



Music Lens 2018 Press Release

Music Lens is a free summer program that introduces elementary school students to classical music. This year, after three summers in Boston, the camp expanded to run five sessions in Cleveland.

Music Lens was featured at the Cleveland Leadership Center's Accelerate Pitch Night in February. Exposure from the event led to an invitation to speak at Thompson Hine's Accelerate@TH competition, where Music Lens won first place and a grant of \$5,000. Music Lens was also a recipient of the Alumni Leadership grant from NPR's From the Top radio show, the Explore grant from Brown University's Swearer Center, and a significant gift from PNC Bank.

The generous support made it possible for Music Lens to present an outstanding program. Student and parent feedback was overwhelmingly positive. One mother reported that her daughter expressed reservations before the start of the week but reported newfound interests in Bach and classical Indian music at the end of the first day, taught her family new musical terms at dinner each night, and declared that she "loved the camp" by Friday.

In the words of another parent,

This was a wonderful experience for our daughters! The camp struck the perfect balance of informative exercises, activities, art, creativity, and fun. I was so impressed by the breadth of information they covered on music history and theory. My girls especially loved making their own instruments and they group games. The counselors were caring and kind. We have had poor camp experiences in the past, and [one of my daughters] was ready to give up on trying camps altogether. Music Lens offered a small group experience which made her feel comfortable and confident. I am so thrilled that we were lucky enough to participate!

Each week-long session of Music Lens involves lessons on musical symbols, world music, note-reading, music history, instruments, artistic movements of the 20th century, and more. Children come away remembering a magical week of possibility, discovery, and excitement, and classical music organically becomes a valuable part of their lives. Music Lens is free and available to any incoming second, third, or fourth grader but particularly seeks to partner with communities underrepresented in classical music - specifically black and Latinx children - as well as families who experience financial barriers to music education and enriching summer programs.

Music Lens' additional 2018 accomplishments included incorporation, registration as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and a complete revision of its curriculum to cover a wider range of subjects and place a greater emphasis on the role of classical music in students' lives. In the spring, Music Lens



presented educational concerts for more than four hundred children in elementary schools and libraries.