



MACH

QUARTER NOTES

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Robert Frost and Nate Barnes to Receive 2009 Pat Hart Service Award

September 20, 2009 - Robert M. Frost, Jr., a partner at the law firm of Zeldes, Needle & Cooper, P.C. in Bridgeport, and Nate Barnes, composer, producer, and performer, have been chosen to receive the 2009 Pat Hart Service Award given by the Music and Arts Center for Humanity.

Mr. Frost will receive the award in recognition of his significant support and ongoing dedication to MACH's arts programs for Bridgeport youngsters. Mr. Frost has practiced at Zeldes, Needle & Cooper, P.C. for the past eleven years, specializing in the areas of civil litigation and criminal defense. He is a graduate of both the College of the Holy Cross and the University of Connecticut School of Law. He lives in Stratford with his wife,

Jennie, and their daughter, Nora.

Mr. Barnes, an alumnus of MACH, was an inner-city Bridgeport child who lost his sight at an early age. He started at MACH Saturdays when he was twelve, and continued until he was eighteen. It was his great musical talent for drumming that led to his long association with MACH.

Mr. Barnes went on to earn a four-year degree from Berklee College in Boston in 2000. Today he is a professional composer, producer, arranger and performer. "MACH put the polish on me," he claims. "I learned that music is not just about performing. You have to understand music theory before you

can become a musician."

Mr. Frost and Mr. Barnes will receive their awards at MACH's Pat Hart Service Award Luncheon, held at noon on October 15th at Testo's Restaurant. The luncheon helps raise the funds necessary to support MACH's arts programs for the children of the greater Bridgeport area. Honorary co-chairs for this year's luncheon are Claire Gordon and Carol Hallac.

If you would like further information about the Pat Hart Luncheon, to purchase tickets, or to make a donation please call 203-366-3300, extension 230.



MACH Camp

Performance Outstanding

August 5, 2009 – It may have been hot outside but inside the Downtown Cabaret Theater everything was "cool" as MACH Campers presented an original musical, "Anansi the Spider", to an audience of enthusiastic supporters. Based on an African folk tale from the Ashanti tribe in Ghana, the story of a clever spider who uses his wits and the talents of his many children to escape tricky situations, was told to the rhythm of African drums.

In addition to their original play, campers also performed a stunning dance tribute to Michael Jackson ending with an ensemble performance of Jackson's "We are the World" as their finale.

"This was an outstanding performance," declared Program Director, Frank Derico. "The kids made their own costumes and masks, painted scenery and props, and mastered the musical numbers. They worked very hard this summer, and it really paid off."



Photos courtesy of David LaBianca

Photos: Top left, Anansi's children use webs to rescue their father from the river before the big fish gets him. Top right, Anansi is captured by a falcon and flies up into the sky. Lower left, a dance tribute to Michael Jackson. Lower right, finale.



MACH/AileyCampers Remember Michael Jackson

August 7, 2008 – The creative genius of the late Michael Jackson was the inspiration for MACH/AileyCamp's 2009 performance. For an audience of family and friends, young performers danced to the songs that spanned Jackson's 40+ year career.

Along with the vibrant dances, campers offered readings of original compositions written in their personal development and creative communications classes. In addition, the campers opened the program with a series of original cheers performed both by the individual groups, and the entire ensemble.

"The Ailey Finale always brings the crowd to their feet – applauding the outstanding effort accomplished in a (relatively) short 6 weeks," said MACH's Executive Director/CEO Dr. Donald Rainone.



Photos courtesy of David LaBianca

Photos: Top left, opening cheer. Top right, Dear Michael-Than You for the Music, interprets memories of various MJ songs. Lower left, Thriller. And lower right, Ma Ma Wasa, paired West African dance steps with Michael Jackson's music.



NS Jazz & Dance Students Two Performances at Downtown Cabaret

August 14, 2009 – Every table in the Downtown Cabaret was occupied as parents, families, friends, and MACH supporters gathered for the performances by MACH's award winning Neighborhood Studios program.

