Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Talent Development Program’s (TDP) 23rd season! Thanks to your generosity to the Azira G. Hill Scholarship Fund, 19 TDP students traveled across the country to participate in prestigious summer music programs in the summer of 2016. This season, the TDP is focusing on the concept of Reaching Outward and Looking Inward. This theme will shape our curriculum and activities throughout the season to help our students take the initiative in developing their talent, while forging their path toward a career as a classical musician.
Initiatives include

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Laura Hoffmann, the Dean of the University of Michigan’s School of Music, Theatre and Dance, met with 10 students and their families to share information about the University’s music program, financial aid and the admission process.

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY
TDP students will have numerous opportunities to connect with members of the New World Symphony (NWS), a Miami-based orchestral training program that prepares graduates of distinguished music programs for leadership roles in professional orchestras and ensembles. Each TDP student will communicate directly with members of this orchestra through email and participate in online virtual hangouts. Students will also have opportunities to perform for and receive feedback from NWS fellows via video-conference. NWS will also meet with TDP students in Atlanta during a two-day residency. This partnership will culminate in a virtual National Town Hall, where Michael Tilson Thomas, Music Director of the San Francisco Orchestra and Artistic Director of NWS, will provide feedback to a TDP/ASYO ensemble.

CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF MUSIC
Seven TDP students and their families will visit the Cleveland Music Institute for a tour, trial lessons, ensemble music readings, a Dalcroze Eurhythmics lesson and music theory classes. They will also have the opportunity to talk to an admissions officer and meet students and faculty.

In addition to these Reaching Outward opportunities, this year’s curriculum will encourage students to Look Inward to develop the mindset and habits they need to be successful. Building on last year’s materials from Project 440, a non-profit organization dedicated to preparing young musicians to use their musical gifts to transform lives and communities, we will learn more about how to maximize the impact of our practice strategies. To emphasize the importance of students practicing in the right way and to encourage them to study the habits of high performers, we are reading and discussing “The Practice of Practice: How to Boost Your Music Skills,” by Jonathan Harnum. Our 11th and 12th grade students are studying “The Musicians Way” by Gerald Klickstein. Parents of TDP students are reading “Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance,” by Amy Duckworth, so they can help their children stay motivated, engaged and committed to success.

Master Classes with leading musicians will enable students to polish their technique and learn new practice strategies. Our first semester clinicians include James Jenkins, tuba, Jacksonville Symphony; Weston Sprott, acting principal trombone, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra; and Joseph Conyers, assistant double bass, Philadelphia Orchestra. Additionally, ASO musicians, including Michael Kurth, double bass, Andrew Brady, principal bassoon and Joseph Young, assistant conductor, have spoken to our students.

We appreciate all of the support the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra musicians, staff, volunteers and donors give to ensure our students’ growth and development. We look forward to seeing the progress of these talented young musicians at the TDP Musicale and Aspire Awards on November 13, as well as the Spring Recitals on April 22 and 23.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Thompson
Manager, Talent Development Program
Emily Brebach—an Asset to the Program

Emily Brebach, who has played the English Horn and Oboe for the ASO since fall 2012 and serves as Artist Affiliate Instructor of Oboe at Emory University, has been on the TDP faculty since 2013. Emily is a firm believer in the program’s mission to contribute to the pipeline of musicians to diversify orchestras.

“I believe in the mission of the Talent Development Program,” said Brebach. “We want Orchestras across the country to reflect the communities in which they serve and I’m happy to have the opportunity to work with these talented young people to help put them on the path towards a career in classical music.”

Prior to joining the ASO, Emily held the position of English Horn and Oboe with the Sarasota Orchestra. Additionally, she has performed with the Boston Symphony, Houston Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra and the Sarasota Orchestra.

Emily brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the TDP and has proven to be a powerful mentor to her current students—senior Mekhi Gladden and freshman Ojochilemi “Ojo” Okoka.

Emily was raised in the Philadelphia area, which for an oboist, is a tremendous advantage, because it is the birthplace of American oboe playing. “There wasn’t really an American school of oboe playing until a French man named Marcel Tabuteau came to Philadelphia in the early 20th century and revamped oboe playing,” she explained. “He changed the reeds, he changed the way that people think about articulations, the way people think about phrasing. And, he developed this wonderful school of American oboe playing we are all descendants of.”

As a child, Emily chose the oboe unaware of the rich training ground Philadelphia would prove to be. “I did not realize what kind of historical tradition I was blindly walking into,” she recalled. “But I was incredibly grateful once I graduated from high school. I did not realize what a new kind of historical tradition I was blindly walking into, “ she recalled. “‘He’s a new student, and he’s very eager to hear things,’ she said. “‘He’s constantly on Youtube. He comes in asking questions, so I am trying to guide him toward American oboe players. I gave him a whole list of oboe players and told him to try to find their recordings on Youtube. I’m trying to teach them that American oboe playing is different from European oboe playing. They sound different, and they need to try to sound like them. I also direct them to great American orchestras they should try to find on Youtube.”

