

The Bringing Music To Life Instrument Drive Gives the Gift of Music to Denver Students

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Audio: Teacher Caroline McCaskey Shares Her Story About The Power Of Music



More than 100 Colorado music programs have benefited from the **Bringing Music to Life Instrument Drive**, which Colorado Public Radio is proud to support. **City Strings** music program in Denver received nearly 40 instruments from last year's event, and Program Director Caroline McCaskey is putting those instruments to good use teaching underprivileged kids to play. She recently spoke to CPR about the program, her role as a music educator and the importance of music education in transforming young lives.

- **Watch this video to hear Colorado teachers explain why music matters**

On why music education is so powerful

McCaskey teaches violin to enthusiastic student musicians at City Strings. Like many teachers, she believes that early exposure to music can have a lasting effect on our lives and build vibrant communities that value music. And early exposure to music education can also plant the seeds for individuals to develop a lifelong appreciation of music.

“It’s about finding that bridge to connect the interests students already have with things that will expand their horizons,” McCaskey said. “If they like hard rock, I try to make the connection that maybe they’d be inspired by someone like Shostakovich. If they’re really into Passenger, they might like Debussy.”

On how music connects and enriches our community

McCaskey had the unique experience of starting her teaching career early—at age 12, she was instructing adults to play the violin. This taught her early on that music is a powerful connector, bringing people and communities together to share a common experience that can transcend generations.

“Music is intergenerational,” McCaskey said. “Parents and grandparents are so excited that their kids have the opportunity to play music. Many are not able to provide an instrument on their own, so they have a real appreciation for the music education their kids are getting.”

It’s these types of shared experiences with music that make our community stronger. Students, teachers, parents and community members are all brought together by the power of music.

“Without music education in feeder K-8 music programs, you’d see the quality of music not being particularly high within the community as a whole, and interest level in music and the arts, I think, would dip.”

Get involved and support music education in Colorado



Teachers like McCaskey play an important role in developing music appreciation skills that will sustain the Colorado music community, and they have a real need for instruments to help fuel the next generation of Colorado music lovers. The Instrument Drive offers Coloradans the opportunity to participate and strengthen music education across our state.

For her part, McCaskey can’t seem to part with the very first violin she learned to play years ago. Nevertheless, she encourages people to help create a connection with a child by donating used instruments to Bringing Music to Life.

“If it’s the memories that speak to you, know that donating that instrument is allowing another child to experience the same thing you did—they will share the same feelings and memories,” said McCaskey.

Support music education and join CPR in our efforts to enrich the Colorado music community by **donating your instruments to the Bringing Music To Life Instrument Drive**. If you don't have an instrument to donate, **find out other ways to get involved**.



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