



MACH

QUARTER NOTES

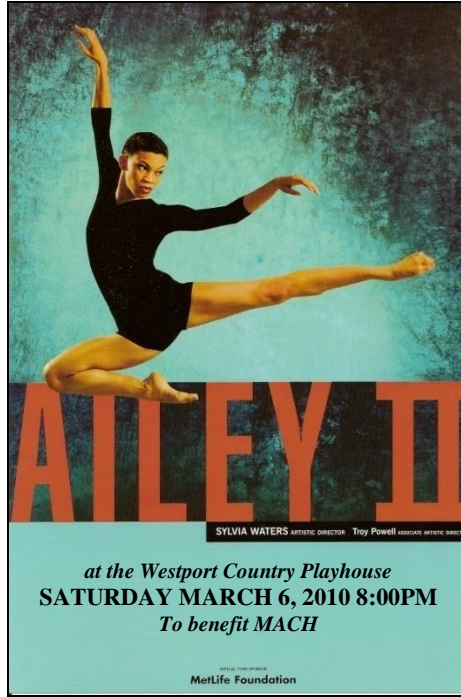
Winter 2010
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Ailey II to Perform at Westport Country Playhouse

January 8, 2010 – MACH has announced that Ailey II will do a benefit performance at The Westport Country Playhouse on Saturday, March 6th at 8:00PM. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Music and Arts Center for Humanity, providing arts education for Bridgeport children.

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Under the direction of Sylvia Waters, Ailey II has become one of the most popular dance companies in the country, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs.

Since 1977, MACH has offered arts education in Bridgeport, CT to children at risk. In 2009, MACH provided arts education to 1,200 children in their schools, on the weekends, and through its summer programs. MACH's arts education programming is designed to improve academic performance,



increase graduation rates, and serve as a catalyst for lifelong success.

MACH has had a longstanding relationship with Alvin Ailey that began over ten years ago. Each summer, MACH fully funds the tuition for up to 60 aspiring dancers to attend MACH's AileyCamp in Bridgeport. Bridgeport is one of only ten cities in the country to offer AileyCamp each year. Since its inception, over 700 MACH students have attended AileyCamp.

"We are fortunate to have the Westport Country Playhouse as our venue for this performance," said event co-chair Harold Levine. "We cannot thank them enough for their support."

Tickets to the event are now available. Patron tickets, which include a pre-performance reception and VIP seating are \$225 each. Contributor tickets (VIP seating) are \$150. General admission is \$75. To order tickets contact the Westport Country Playhouse Box Office at 203.227.4177 or visit their website at www.westportplayhouse.com.

Music Zone & Waltersville Arts Students Perform

December 12, 2009 - Parents and students at Bridgeport's Waltersville School filled the auditorium to watch their children and their schoolmates take part in the school's annual Holiday Concert. MACH Executive Director/CEO Dr. Donald Rainone was also in attendance. Among the performers were students in two of MACH's most successful in-school programs: the Music Zone and the Waltersville Arts Program.

The Music Zone was created in 2002 in response to an overwhelming need for music lessons for the children attending two Bridgeport schools. Funded by the John Mayer Back To You Fund (administered by the Fairfield County Community Foundation), the program provides beginning group lessons in stringed instruments (violin, viola, and cello) to 80 children in the two schools.

The Waltersville Arts Program provides



ballet lessons to the school's students. Funded by State of Connecticut Priority Grants provided to the Bridgeport Board of Education, the program allows MACH to teach the Waltersville dancers.

Dr. Ann deBernard, Principal at Waltersville and an enthusiastic supporter, states that these programs have enormous value as they enhance the children's self-esteem, improve attendance, and promote positive social behavior.



"I was amazed, as I always am, after seeing this year's multifaceted Holiday performances," said Dr. Rainone when asked about the show. "This year the older students (the newly added 6-8 middle school program) performed with the younger (1-5th grade) students on a full stage— playing the violin, viola and cello. In addition, the middle school students performed solos and duets. As is always the case, the house was full and enthusiastic. The Music Zone and the Waltersville Arts programs were well represented and well received by all in attendance."



NS Student Sculpture Show

Photos courtesy of David LaBianca

December 14, 2009 - Neighborhood Studios sculpture students kicked-off the holiday season with the gala opening of their sculpture show at Bridgeport's Barnum Museum on the afternoon of December 12th. With the students and their instructor, renowned Westport sculptor Steffi Friedman, in attendance guests were invited to enjoy a light refreshment and view the work of our young artists.

Wandering through the exhibit guests entered a world of fantasy -- dragons, fairies, mermaids and a variety of imaginary characters. Other works portray more realistic subjects -- a cat, the sun, travelers -- from a uniquely artistic perspective. And on a table, beneath a Christmas tree, original holiday ornaments were offered for sale.