Purposeful Mentoring

Emily’s mentoring relationship extends beyond providing lessons and building out playlists. She strives to be a consummate career guide. “Music is such a hard career path that if you don’t take ownership of it, then you’re going to get lost in the mix,” she said.

For that reason, Emily is forthright about the perseverance it will take for her students to be successful in this field. “It took me three solid years out of graduate school before I got a full-time job,” she explained. “I try to instill a sense of perseverance into my students and I make sure they are prepared to work even harder if they hear the word ‘no’. This is a hard field and I don’t hide that from my students, but it’s important that they become resilient and turn any ‘no’ that might get into an opportunity.”

Developing Efficient Practicing Skills

One of the survival skills she emphasizes is efficient practicing. “I don’t want my students practicing 30 hours a week with little or no improvement,” Emily explained. Instead, she promotes the idea of thoughtful, efficient problem-solving in practice sessions. “These students may end up graduating from school like I did without a job, which means doing whatever they can to pay the rent.” she said. “They may not have five hours a day to practice. If they’re lucky they might have one or two, so they must be smart and efficient about their practice.”

Emily savors how her relationship with her students is deepening over time. “Mehki and I have a text thread going about all sorts of stuff—college auditions, concerts he’s coming to, questions he has, the never-ending challenge of figuring out his schedule. We have an excellent rapport and I think the world of him. He is going to do great things and I’m excited to see what his future holds. Hopefully one day he’ll be my colleague!”

She is also pleased with her developing relationship with Ojo, her newest student. “I think he’s a really smart kid,” she said. “He doesn’t contact me out of the blue yet, but I’m sure he will, because he always comes to his lesson with a boat load of questions—and they are really smart questions. We have a good relationship, but it’s still evolving as we get to know each other.”
TDP Students Share Their Summer Camp Experiences

Every summer TDP students pack up their instruments and head off to some of the finest music camps in the country. These summer experiences are truly transformational, allowing the students the opportunity to perform with talented peers from across the globe, while learning from leading musicians and having a great time along the way.

We connected with double bassist Angela Leeper, oboist Mekhi Gladden and Joshua Williams, tuba, who attended Interlochen, Brevard Music Center and Tanglewood Music Center, respectively, to learn more about their summer adventures.

Tell us about your summer camp experience.

Angela: The focus of the program was on learning challenging orchestra repertoire. I also had the opportunity to take Double Bass Technique Class and weekly lessons, which helped me to greatly improve. The wise and experienced bass teachers fixed my vibrato and taught me how to achieve a better tone by helping with my bow placement. I also got much better at sight-reading in the World Youth Symphony Orchestra rehearsal because we had new repertoire each week.

Mekhi: I had an amazing time at Brevard this summer. I was in the highest level theory class and I attended almost every concert possible, playing challenging repertoire with many solo opportunities in a wind quintet and oboe septet. I also attended numerous master classes—from playing improvement, to reed making and even instrument maintenance. The experience allowed me to grow not only my playing ability, but also my knowledge. I have never felt more ready for my upcoming college auditions.

Joshua: Tanglewood gave me an in-depth look at the professional world of music and what it takes to be successful in this field. During the six-week program, I participated in the two-week tuba/euphonium workshop and the youth artist wind ensemble.

Describe a typical day.

Angela: My typical day started with morning line-up, getting dressed, eating breakfast quickly and rushing to morning rehearsal. After rehearsal, I took a music theory class, which I learned a lot from, followed by lunch and a technique class with all the high school double bassists. Normally, when classes were over for the day, I would spend time with the other bass players, go see a concert or practice my instrument.

Mekhi: A typical day consisted of music theory or music literature in the morning on alternating days, followed by wind ensemble. Toward the middle of the day, we typically had orchestra rehearsal in the main hall, followed by master classes and studio classes. Around seven o’clock each day, there were concerts in the main hall or off campus at Brevard College. Once that was finished, we were given free time for recreation or work study.

Joshua: At the two-week tuba workshop, I attended two classes daily that were given by Mike Roylance and Claude Kashnig. We focused on the fundamentals of playing the tuba and how to become a successful tubist. I also attended daily recitals by the renowned faculty. During the wind ensemble program, my daily schedule included wind ensemble rehearsals, private lessons or master classes, coached chamber rehearsal, independent chamber rehearsal. My evenings usually ended with a Boston Symphony Orchestra Concert.

What was the highlight of your summer experience?

Angela: While at Interlochen, I had the pleasure of attending great performances of famous musicians, such as Bela Fleck, Chris Thile, Lindsey Stirling and Conrad Tao. I also had the honor of performing under amazing conductors like JoAnn Falletta and Chris Rountree. I will never forget the friends I met this summer, or the fun experiences I shared with them. These memories will accompany me for the rest of my life!

Mekhi: Despite so many amazing experiences, I still have some that were much more memorable than others. Some were being invited to visit the donor house after playing the second orchestra concert, visiting a country club and performing for the Fourth of July, working with the other oboe players in the oboe hut, having a water gun fight, playing ping pong tournaments, playing a Lady Gaga oboe septet arrangement while dressed in Lady Gaga style clothes, and eating in town with my friends and teachers. These are some of my favorite experiences because they embody the spirit of Brevard. It is known for being free and open to just about any opportunity for fun or discovery.