The program began with several instrumental numbers by the NS Jazz Ensemble. This was followed by a selection of vocal numbers by NS students including "Isn't She Lovely", "Ojos Asi", and "Don't Stop Believin".

Following a brief intermission, the NS Dance Ensemble offered a variety of numbers which included improvisation, modern, tap, hip hop, and break dances and spanned the range of Broadway-like ensembles to a Michael Jackson medley.

The performances showcased the depth and breadth of the students' knowledge and talents.



Photos: Top left, NS Vocalists sing "Believe". Top right, NS Dance Ensemble perform improvisational number. Lower left, original choreographed tap dance to Black-Eyed Peas "Boom, Boom, Pow". Lower right, NS Jazz Ensemble performs.



Photos courtesy of David LaBianca

NS Art Show at City Lights Gallery

August 12, 2009 – Neighborhood Studios apprentice artists presented an art show of student works at Bridgeport's City Lights Gallery. With the Neighborhood Studios Jazz Ensemble playing in the background, a capacity crowd was able to view work done in a variety of media, including pastel, acrylic, watercolor, pencil, charcoal and photography [by this year's NS apprentices].

In keeping with the theme of Past, Present, and Future, and in celebration of Neighborhood Studios' 10th Anniversary, donated works by graduates of the program were also offered for sale. These included works in pencil, acrylic and sculpture.

The NS Art Show, an annual event, offers original works for sale. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Neighborhood Studios program and the young artists.



Photos: Top left, a crowd gathers to view the student work. Top right, NS Jazz Ensemble sets the mood. Lower left, custom backpacks and tote bags were a popular display. Lower right, guests review watercolors, pencil and pastel works. Photos courtesy of David LaBianca



Summer Institute
for Blind College
Bound Musicians

Summer Institute Draws Students from across the U.S.

July 25, 2009 – Once again Overbrook School for the Blind and the city of Philadelphia played host to the Summer Institute for Blind College Bound Musicians. The program is designed to prepare young visually impaired musicians for the academic study of music in the college environment. Run by the National Resource Center for Blind Musicians, a division of the Music and Arts Center for Humanity in Connecticut, the Institute is unique in combining training in braille music, theory, and technology with the experience of living on a campus. This year's students worked with teachers and mentors who are already established in the music field, and developed friendships designed to support them throughout their college experience and beyond.

The students ranged in age from 15 to 19 and hailed from Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, Wisconsin, Missouri and Texas. This year, for the first time, two of the seven students were classified as low-vision, as opposed to blind, creating a challenge for the program organizers and instructors.

Throughout the intensive week the seven students learned how to read, from braille, music they had been learning by ear. They also received tutoring in music theory and classes on how to use the computer to prepare assignments in standard print notation. Additional topics included the pros and cons of scanning print music for conversion into braille, and strategies for working with professors and other students. "We consider it a hallmark that everyone has one-on-one instruction for most subjects," said NRC Director David Goldstein.



Photos: Top left, Touch and Sing class. Top right, relaxing at the swimming pool. Lower left, strolling the Overbrook campus. Lower right, Computer class. Photos courtesy of Tim Macaulay

Of course, even though the students worked very hard, there was still time for some fun. Picnics, cookouts, swimming and trips rounded out the week. And, although a performance was not required, the students and teachers shared their talents in a concert at the end of the week.

This year the Institute also hosted several visitors, including the head of the Music Section of the Library of Congress (a source of Braille music that all of the students can borrow from) and a number of graduate students who were working toward degrees in blindness education and who spent a day at the Institute as part of their observation requirements.

