

IMPACT REPORT



STRINGTACULAR 2016

Nearly 300 students (300!!) from Merit's Suzuki-Alegre Strings program performed *simultaneously* in the gymnasium at Benito Juarez Community Academy on June 4, resulting in a joyful, resonant sound. The performing forces in this ensemble are more than twice that required to mount your average late Romantic symphonic work. Mahler would be jealous. What a treat!

This event was made possible thanks to our sponsors Carnicerías Jimenez, Inc and the Oppenheimer Family Foundation.

KGT Woodwind Trio Takes Home the Prize!



ABOVE: (left to right) Amer Hasan, Quincey Trojanowski, Maddy Deanne

On May 8, 2016, judges at the 2016 Fiscoff National Chamber Music Competition announced Merit's own KGT Woodwind Trio as winners of the Junior Division Wind Prize! Congratulations to this fabulous ensemble and its members, Maddy Deanne (flute), Amer Hasan (clarinet), and Quincey Trojanowski (bassoon).

KGT's win marks the 2nd consecutive year that Merit students have traveled to Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center and taken home the top prize. The group performed an ambitious program of 20th Century works from Husa, Piston, Koechlin, and Baaren.

Watch them perform the third movement of Koechlin's *Trio* here:

Merit Honors the McGill Family, Northern Trust & Duffie Adelson at the 2016 Gala

On Tuesday May 10, 2016, Merit School of Music hosted its annual Gala at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago, honoring two of its most distinguished alumni, brothers Demarre and Anthony McGill, their parents, Ira Carol and Demarre McGill, and corporate leader Northern Trust Corporation. Merit also honored Life Trustee, Duffie Adelson for her 33 years of leadership at Merit and announced the establishment of the Duffie Adelson Financial Aid Fund.

Gala guests were treated to performances by the McGill brothers alongside current students: Anthony with Joshua Mhoon, and Demarre with the Guitar Quartet. Many, many other students gave marvelous performances as well. The event raised nearly \$1,000,000 dollars in support of Merit's high-quality music education programming.



ABOVE: Joshua Mhoon and Anthony McGill take a bow after their performance of a movement from Saint-Saens' Sonata for Clarinet and Piano.

Fulfilling Dreams

During the evening, Merit debuted its newest video, *Fulfilling Dreams*, which shows how Merit creates pathways for students to accomplish their dreams. Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/jbu3KDMPIk>

Heartfelt Congratulations To Our Graduates!



On Sunday, May 15, 2016, Merit invited families, Trustees, Associate Board Members and community leaders to celebrate the many achievements of this year's Alice S. Pfaelzer Tuition-free Conservatory graduating class. 100% of our 61 graduating seniors will continue their studies at a college or university next year! Roderick Branch, Co-chair of Latham & Watkins Chicago Corporate Department, named to Crain's "40 Under 40", attended and delivered a special graduation address. Some of the colleges our graduating seniors will attend in the fall include: Eastman School of Music, New England Conservatory, Northwestern University, Oberlin, and University of Chicago.

Merit Graduation: Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to all of the award and scholarship recipients and their families. We look forward to hearing about your success in years to come and hope you will come back to visit!

The Mary Herron Replogle Scholarship - Alyssa Tong

The Neal Abarbanell College Scholarship - Emma Sullivan

The Alice S. Pfaelzer Leadership Award - Matthew Fowler

The Emma Endres-Kountz Prize for Excellence - Anthony Sung

The Dream, Believe, Achieve! Scholarship - Leslie Lopez

The Chicago Jazz Orchestra Association Jazz Award - Snow Adams, Jada Stroud



WTTW Considers Diversity in Orchestras, Features Merit

In WTTW's Chicago Tonight segment, *Making Music Together: A Look at Diversity in Orchestras*, the news outlet considers the low rates of diversity in today's top orchestras. It considers some of the barriers to entry that many face and asks Chicago institutions, including Merit, to weigh in on the issue and discuss strategies and solutions to this ongoing challenge. You can watch it at the link: <http://tinyurl.com/Merit-WTTW>

You Can Support Merit's Work On Excellence and Inclusion Here!

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at www.meritmusic.org



Above: Scholarship Recipients receiving their awards. (Left to right) President & Executive Director Charlie Grode with Alyssa Tong; Matthew Fowler with Board Trustee Butch Pfaelzer; Board Trustee Margie Fisher with Anthony Sung; Leslie Lopez with Board Trustee Emily Knight.