Joshua: I got to play two great concerts that included the works of Grainger, Holst, Wagner, Dahl, Ron Nelson, Dukas and many other great composers. Axium Brass instructed the brass quintets that I played in for chamber, and it by far made the chamber music the most satisfying experience.
Don’t Miss the 2016 TDP Musicale and Aspire Awards

One of the season’s highlights, this exciting evening of music helps provide support for the Azira G. Hill Scholarship Fund. Student performances include selections from Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Rossini and more.

In addition, there will be special performances from our Aspire Award winner, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra Trombonist Weston Sprott, and 2011 TDP Alumna, Harpist Angelica Hairston.

This is an evening not to be missed! Click here to purchase tickets.

Mark your calendar!
Sunday
NOV 13
7pm

The Talent Development Program Welcomes 11 NEW STUDENTS

The journey toward becoming a classical musician is just beginning for the talented young people. We look forward to the possibilities that lie ahead!

Jaia Alli, Cello, Fifth Grade
Jabari Freeman, Harp, Eighth Grade
Corban Johnson, Double Bass, Freshman
Brandon Leonard, Cello, Sixth Grade
Amber Norman, Violin, Freshman
Ojochilemi Okoka, Oboe, Freshman
Vincent Tapia, IV, Trombone, Sophomore
C. Malik Thompson, Trombone, Freshman
Taylor Tookes, Violin, Sophomore
Phillip Williams, Trombone, Junior
Lizbeth Yanez, Trumpet, Senior
Join Us In Congratulating these TDP musicians on their recent accolades and achievements

Alumni

Class of 2009
TDP graduate Khari Joyner (Cello) performed with Cherie Roe (piano) in WQXR Presents Midday Masterpieces in collaboration with The Juilliard School on October 5, 2016 in New York City.

Class of 2011
Angelica Hairston, Harpist, currently serves as a teaching artist with the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble, a nonprofit organization that provides free harp instruction to over 100 students in Atlanta’s inner-city. She will perform at the TDP Musicale and Aspire Awards on November 13, 2016.

Current Students

Alisha Zamore participated in the ICA’s High School Solo Competition this August in Kansas City. Six musicians were selected from an international pool of 37. Alisha placed fourth.

ASO Appoints Holly Hudak as Senior Director of Education and Community Engagement

As the ASO’s Senior Director of Education and Community Engagement, Holly Hudak will be responsible for the Concerts for Young People, Family Concerts, the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Talent Development Program, Community Music School and much more.

Holly, a seasoned orchestra leader, has worked in leadership roles with many arts organizations, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra and Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras. She has a proven track record of developing and implementing innovative processes that cultivate and inspire the next generation of audiences and donors. Prior to joining the ASO, Holly served as the Senior Director of Major Gifts and Associate Director of Development for The Goodman Theatre in Chicago.
STUDENTS in the Community

Each year, TDP students get involved in orchestras in their communities. Not only do these orchestras enable them to share their talents, they also provide opportunities for continued learning and development. Following is a list of the ensembles featuring TDP students this season.

**Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra**
Jaia Ali (Cello)
Brandon Leonard (Cello)
Ojochiemi Okoka (Oboe)
Olivia Silva (Flute)
Phillip Williams (Trombone)

**Emory Junior Chamber Orchestra**
Brandon Cabigon-Soliber (Violin)
Roland Mason (Violin)
Amber Norman (Violin)

**Emory Youth Orchestra**
Joseph Brown (Cello)
Mekhi Gladden (Oboe)
Errol Rhoden III (Tuba)
Lizbeth Yanez (Trumpet)

**Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra**
Kyle Favors (Percussion)
Mekhi Gladden (Oboe)
Corbin Johnson (Double Bass)
Angela Leeper (Double Bass)
Joshua Williams (Tuba)
Lizbeth Yanez (Trumpet)
Alisha Zamore (Clarinet)

**Southern Crescent**
Camille Johnson (Cello)
Taylor Tookes (Violin)

**Atlanta Wind Youth Symphony**
Quentell Gipson III (Tuba)
Vincent Tapia, IV (Trombone)
Alisha Zamore (Clarinet)

**Urban Youth Harp Ensemble**
Jabari Freeman (Harp)
Payton Gunner (Harp)

INVEST in the Next Generation of Classical Musicians by Supporting the TDP TODAY

The work of the TDP contributes to the goal of changing the face of orchestras throughout the nation. To realize this goal, we create programs and opportunities that prepare African American and Latino students for entry into the country’s leading music programs.

We invite you to support our efforts by making a gift today by clicking here. Be sure to select the Azira G. Hill Scholarship Fund when asked where you would like your donation applied. Thank you for your generous support!

Support for the Talent Development Program generously provided by

**Georgia-Pacific**
**KAISER PERMANENTE**

**Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**