

classics 4 kids

EST. 1994

2024-2025 Season Report



Classics 4 Kids has been serving San Diego County elementary students since 1994. We provide critical music education for students between TK to 6th grade through professional orchestra concerts, in-school assemblies, and virtual programs. Our programs are carefully crafted to reach students in under-resourced Title 1 schools, where educational inequities are most prevalent. We are committed to promoting education and cultural understanding through music, reaching out to diverse communities, and inspiring students to reach their full potential.

We proudly served **43,821 students, teachers, and families nationwide** during our 2024-2025 Season. We focused on reaching out to underserved schools, positively influencing the lives of **29,209 students from these communities**. We served **209 schools across San Diego County, with 135 of these located in under-resourced communities**.

We're thrilled to share that we provided **87 bus scholarships** this season. This achievement signifies our commitment to providing equitable access for all students. Thank you for being a part of our success in making a difference through music education.

2024-2025 Season Programming:

EDUCATIONAL ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

Total people reached: 10,291

Percentage from under-resourced schools: 71%

1. *Sound Waves: Water Music* - November 12-15, 2024:

Total students, teachers and families in attendance: 4,355

Under-resourced students, teachers and families in attendance: 3,108

Students embarked on a STEAM-focused educational experience through a performance by the Classics Philharmonic Orchestra, which explored music inspired by the ocean and marine life. With guest educator Anne Middleton, Executive Director of Wildcoast, the program offered an interdisciplinary approach that connected science and the arts, highlighting the vital role oceans play in sustaining life on Earth. Students discovered how classical composers such as Handel and Tchaikovsky drew inspiration from bodies of water and aquatic creatures and were encouraged to consider their own environmental impact during a contemporary medley from Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean*, which reinforced the importance of ocean conservation and watershed stewardship.



2. *Música y Baile: Rhythms of Puerto Rico* - March 4-6, 2025 (in-person & virtual):

Total students, teachers and families in attendance: 3,221

Under-resourced students, teachers and families in attendance: 2,195

Total students, teachers and families that watched virtual concert: 25,202

Under-resourced students, teachers and families that watched virtual concert: 16,881

Audiences were immersed in the rich rhythms of Puerto Rican music and culture through an engaging performance that highlighted traditional dance and musical storytelling. This vibrant program featured the acclaimed Sabrosas Latin Orchestra alongside renowned Puerto Rican musician Manny Cepeda. Students were introduced to a variety of traditional Puerto Rican percussion instruments and learned a folk song about the indigenous coqui frog, deepening their understanding of the island's cultural heritage. Students were thrilled to clap and sing along to *Vivir Mi Vida*, a contemporary pop song made famous by Puerto Rican musician Marc Anthony and familiar selections from Lin-Manuel Miranda.

In addition, the concert was recorded and developed into a 40-minute educational video designed for classroom use. The program was made available on YouTube from April 15 to May 14, and garnered 343 views across 190 schools nationwide. To enhance accessibility, the video included subtitles in both English and Spanish.



3. *Symphony of Colors: Melodies & Masterpieces* – May 7-9, 2025

Total students, teachers and families in attendance: 2,715

Under-resourced students, teachers and families in attendance: 1,976

In partnership with the San Diego Museum of Art, students experienced a dynamic interdisciplinary program that brought the Museum’s European Masters Collection to life through the power of music. This innovative collaboration created a rich educational experience where visual art and orchestral performance intersected, deepening students’ appreciation for both forms. Dr. Michael Brown, Curator of European Art, and Conductor Dana Zimbric guided students through artistic and musical connections, including Berthe Morisot’s *Girl in a Blue Bonnet* and Gwyneth Walker’s modern orchestral work *Flying Colors*, fostering a deeper understanding of how visual and musical storytelling can complement and inspire one another. This concert was recorded and will be edited and released on YouTube for free classroom viewing during the 2025-2026 Season.

In addition, the San Diego Museum of Art hosted a Community Art Day on May 10, featuring expanded programming that complemented the concert experience. The event included live performances by the Classics 4 Kids Brass Trio and a special dance presentation by the San Diego Ballet inspired by the artworks highlighted in the concert. Museum staff and volunteers facilitated curated tours and interactive art activities designed for audiences of all ages. Complimentary admission was provided to all families who attended the concert. This community-focused event engaged 140 participants.



ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies provided in San Diego County schools: 41

Students/teachers served: 7,560

Under-resourced students/teachers served: 6,872

Classics 4 Kids' Assembly programs bring live, professional music performances directly into schools, providing students with engaging, standards-aligned arts education experiences in their own learning environments. Designed to be interactive and culturally inclusive, these assemblies introduce students to a variety of musical genres, instruments, and global traditions, often incorporating elements of storytelling, visual arts, and history. By reaching out to students who may not otherwise have access to live music, these programs foster creativity, support curriculum connections, and inspire a lifelong appreciation for the arts. Teachers selected from these 5 assemblies:

- Rockin' Brass Trio
- Super String Trio
- Pattern Play Trio
- Sabrosas Latin Combo (offered in Spanish on request)
- Musica de Mariachi (offered in Spanish on request)

UKULELE RESIDENCY

8-week residencies provided: 22

Students served: 355

A new Ukulele Residency program was launched this season, offering students a hands-on introduction to music through a culturally rich and accessible instrument. Three teaching artists led multi-week residencies in classroom settings, providing sequential instruction in ukulele technique, rhythm, melody, and music literacy. By the end of the residency, students demonstrated their learning through group performances, building confidence, collaboration skills, and lasting appreciation for music.