2009 Summer Institute Students

People are often interested in learning more about the National Resource Center's Summer Institute. What kind of student attends the Institute? Where do they come from? What do they learn there? When asked, Director David Goldstein said "I think the best way to convey the accomplishments of this program would be to tell you about some of the individual students, what they came for and what they achieved." So here, in Goldstein's own words, are four student profiles:

<p>Mei-Ling</p> <p>Mei-Ling found us through a Google search, which brought her to an article about braille music I had written fifteen years ago. Living with her large family on farmland outside a Wisconsin town population 800, she told us there were seven in her graduation class and now she was trying to figure out how to study music in college. She plays violin and piano, and had been performing for several years with a country musician as well as attending Michael O'Connor's fiddle camp in Nashville. She is also a highly skilled horseback rider, telling us she was perfectly comfortable on her own in the corral, "And if I get lost, I have my cell phone."</p> <p>An experience visiting a college showed Mei-Ling and her family that she had little idea of what being away at a large college required, and she needed help. The week she spent with us, making friends, traveling on her own, and learning some of the skills and coping strategies was a real enlightenment to her. She and her Institute roommate are still in telephone contact. Mei-Ling will be attending the McNally-Smith School of Music in St. Paul, which is all in one building.</p>	<p>Rebecca</p> <p>Rebecca, from Plano, Texas, was the most musically advanced of this year's students, playing the viola beautifully. She has high standards and even higher ambitions, hoping to be a regular orchestra musician and soloist. Although some people would be wary of advising a blind person to put all her eggs in one basket with that type of career, we found her extremely realistic in knowing what the challenges would be, and had already figured out and tested most of the strategies. We worked with her on advanced braille music and showed her the technology that would allow her to complete her theory assignments. She is now at the Cleveland Institute of Music, which she determined, after visiting Julliard, Peabody, and elsewhere, had the kind of teachers and receptive willingness to work with her.</p>
<p>Rashad</p> <p>Rashad, of Georgia, had dreams of becoming a choral conductor. He was already in college but needed to apply to their music school, which required taking an exam. More daunting was that the school didn't seem cooperative about adapting the means for taking the exam, and also felt his goals were unrealistic. We had some reservations as well at the beginning of the application process, so I asked him to do some assignments for us. His determination in completing them demonstrated beyond a doubt that he was ready for our help and our committee was unanimous in accepting him. Then the state commission for the blind refused to sponsor him, claiming our name didn't appear in a book of accredited organizations they may use as vendors. Thanks to our contributors, we were able to provide both the usual partial scholarship and additional money to bring the tuition to something his family could afford. Donations also allowed us to pay his air transportation. A volunteer intern at the Institute, who was a cantor and choir director, showed Rashad the hand motions and other mechanics of conducting. Rashad conducted all of our chorus pieces and excelled with the braille music. We are looking forward to hearing that he passed the exam with flying colors.</p>	<p>Matthew</p> <p>Matthew, from Missouri, was one of the two low-vision students who attended the Summer Institute this year. Anybody with a partial sensory loss has unique ways of working. For Matthew, an all-around high school student who played guitar, keyboards, saxophone and drums in his own band, he used both large-print and braille for regular reading, and magnified text on the computer—not the braille or voice output used by the others. He is serious about his guitar and needed a way to read music. He had already determined that braille would be much more practical, as well as portable. When I initially interviewed him, I told him there was a good possibility he might not fit in the computer class and that I wasn't sure what he would end up doing. His response was, "with all the struggles I've had, I think anything you can do will be a step in the right direction. He did fine in the braille classes. The computer was a challenge, until we found that the company from whom we buy our special software was working on a low-vision system. The president of the company worked with Matthew on the prototype and Matthew was very excited.</p>

Camp Visiting Days

July 18, 2009 – MACH Summer Camps played host to visiting foundations, donors, local businesses and dignitaries this week, inviting them to see the camps “in action”. Visitors were treated to the sight of students actively engaged in the arts - working in classes, rehearsing performances, and developing their own individual works from dance routines to scenery.

Behind the scenes MACH students work with instructors to perfect existing skills and master new ones. It is a supportive environment where students are encouraged to “stretch their limits” and try new things. Although the campers were working hard they had plenty of fun while doing it.

Camp Visiting Days were a terrific opportunity to see the magic of MACH camps in action.



