

Grace Notes Music Foundation

"Changing the World, One Note at a Time"



Grace Notes String Ensemble

Year End
Update

2025



Foundation Information

MISSION:

"Grace Notes Music Foundation brings the academic, cultural, and social-emotional benefits of music education to underserved youth and people with disabilities in Palm Beach County."

WE BELIEVE

Music is a core aspect of education.

- Music education increases academic performance by improving cognitive and perceptual skills.
- Our Grace Notes students outperform their peers and for over ten years all have gone on to pursue higher education.
- There are hundreds of studies that support our belief that music has a significant positive impact on brain development.

OUR PURPOSE

We bring music into the lives of students.

- We envision a world in which all students – regardless of income, or background, have equal access to opportunities to make music and the resources needed to thrive in school and beyond.
- We promote the healthy growth and development of children through the study, practice, and performance of music.

FOCUS AREAS

Grace Notes, founded in 2010 and located in Jupiter, Florida, provides equitable access to free music education programs for underserved children and people with disabilities in Palm Beach County. In partnership with the PBC Schools and Community-based nonprofit agencies.

- **Individual Music Education Scholarships**
- **Community Music Outreach Programs**

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

- In 2010 Grace Notes provided music scholarships to 5 Children, in 2025–26, we will provide scholarships to 30 children. We hope to continue expanding the number of scholarships awarded in the coming years.
- We currently provide group instruction for students in cooperation with 7 community partners and will keep expanding these programs.
- An increased emphasis on scientific studies of music and children's development, along with the establishment of program metrics, will guide our program growth.
- In 2023 Grace Notes hired a grant consultant, multiplying grant revenue and securing funding for the future.
- In 2025, we added 2 new support staff for programming and development.

Our story so far...

Average GPA
of Grace
Notes high
school
scholarship
students

3.80

Our Programs

Grace Notes currently administers the following community outreach programs:

- Music Together (Kindergarten Preparedness)
- Mindful Music (Mental Wellness)
- School Orchestra Classes
- Group Music Classes
- Concerts for Kids
- Instrument Assistance
- Summer Music Camp
- Student Performance Opportunities

Our Impact

- In our 15-year history we have enriched the lives of over 1,000 children.
- In the 2025-26 school year, we will provide music education for over 200 children.
- Many of our scholarship students are accepted and attend an Arts School.
- 100% of our scholarship students matriculate to college directly from high school, compared to the statewide average of 65% ~ higheredinfo.org
- The average GPA for the Grace Notes high school scholarship students is 3.80, whereas the average for the state of Florida is 3.32 ~ www.daniel-wong.com

Grace Notes
scholarship
students
matriculating
directly to
college

100%

**Florida average is 65%*

A Grace Notes Story..



Alondra was one of the first Grace Notes Scholarship Recipients. She was in the first class and was identified by her music teacher as a student with a gift who needed financial assistance to reach her goals.

As a student at **Jerry Thomas Elementary (a Title 1 school)**. Alondra excelled in academics, music, and leadership. When the time came for middle school, her individual lessons made a difference and she was accepted to **Bak Middle School of the Performing Arts**. Alondra practiced hard and was an active member of the **Grace Notes Teen Team**. It was no surprise when she was accepted to **Dreyfoos High School of the Performing Arts**.

Alondra's dream was to attend **Emory University**, an ambitious goal for a first generation, college student. Like everything else, she worked hard and was accepted. She graduated in 2025 with a degree in **Business Administration**, majoring in both **Spanish and Arts Management**. She is currently pursuing a masters degree in Latin American Studies at **Georgetown University**.

Alondra continues to perform on the violin and teach as well. She also takes time to **volunteer and mentor other Grace Notes students** during her summer breaks.



200

Number of students
served in 2025-26
School Year

\$200,000

Estimated Operating Budget
for 2025-26 School Year

Our long range goals...

1

Increased Focus on Program Metrics and Scientific Research

Creating a detailed system for evaluating each music outreach program with metrics and quantitative goals is essential for the success of our music education mission. We currently use data such as GPA reports, STAR kindergarten readiness scores, pre and Post program surveys and annual teacher evaluations. Current scholarship students provide GPA reports each semester and their teachers provide evaluations every 6 months. Additionally, the employment of two part-time employees has provided a clear line of responsibility for overseeing these tasks.

2

Expand Pre-School and Mindful Music Programs

Prior to 2024, Grace Notes focused on programs for grades K-12. However, scientific studies were clear that children receiving music education before the age of 7 benefit greatly in terms of brain development. Partnering with nationally recognized **Music Together**, Grace Notes now has programs in 3 underserved preschools with the goal of improving kindergarten readiness. In 2025, Grace Notes additionally worked with our partner, **Creative Art Therapies of the Palm Beaches**, to expand our Mindful Music program to include elementary and neurodivergent children.

3

Increasing grant and fundraising revenue

Steady growth has been the goal of Grace Notes since its founding in 2011. With an increase in programming, comes an increase in annual budgets. In 2023, Grace Notes partnered with a grant consultant and has significantly increased grant revenue and continues to do so. In 2025 we worked with a development consultant to build a fundraising blueprint and goals for growth. In 2025 Grace Notes added support staff in the areas of programming and development.

4

Growing Our Board

As Grace Notes begins its 15th year of operations, long range planning and an engaged board of directors are priorities. In addition to active and committed board members, it was decided that Grace Notes could benefit from specialized skills and input. In 2025, we created an Advisory Board which works closely with the board of directors to continue strengthening our music education outreach.

We thank you for your interest in Grace Notes Music Foundation!

Resilience  Communications



EXTRAORDINARY
CHARITIES

100+
Women Who Care
JUPITER/TEQUESTA



Loxahatchee Club
Educational Foundation



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
FOR PALM BEACH AND MARTIN COUNTIES



Creative Arts Therapies
of the Palm Beaches



JLC
ONATHAN'S LANDING CARES



UB Kinsey
Elementary School



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Board of Directors

Sandra Baran, President
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Alice Culbreath, Secretary
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Palm Health
Foundation

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