POP-UP FAMILY CONCERTS

Concerts provided: 8

People served: 353

A series of free Pop-Up Family Concerts at the Chula Vista Public Libraries, Santee Library, and San Diego Museum of Art offered accessible, family-friendly performances that introduced audiences of all ages to the joys of live classical music. These interactive concerts featured professional musicians, hands-on musical activities, and bilingual programming designed to engage diverse communities. By

partnering with trusted and central community hubs, the musicians were able to remove barriers to arts access and create meaningful cultural experiences that fostered early childhood engagement, family learning, and community connection.

MUSICIANS & GUEST ARTISTS HIRED:

Guest Artists: 12

Musicians: 58

Classics 4 Kids proudly provided paid work opportunities to 70 professional musicians and guest artists, supporting both artistic excellence and the local creative economy. By engaging a diverse roster of performers for concerts, school programs, and community events, we helped sustain meaningful employment for artists while enriching our region with live music. These opportunities not only brought world-class professional talent to young audiences, but also contributed to the cultural and economic vitality of San Diego's arts sector.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers: 30

High School/College Interns: 4

Hours served: 415 / Approximate value: \$16,658

Classics 4 Kids is proud to recognize the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers, who played a vital role in supporting our mission this year. From ushering students at our concerts to serving as classroom docents and special event assistants, our volunteers helped create a welcoming, educational, and enriching experience for thousands of people. Their time, energy, and enthusiasm extended the reach of our programs and deepened our impact in the community. By sharing their talents and passion for the arts, these individuals helped foster meaningful connections between young audiences and music.

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is thoughtfully designed to incorporate Social and Emotional learning concepts, featuring music composed by a diverse range of talented individuals including diverse composers. Aligned with the California Arts Standards, our interactive programming provided valuable opportunities for arts integration, enriching the educational experience for students.

GOALS

COMMUNITY: Building community through equitable access

OBJECTIVE: Expand reach to more students across San Diego and beyond.

1. Strengthen partnerships with schools, foundations and nonprofits to expand programming reach.
2. Prioritize serving Title 1 schools, increasing the percentage of underserved students reached.
3. Break down barriers to program access, such as transportation and funding, to foster educational equity.

LEARNING: Supporting students, teachers and families

OBJECTIVE: Be a trusted resource for schools and families by supporting education through music.

1. Connect science, literacy, math and cultural arts topics to align with CA Arts Standards.
2. Incorporate Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) into programming to nurture whole-child development.
3. Provide resources and adaptable programs to help teachers navigate the evolving educational landscape.

CREATIVITY: Inspiring creativity in every student

OBJECTIVE: Cultivate inclusive and transformative experiences that spark students' imaginations

1. Showcase diverse music and artists to ensure all students see themselves reflected on stage.
2. Create tangible, real-time concert experiences that inspire students through live art and creativity.
3. Encourage creative thinking skills by connecting audiences to the artistry and storytelling of music.

IMPACT

Numerous studies show a strong correlation between exposure to music and increased scores in science, math, and reading, as well as decreased stress, improved social skills, and enhanced academic engagement. Our program's effectiveness, as assessed through surveys conducted with teachers and students, received an **outstanding rating of 4.6 out of 5**.

TESTIMONIALS

- *Thank you so much for all you do. For many of the families on my caseload, C4K is not only the first time in a theatre for a live performance for the child, but also for the parent as well. NHA Head Start Home Based*
- *The symphony was fantastic. The arrangements were great and we really enjoyed all the activities that were provided to do in advance. The children learned a lot! It was a really great experience. Grade K/1 – Lafayette Elementary*
- *We really appreciate that you helped us secure grant funding for this assembly because our school could not afford to pay for the assembly cost. Thank you for exposing our students to*

something they will probably never see outside of their school experience! Grade 2 - Lincoln Acres Elementary

- *Best children's concert ever! The first time the students were excited at an assembly.* Grades 1-6 - Loma Verde Elementary
- *One of my students said his mind was blown by the experience!* Grade 2 - Rolando Elementary
- *Interactive, engaging, got students participating and singing/dancing along, connected to their Spanish language/music/art learning* - Grade 6 - Carmel Del Mar
- *The music was beautiful, and the information about conservation was a great way to help kids be reminded of the importance of keeping our oceans safe and clean.* Grade 6 – Mount Vernon Elementary
- *I appreciate that Classics 4 Kids allows students to attend an event that expose them to new genres of music and career paths. Most students are limited knowledge on classic music and how modern music is influenced from classic music. I also appreciate how you utilize different concepts and integrate it with music.* Grade 3 – Porter Elementary
- *It was such a wonderful experience! Thank you so much for granting us the bus, making this field trip possible for our students.* Grade 4 – Sweetwater Springs Elementary
- *The students and adults all agreed this was the best one yet! We loved everything about it and the kids want to go again. Thank you for accommodating us too!* Grade 2 - Florence Elementary

CONCLUSION

Participating in Classics 4 Kids educational programs has fostered increased knowledge, cultural awareness, and community education, contributing to the development of future arts audiences. The support of your organization's funding has made it possible for under-resourced students to participate who otherwise would not have had the opportunity. We extend our sincere gratitude for your partnership and support in our critical endeavors, and we look forward to the possibility of collaborating again in the future.

Classics4kids.org