Open to the general public, the opening was well attended. Throughout the afternoon members of the MACH staff, faculty, board members, students, families, and friends all stopped by to lend their support and take part in the festivities.



Photos: Top row, NS sculpture students show off their creations. Below left, holiday ornaments for sale. Below right, student artwork on display at the museum.

Nate Barnes offers Master's Class to NS Students

MACH's Neighborhood Studios is well known for bringing local professional artists together with talented students to create exceptional learning experiences. So when the opportunity to have Nate Barnes, a successful MACH alumnus, teach a class presented itself we jumped at the chance. Those of you who are familiar with Nate probably know what a talented drummer he is, and several young percussionists are benefiting from his expertise. But it is the chance to draw upon Nate's music production experience that allows us to offer this unique Master's Class.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our students to work with a talented producer," exclaimed Program Director Frank Derico. "Nate is definitely taking them to a higher level." At the present time the class is limited to six students, but Derico hopes to expand the class in the future. "Right now we are limited by the equipment needed to support the students. We are seeking donations of audio recording equipment to supplement what we currently have and hope to be able to accommodate larger classes in the future."



MACH is seeking donations of audio recording equipment such as microphones, headphones, and midi interface devices. If you have equipment which you are interested in donating please contact Frank Derico.

NS Dance Students at the Rebound Festival

November 8, 2009-The Neighborhood Studios Dance Ensemble performed at the Rebound Dance Festival Showcase in New Haven on Saturday, November 7th at 7:30pm. Held at the ACES Educational Center for the Arts, Arts Hall on Audubon and Orange Streets, the Rebound Festival is managed by our very own MACH instructor, Judie Clarke. Admission to the Festival was \$20 for adults, \$15 for Students, seniors and CDA Members. A number of local artists performed, including the NS Dance Ensemble.

This is the third year for the Rebound Festival, which provides performing opportunities for professional and semi-professional dancers, choreographers and filmmakers. This year a portion of the proceeds was donated to Dancers Responding to Aids (www.draddance.org), which supports people living with HIV/Aids, provides social services for performing professionals and women's health programs.

In addition to performing, Dance Ensemble students had the opportunity to take part in three master classes being given that Saturday morning. The classes were given by three professional dancers who are performing at the festival: Lisa Laing of "InterPlay®", Deb Silver of Bliss etc, and Chloe Carlson from Dance Connect. The cost for the Dance Ensemble to attend both the classes and the Festival was donated by Ms. Clarke.

The public is invited to take part in the next Rebound Festival. Save the date, Saturday April 10th, 9:00am -



Photo courtesy of Katherine Gulick

Photo: Neighborhood Studios dancers participate with other local dance students in an exercise at a Masters Class at the Rebound Festival.

12:30pm. Master classes will be held at the Neighborhood Music School, 100 Audubon Street in New Haven. Teachers will include two Rochester, NY choreographers; Kista Tucker and Anne Wilcox and Hartford's Trinity College's Lorelei Chang. Tuition is \$15.00 for the three master classes. The evening showcase will be held at ECA/ Arts Hall on Audubon and Orange Streets in New Haven at 7:30pm, tickets are \$20/\$15. For more information visit Ms. Clarke's website at <http://www.clarkdancetheatre.org/rebound.htm>.

Pat Hart Luncheon "Raises the Roof"

October 15, 2009 – It was a little noisy in the large dining room at Testo's Restaurant this afternoon, but that didn't matter to all of the friends who had come to celebrate the recipients of this year's Pat Hart Service Awards. This year there were two awardees: Robert Frost Jr., a local attorney and member of MACH's Board of Directors, and Nate Barnes, a professional musician, producer, and MACH alumnus.

Board Chair Joan Rosenbaum welcomed everyone and introduced the guest speaker Max Medina, President of the Bridgeport Board of Education. Mr. Medina spoke briefly, and was followed by the presentation of the Service Award to Mr. Frost.

MACH Founder, Patricia Hart, reminisced about Mr. Barnes as a young student at MACH before presenting him with his Service Award. In lieu of an acceptance speech, Mr. Barnes treated the audience to a jam session with the NS Jazz Ensemble (including a drum solo that rivaled Gene Krupa).

The luncheon concluded with a raffle for gift certificates generously donated by several local restaurants.



Photos courtesy of David LaBianca



Photos: Top left, Robert Frost, Jr. gives award acceptance speech. Top right, Nate Barnes jams with NS Jazz Ensemble. Bottom left, MACH founder Pat Hart addresses the audience. Bottom right, Program Director Frank Derico, Board Chair Joan Rosenbaum, and Executive Director/CEO Dr. Donald Rainone.

It's not too late!



