

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CLASSICAL KIDS MUSIC EDUCATION BUILDS DETAILED ROADMAP to SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Chicago, IL, November 18, 2009 - It is an exciting time for Classical Kids Music Education, the not-for-profit organization behind the internationally-acclaimed Classical Kids Live! Symphony Concert Series.

The Arts Work Fund has awarded Classical Kids Music Education an organizational development grant for strategic planning, and CKME has engaged the Arts Consulting Group to initiate a comprehensive process to build a detailed roadmap that will help steer the organization towards a successful future. This generous contribution to CKME's organizational development came at a critical time in its history as it focuses on new initiatives for upholding its vision to increase opportunities for success and motivate young people through music's unique contribution to whole school development and community regeneration.

CKME has formed a group of Community Advisors made up of several of Chicago's top arts and education leaders including, Janet Carl Smith (Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Programming for Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs), Tatiana Gant (Director of Arts-In-Education Programming for the Illinois Arts Council), and Amy Rasmussen (Executive Director of Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education). In addition, CKME is honored that Henry Fogel has agreed to help by offering his expert advice on the state of arts education in Chicago and nationally. CKME's Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Board Member Alan Salzenstein of DePaul's School of Music, has been formed to process the information provided by these esteemed Community Advisors and to assimilate and create a detailed, three-year strategic plan.

After receiving 501(c)(3) status earlier this year, Classical Kids Music Education is launching an Individual Giving Campaign and is building a list of names that it will cultivate into a sustainable network of tax-exempt support for the valuable contributions it makes to music education throughout North America and abroad. Sara Murphy, CKME Advisory Board Member and Manager of Annual Giving for Chicago's Field Museum, is guiding this important process. CKME has built a new comprehensive organizational website (www.CKME.org) complete with a detailed support section outlining various levels of giving and the benefits offered in appreciation for the vital assistance necessary for its future success.

CKME is grateful to all those assisting its efforts to build pathways for progression in music so that all young people will have access to the rich and diverse range of influence that classical music offers. Their generosity will undoubtedly leave an indelible mark on CKME's future and that of music education both locally and nationally.

For additional information on CKME's Strategic Planning Process or Individual Giving Campaign, contact Paul Pement or visit www.CKME.org.

Classical Kids Music Education was formed for charitable and educational purposes to contribute to the quality of life of children and their parents across cultural and economic boundaries. Over the last decade, the Classical Kids Live! Productions have collaborated with hundreds of distinguished orchestras and reached over two million children in cities throughout North America and beyond.

Contact:
Paul Pement
Executive and Artistic Director
Classical Kids Music Education
paulpement@ckme.org
(773) 828-4448

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