



December 3, 2019

Dear Members of NAPEO,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and incredible students, we wanted to take a moment to thank you all again for a tremendous experience at this year's NAPEO conference in Austin, Texas.

Your collective generosity this September helped Anthropos Arts end our Fiscal Year above budget for income for the first time ever! In turn, our Board of Directors approved our FY19-20 Budget with a 17% increase, allowing us to:

- Provide lessons, out-of-school rehearsals, performance opportunities, and mentorship to ~ 100 Central Texas middle and high school students living in poverty
- Add college audition lessons in the Fall for our seniors planning to study music
- Raise our instructor rates closer to market rate
- Hire two new fantastic Vocal Instructors
- Host collaborative workshops with international touring artists this Fall and Spring
- Fully fund our Data Integration Project - updating and consolidating our donor databases and marketing platforms between QuickBooks, DonorPerfect, and Constant Contact. Objective: streamline process, promote better donor stewardship, mitigate donor fatigue through more targeted marketing (vs. the 'blast' to everyone)

The benefits of unrestricted funding to a growing organization are incomparable. In contrast to Program-specific funds, grant funding for necessary Operations and Institutional Growth are hard to come by. What ultimately benefits our kids and families the most is our ability to consistently sustain and grow a high level of services - something that cannot be done without investment in Infrastructure, Staffing, and Marketing. Unrestricted funding allows us to grow programming, while also investing in the sustainability and growth of the organization as a whole. This puts us in the best position to fulfill our mission.

The Kids You Met and Heard

Thailer (bari sax) has already been accepted into Texas State University, and currently has 8 other college applications pending.

Board of Directors

Leslie Asaka

Paige Deegan

Rori Gallagher

Kirbey Portley, J.D.

Zach Richards

Scott Sheppard

Sean Taylor

Dylan Jones

Founder and Executive Director

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Thailer is planning to study Music Performance and Education, and music auditions are starting in February. Thanks to you guys, he is preparing with his Anthropos instructor. I'll keep you posted, but those lessons will amount to real dollars in terms of scholarships, let alone the lasting impact of being the first in your family to attend college. Lot's of scholarship asks still pending, but Thailer has at least \$5-6K/yr from federal aid already secured.

Sarah (tenor sax) is wrapping up her senior year marching season as Drum Major at her high school, and already has been accepted into Texas A&M, Texas State, and Mary Hardin-Baylor Universities, and is waiting on UT Austin. Like Thailer, Sarah is receiving college audition - specific help from her instructor (also a college-level instructor).

Soraya (clarinet, and from our video) is a junior this year, and is still at the top of her class with a 4.4 GPA. I didn't know you could go *over 4* !?! The kid is smart. And, as y'all heard in the video, she credits music as having brought her the confidence to let people know just how smart she is. She will again be doing lessons and shows with Anthropos this Spring!

This October, those three, among other students, were able to represent Anthropos at Austin City Limits Fest. It was great to hear them tell the story of the NAPEO performance, fresh on their minds, as an example of how performance breeds confidence.

Again, we can't thank you all enough for this tremendous effort, which is already having a tremendous impact on the impoverished youth of our city. The positive effects of mentorship are long-lasting and exponential; thank you for helping make it happen here in Austin!

Sincerely,

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