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Dear Paula and the Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc.!

January 23, 2024

My name is Kirk Johnson and I am the Founder and CEO of SOUNDS Academy. We are so grateful for your support of our Comprehensive Music Programs. Thanks to you, we were able to serve over 2,000 students from 40 zip codes. I hope that you are able to see some of the highlights of our year in this report.

In January, we saw the resurrection of The Collective Program. This program features student that have been playing their instrument for at least 2 years. Thanks to you, we were able to grow the Motown Band, add a Jazz Band, and add more string chamber music groups. This called for the need for us to add a concert to our Spring Concert Series, featuring only the students in The Collective Program.

In April, we saw one of our students take 1st place of the 63rd Annual Young Musicians Competition and recipient of the first ever Jean & Robert Frankeberger Grand Prize. This earned him the opportunity to be the featured soloist with The Phoenix Symphony, performing the Elgar Cello Concerto at Symphony Hall.

During the SOUNDS Academy 2023 Benefit Concert, several of our students from the SOLO Program showcased a high level of hard work and their character values with exceptional performances on the stage of Memorial Hall at Steele Indian School Park. The Motown Band rocked the house with their performance of Dancing in the Streets and Money! It was so special to see all of our seniors graduate and make their college announcements to family, friends, and supporters; keeping our 100% graduation and college acceptance rate.

The summer brought us to the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles to see 6 of our students play with the Youth Orchestras of Los Angeles, under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel; a multiple Grammy Award winning and world renown conductor of the LA Philharmonic and Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela. The Ensemble featured some of the most talented students from South, Central, and North America.

We opened our 2023-2024 Season, starting a new partnership with the Osborn School District, allowing us to impact even more student in Phoenix. We closed the year with 14 exceptional concerts across the valley on elementary and middle school stages, as well as The Nash, The Herberger Theatre, and the Performing Arts Center of Estrella Mountain Community College.

We would not have been able to do this work without the support of The Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc. We thank you for choosing to support Music Education with SOUNDS Academy!

Sincerely,
Kirk Johnson
Kirk Johnson

