

# Grand Canyon Music Festival

January 16, 2023

Dear Ms. Cullison and Arizona Women's Partnership,

We are deeply grateful to the Arizona Women's Partnership for your continued generous support of the Native American Composer Apprentice Project (NACAP).

2023 saw several new exciting opportunities emerge for our NACAP youth.

- Their music was chosen for the soundtrack of a new, award-winning documentary, "Navajo Nation USA" about uranium mining on the Navajo Nation and a new cancer center in Tuba City. The students were paid as composers for the use of their music in the film.

- Minnesota Public Media's Performance Today is working on a radio documentary about NACAP.

- Central Sound, Arizona's PBS affiliate, is working on a NACAP documentary.

- NACAP students received compensation for appearing on our NACAP podcast "Original Score: A Native Perspective on Music," part of an Arizona Humanities Council-supported project.

These kinds of opportunities serve to amplify our students' voices, providing them recognition and validation.

NACAP's teaching composers, 2023 MacArthur Fellow and Pulitzer Prize-winner Raven Chacon (Navajo Nation) and Michael Begay (Navajo Nation and NACAP alum), tutored students from Chinle High School, Whitehorse High School, Tuba City and Greyhills Academy High Schools, Monument Valley High School in Kayenta, and Santa Fe Indian School, in the art of composition. Workshops with the student composers and the Catalyst Quartet were held at Chinle, Whitehorse, Tuba City, Greyhills Academy, and Monument Valley High Schools, followed by concerts of the students' works for the school communities. Workshops with the students and the Strata Quartet were held at Santa Fe Indian School followed by a concert of the students' works for the school community. 38 NACAP Apprentice Composers had their original works for string quartet premiered at the Grand Canyon Music Festival and recorded by Central Sound. Students receive MP3 files of their works.

- 2023 was the final year of the Native American Composer Apprentice Project's participation in the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation's first **SHIFT: Transformative Change and Indigenous Art** cohort, a program to provide resources and mentorship to Native artists, another opportunity to disseminate our NACAP youth's voices.

- "Original Score: A Native Perspective on Music," a podcast by and for NACAP students and produced by Michael Begay (a NACAP alum and teaching composer) at KGHR, Navajo Radio in Tuba City, highlights NACAP students, their lives, aspirations, and music. It is available on Mixcloud and we hope to develop wider distribution to share our students' voices.

Thank you again. *Your support means so much to us and to our youth!*

Clare Hoffman

*"This is something they do for themselves. It can pull a suicidal kid out of a dive."*

*- English teacher, NACAP Partner School.*