We know how it is. The economy is still in recovery. We've all had to tighten our belts. With so many having to make do with less, providing at-risk children with music, art, and dance lessons seems like a luxury...

But Arts education is not just a luxury. Research shows it to be an effective learning tool to close the achievement gap hindering disadvantaged Americans. For many of Bridgeport's children, MACH is a survival tool – building self-esteem, a sense of community, and discovery of individual talents. Additionally, by supporting learning and personal growth through the arts, the entire community is rewarded with a new generation of artists, creative thinkers, and productive citizens.

Take a moment and really look at the photo above. It was taken at last summer's MACH AileyCamp. Notice the determination on the faces of these young dancers as they work hard to perfect their skills. You can see the tremendous discipline required to master the dance routine, the teamwork necessary to work in close coordination with their peers. Perhaps most of all you can see the thrill of their upcoming stage performance and the incredible boost to self-confidence that comes along with it. These are the lessons that MACH provides; the difference that MACH makes in each of these children's lives.

For over 30 years MACH's unique approach to arts education has provided classes that are open to all school aged children in the Bridgeport community, including those with disabilities, and regardless of ability to pay. Your gift means music, dance, and art lessons for children who might otherwise never know these life-enriching experiences.

MACH's Annual Appeal is still in process and it's not too late to donate. If you've misplaced your Appeal envelope, use the donation form on the next page. Simply complete the form, attach it to your donation, and send it to us at 510 Barnum Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bridgeport, CT 06608.

A Note from the Board:

Greetings from the Chair...

The January Board Meeting included a review of all of MACH's programs by Frank Derico, our Program Director. This was extremely enlightening, not only to our two new board members, Theresa Tillinger and Jacqui Woods, but to all who were seated around the table. Hearing the breadth of MACH'S reach was quite amazing as we were reminded of the Arts instruction and enrichment offered to our students. Frank described our in-school and after-school programs, private and group music lessons, dance classes for all levels and ages, the visual arts, a new Theatre class, as well as Neighborhood Studios, New Visions and Fun Day for the visually impaired. WOW! Come visit...particularly on Saturday when there are classes going on most of the day and in every space.

In addition, one of the most exciting initiatives this season is the emergence of a vibrant Parent Committee. Re-started through the efforts of Gina Levon Simpson, our board member whose "day job" is at the Bridgeport Parent Center, Frank Derico, and myself, it directs us toward the fulfillment of one of my long held goals.

Parents responded immediately to our invitation to meet, and following a lively discussion, there were new ideas and volunteers for supporting MACH programs. Don't be surprised to read in future newsletters about the efforts of the parent committee members in fund raising, as chaperones on our trips, as assistants in our many community mailings, and more. There was an unconditional affirmation and excitement of these parents for their youngsters and for their exposure and achievement in the Arts.

More new initiatives will be revealed in the Spring. In the meantime, here's to a happy and productive 2010.

Joan Rosenbaum
Board Chair

Look for an article about our new Board members, Theresa Tillinger and Jacqueline Woods, in the next issue of this newsletter.



A Letter from the CEO

Dr. Donald Rainone

"The Old Year has gone. Let the dead past bury its own dead. The New Year has taken possession of the clock of time. All hail the duties and possibilities of the coming twelve months!"

- Edward Payson Powell

Winter Greetings! I thought I'd begin with a quote— apropos to ringing out the old and bringing in the new year.

Winter always brings us time to reflect, to think, and to be creative. As artists, we are aware of our earthly surroundings and what we can do to alter them to fit our needs: If cold we build a fire, over dress, compensate to get warm. That sometimes is all we can do and we feel a sense of accomplishment, and that's okay. Heating Oil prices are on the rise...we have already had a harsh taste of winter.

Here at MACH, our Annual Appeal giving reflects the slow economic recovery. Nevertheless, we are healthy and in business to serve the Bridgeport Community. Join us during these long winter days as you reflect upon classes you have enjoyed, students you have supported, children you have encouraged, and lives you have changed.

We continue to thank you and appreciate your help.



**Music and
Arts Center
for Humanity**

We Need Your Help!

510 Barnum Ave.
3rd Floor
Bridgeport, CT. 06608

Phone:
203.366.3300

Fax:
203.368.2847

E-mail:
info@musicandartscenter.org

Website:
www.musicandartscenter.org

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!**

Donation: ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 \$ _____ Other

MasterCard Visa Amex (circle one)

My credit card number is: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to MACH
The Music and Arts Center for Humanity is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Music and Arts Center for Humanity

Interested in Volunteering?

**Let us put your
talents to work.**

Contact us at

366-3300

www.musicandartscenter.org



Music and Arts Center for Humanity

510 Barnum Ave.
3rd Floor
Bridgeport, CT 06608

203-366-3300

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.