

“Opus has opened so many doors for me and I want to translate that **joy** to my audience.”

— MITSUKO YABE, Student, 16, Performance Group Member

“Opus is an accessible program... Other programs in the area appear too difficult to get into and feel exclusive. But here, it has nothing to do with your ability to get in; instead, it has everything to do with work ethic. I see that my eight year old son’s reading has improved. And there are **positive** peer role models here too, like Kai, Amanda, and Jonathan, our older students who my son looks up to.”

— JESI KELLEY, Parent

“I was very **excited** and grateful to have Opus come to our Head Start Program because we’ve never had a formal music class and sadly many of the children we serve will not have the exposure Music Within has provided once they leave us.”

— DIANE SPANN, Director of Addie Mae Collins Community Service

“A program such as Opus 118 gives our children the very **skills** necessary to cope with the problems of their future. It produces not just violinists, but doctors and lawyers and dreams, as well.”

— ITZHAK PERLMAN, Violinist & Advisory Board Member



Opus 118

HARLEM SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Committed to our local community, Opus 118 transforms the lives of our students and their families through access to quality music education, while fostering teacher development and introducing musical performance to new audiences.



Whom We Serve

Opus 118 is proud to serve students from ages two to adult in the Harlem area by helping them reach their full potential as musicians and strong individuals. Most students come from economically challenged backgrounds and would otherwise have little or no access to any music instruction. We support all with the understanding that every person can benefit from high-quality music education, if given the chance.

Where We've Performed

Apollo Theatre
Carnegie Hall
CBS Early Show
Central Park
Children's Inaugural Ball
Lincoln Center
Museum of Natural History
NBC Nightly News
New York Philharmonic
Yankee Stadium
Zurich, Switzerland



Opus 118

HARLEM SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Our Programs

In-School Music Program

Elementary and middle school music programs in schools

Out-Of-School Music Program

Individual and group lessons
in violin, viola, piano, cello,
guitar, and voice
Harlem Youth Chorus
Preparatory Ensemble
Junior Ensemble
Performance Group
Advanced Performance Groups

Music Within

Specially-designed early childhood program for toddlers and care-givers, preschoolers, and primary schools

Community Programs Initiative

Collaborative partnerships with other community, arts, and service organizations that bring our programs to a wider audience

Teacher Training

Internship programs in schools as well as an annual teacher training, the *String Institute*.

Opus 118 Harlem School of Music

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Our Story

Opus began in 1991, when music educator Roberta Guaspari sought to fill the void created by budget cuts that decimated music programs in the East Harlem public schools. With the help of parents, teachers, and friends, the underserved students have seen their program live on: first, in Guaspari's home, and eventually on Harlem's famed 125th Street. Since 2002 Opus has offered out-of-school programs and engaged in community initiatives.

