Hyewon Kim performed the “Viral Virtuosos” program at Children’s Specialized Hospital in New Brunswick for patients ages 1 to 18 and their families. The program featured favorites including “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” from *The Lion King* and “Let It Go” from *Frozen*. One patient’s father shared that the performance “really [made] a difference” to his family, highlighting the impact the Music & Wellness program can have for patients and their loved ones. Thank you to Johnson & Johnson for sponsoring this special event!

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