

## A Sound Grounding in the HGSE Arts in Education Program

When a prospective friend of the Arts in Education Program asked Frank Hunnewell, co-chair (with John Humphrey) of the AIE external advisory council, whether the program includes musicians among its friends and affiliates—or whether it's mainly for visual artists—he asked us for help. He knew we'd had a fair number of musicians come through the Ed.M. program, with the writers, painters, actors, and multi-media installation artists, but he didn't have the figures and faces at the ready. Turning to our database and its long-term memory of individuals when our mortal memories failed us, we were inspired to cite a few examples of the program's continuing inclusion of musicians and music-lovers in advisory, faculty, and student capacities.

First we mentioned the names of a few AIE alumni who are working to incorporate the musical arts in educational settings.

In recent years, the Arts in Education Program has included a number of young musicians in its Ed.M. program. Rhoda Bernard, Ed.M. '99, went on to do her doctorate here, writing about learning through music while working at the Conservatory Lab Charter School in Brighton. Rhoda recently began serving as chair of the new Music Education Program at The Boston Conservatory. Not incidentally, a 2003 graduate of AIE, Jeanine Tiemeyer, joined the faculty at Conservatory Lab Charter School as a violin teacher. She has recently moved to Colorado, though, where she'll be teaching violin and doing outreach in her new position at the Boulder Arts Academy.

The New England Conservatory's lab charter school is not the only beneficiary of the Arts in Education Program. In 2004, native Hawaiian musician Randy Wong studied in the program—then started work on a master's degree in performance at Carnegie-Mellon in Pittsburgh—and now, taking a break from work on his second advanced degree program, is back in Boston teaching, performing, and doing research—yes—at the Conservatory Lab Charter School. Meanwhile, Sarah Wong (no relation to Randy) has gone on to teach music in the Philadelphia area. Classical musician Mia Kirk, AIE'03, has gone back to Newark, New Jersey, to work with disadvantaged youth in the public school where she was teaching before she came to Cambridge. And Lenis Chen (classical violinist), Yael Silk (composer), and Tonja King (classical soprano)—all from the class of 2003—after studying alongside the many visual, literary, and other performing artists in the program, have gone back into schools and nonprofits to ply their trade, Lenis as community education specialist for a science-learning program at the University of North Carolina, Yael as the education and community programs manager for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, and Tonja—now also hard at work in her first years as a mother—as voice instructor at a private music school in Waltham, Mass.

The 2005 class of Arts in Education Program students included experienced musicians as well. Kameka Dempsey arrived with a BA in performance from Yale and an

impressive list of singing, dancing, and acting credentials—and proceeded to organize and emcee an outstanding series of performances by AIE students. These events included performances by Andreea Pauta, a singer-songwriter who previously served as an administrator at New England Conservatory of Music; Gretchen Iversen, a singer-songwriter (in jazz, rhythm and blues, hip-hop, and world music) who has been working with Cambridge school children on a math-and-music project called DrumLogic; versatile virtuosa viola player Chloe Kline; singer Monica Hirsch, as versed in the *bossa nova* of her native Brazil as she is in classical repertoire; Nicole Shields, who came here to study the intersections of math, music, and technology; and Pilita Danesh, a singer-songwriter who returned, at least for the meantime, to her entertaining (literally) job at DisneyWorld in Florida upon graduation.

Next we boasted about one other longtime associate of the Arts in Education Program; namely, well-known jazz vibraphonist and former Berklee School of Music president Gary Burton. Mr. Burton taught a class at HGSE during the 1997-98 academic year and performed, at former AIE Director Jessica Hoffmann Davis's invitation, for at least two Askwith Education Forum events, including the spring 2002 celebration of Jessica's appointment to a faculty chair. Jessica has moved on now, replaced by Project Zero director Steve Seidel—but the program's arms remain wide open in welcome to musicians. Last year, no fewer than eight students identified music as the art form with which they had most experience.

Last but far from least, we cited Larry Scripp, long-time faculty member at New England Conservatory and former researcher at Harvard Project Zero, who for three years has been teaching a module (an eight-week course) on learning through music each spring here at HGSE as part of the AIE Program offerings.

We were glad when Frank Hunnewell asked us for help in answering his friend's question about the place of music in the AIE Program. His friend, Thelma Goldberg, already on the board of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, turned out to be interested in joining the AIE external advisory council herself—joining, among nearly two dozen others, Jeannette Hargroves Taylor, herself on the board at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge. And though Frank may not have cited himself as an example of AIE's recognition of music as one of the indispensable arts—nor his co-chair, John Humphrey, chair of the board at the Boston Ballet, as an example of AIE's recognition of dance as one of the other indispensables—Frank might have done so. He is, after all, the CEO of From the Top, the nonprofit organization that brings young musicians to the attention of accomplished musical mentors. We were happy to put him on the list.—and to point out that Richard Bell, national executive director of Young Audiences, has been a member of the AIE advisory council for several years, and that Jack Megan, director of Harvard's Office for the Arts, has been as well. (Jack's remarks, during an on-stage interview with singer-songwriter Randy Newman at Sanders Auditorium in the spring of 2004, revealed his deep background in music.) We would have added Tom Kelly, chair of the Harvard music department, to the list of AIE affiliates—but we had not yet welcomed him to the advisory council the way we are hoping to in the fall of 2005.

We added only that the curriculum of the Arts in Education Program's core course, while not focused exclusively on any one of the arts, provides students with numerous opportunities to explore music's special contributions to the arts in education.