Photos: Top left, NS Visual Arts students. Top right, NS Dance Ensemble practice. Middle left, NS Vocalists in practice session. Middle right, member of NS Jazz Ensemble prepares for his performance. Bottom left, MACH Camper works on a spider web for “Anasi the Spider”. Bottom center, AileyCampers in Personal Development class. Bottom right, AileyCampers in dance class. Photos courtesy of David LaBianca

Two NS Campers Receive Dorothy N. Freedman Awards

August 14, 2009 - Dorothy Nevas Freedman a longtime Weston resident and a member of the Board of Directors of the Music and Arts Center for Humanity (MACH) presented her personal award to two college-bound art students in brief ceremony during the Neighborhood Studios performance on August 13th. The two students, Robbin Edwards and DaMonique McAllister, both from Bridgeport, have been involved with MACH’s Neighborhood Studios as visual artists for several years.

Ms. Edwards, a Bridge Academy graduate, began studying various aspects of visual arts at MACH in 2007. She will attend Rochester Institute of Technology and plans to major in graphic design. Ms. McAllister, a graduate of Warren Harding High School has studied at MACH with well-known Westport sculptor, Steffi Friedman, for the

past two years. She will attend UCONN at Stamford this fall.

Ms. Freedman has been involved with Bridgeport and children for many years, having been employed by the Center for Women and Families as a Family Violence Victim’s Advocate. She views her commitment to MACH as a natural step from her experiences. Ms. Freedman said, “MACH offers an all-encompassing arts program where children learn to express themselves and to discover and develop their talents. It is a positive experience for everyone”.

The Dorothy N. Freedman Award began as a birthday gift to Ms. Freedman from her children. It is meant to recognize a MACH



Dorothy N. Freedman congratulates award winners as Executive Director/CEO Dr Donald Rainone looks on. Photo courtesy of David LaBianca

student’s commitment to study in a given field, be it the visual or performing arts. Ms. Freedman said, “I just like to give our students a prize for having shown enthusiasm, skill development and that extra something special”.

Fall Open House

September 19, 2009 – School has started and once again it's time for MACH's school year programs. An array of programs specifically designed to introduce children to the arts was unveiled at MACH's Open House this month. There was something for everyone; classes for students from four to eighteen – and (even) programs for MACH parents.

Two Open House events were held at MACH headquarters on Barnum Avenue. Along with refreshments, visitors were offered a number of demonstrations and sample classes in visual arts, dance, and cultural drumming. Over one hundred families took part in the festivities

Many returning students were pleased to find advanced classes that will enable them to build upon skills they have already mastered. Newcomers were glad to see that MACH classes will teach them the fundamental skills that they need. And parents were happy to find that their children can master their desired area of the arts in a fun and safe environment. With so much to offer, many parents took advantage of the opportunity to meet with staff and teachers, and register their children (and themselves) for classes.

Fall classes began Saturday, September 26th. However, Late Registration is currently in progress. For more information contact the Program Director at 366-3300 ext.224

A Note from the Board:

Dear Friends,

Increased interest and enthusiasm in our classes was apparent during MACH's recent Open House and Registration. In addition to the traditional programs in Music, Art, Sculpture and Dance, we have included Theatre, a program offered in response to requests from our students. New and fascinating after school programs, created in collaboration with the Bridgeport Public Schools, will provide a combination of Art and Technology; we are surely on the cutting edge.

This season we shall also start a Parent Committee. Under the leadership of Gina LeVon Simpson, of the Bridgeport Parent Center and an active member of our Board of Directors, as well as Frank Derico, our Program Director and myself, a group of parents will be invited to participate actively with each other and our staff. It has always been clear to me that parents whose children study at MACH are interested in helping us to improve and expand our programs. There are many ways that parents can participate and I am certain those who are available will add a much needed dimension to our work. Everyone who attended the end of camp performances saw and heard the enthusiasm of the families. A parent group will be an exciting addition.

The Big Read

October 4, 2009 – This afternoon The Barnum Museum hosted a kick off event for "The Big Read", an initiative funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) that is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. In collaboration with the Music and Arts Center for Humanity (MACH) and the University of Bridgeport, the museum is showcasing an extraordinary collection of student art and writing, from these organizations. All the art speaks to the themes of Dashiell Hammett's 1930 novel, "The Maltese Falcon."

Throughout the summer, students in MACH's Neighborhood Studios Sculpture class developed original artwork portraying scenes from "The Maltese Falcon" in relief. Working under the instruction of reknowned Westport artist Steffi Friedman, the young artists worked diligently to portray their interpretations of the classic novel. Their efforts are clearly amazing.

The student art work will be on display at the Barnum Museum through the month of October. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10am - 4:30pm, and Sunday noon - 4:30pm.

The Barnum Museum is located at 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT. Phone: (203) 331-1104



NS Sculpture students developed relief sculptures to illustrate Dashiell Hammett's "The Maltese Falcon" to celebrate the Big Read.

Photos courtesy of David LaBianca

Another project which will get under way will allow us to tell and preserve the stories of our students and graduates. Creating a formal Archive is an important and essential way to insure that we have an accurate history of the youngsters who realize their dreams through the Arts. As we find and review these stories, we shall include them in our Quarter Notes. It should be a fascinating journey. Stay tuned for these new initiatives and others to be shared with you next time.

Of additional interest: MACH joined other local organizations on October 4 to partner with the Barnum Museum and The Big Read. The cities of Bridgeport and Shelton are reading The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett. Steffi Friedman's students created works which connect to themes in this 1930s novel. The exhibition is extraordinary and I suggest you visit the Museum to see it. Additional art work by students who "graduated" from Neighborhood Studios and are currently in the Fine Arts division at the University of Bridgeport is included in the show. Don't miss it!

Joan Rosenbaum
Board Chair



A Letter from the CEO

Dr. Donald Rainone

The warm summer winds have past and the cool winds of autumn have arrived— bringing with them the colorful fall season and the start of our 2009-2010 classes here at MACH. Our summer camps were a resounding success and the many students who participated had an engaging, challenging, and fun summer experience.

Unfortunately, fund-raising for the organization has lagged behind past giving—directly related to the struggling economy. We have just completed two very successful Open Houses designed to showcase what MACH has to offer students interested in pursuing after-school and Saturday arts education. Over 100 parents and students participated. We are now reviewing all the applications that have come in and deciding how best to provide the much desired services MACH provides. We appreciate the efforts of all involved: funders, staffers, Board members, and parents in our quest to continue what we do best—serve the greater Bridgeport area, delivering quality arts education at an affordable price.

I know what I'm doing with my work, and that's really a nice feeling, that I've created something that wasn't there before, that's mine.
- Tracey Emin



**Music and
Arts Center
for Humanity**

We Need Your Help!

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MACH
Making Arts Matter!

We at MACH are dedicated to providing arts education to all individuals. But we can't do it alone. **We need YOU.** Your tax-deductible donation will make a difference in the lives of special needs and underserved children in the Greater Bridgeport Area. Give a child the opportunity to learn how to succeed. **Your gift makes a difference!**

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About Our Organization

The Music and Arts Center for Humanity (MACH) is a nonprofit school of the arts founded in 1977 to enhance the lives of children and adults, particularly special needs students, the economically disadvantaged and those artistically gifted. MACH is an accredited member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts and the winner of a 2005 Coming Up Taller award.

Mrs. Laura Bush recognized MACH as one of the 17 top Arts and Humanities programs. "As a former public school teacher, I have a firsthand understanding of what young people can accomplish when they truly strive to realize their dreams, and I wholeheartedly embrace the arts and humanities as vehicles for helping them find their way," said Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

We at MACH believe in the power of the arts to change lives. The arts provide a means of communication and self-expression that teaches tolerance, self-discipline, and a sense of community. Exposure to the arts benefits both the individual and the community at large. While MACH may teach drawing, sculpture, dance and music, what we really deliver is personal achievement and accomplishment via the arts.

Programs are offered at MACH headquarters at 510 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport, as well as various Public Schools in the Bridgeport area. MACH offers 12 different programs in music, dance, visual arts, theater, creative writing, and design throughout the school year. Additional summer programs are offered from June through August. For more information contact the Program Director at 366-3300 ext. 224.