



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra

Address:
11065 5th Ave NE, Suite A
Seattle, WA 98125

Contact:
(206) 362-2300
<https://www.syso.org>

Organization's General Goals:
Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO) is the largest youth orchestra training program in the United States. The organization serves over 1,893 diverse students each year with five orchestras, two summer festival programs, and extensive partnerships with local public schools. By awarding over \$200,000 in financial aid annually, SYSO ensures that every talented student can participate in our programs, regardless of financial resources.

Date of Award:	Level:
2017 Q3	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra

April 4, 2019

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
Marilyn Sheldon, Director
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

On behalf of Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra's (SYSO's) staff, board, and young community we serve, thank you and Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions for your [REDACTED] grant to support our SYSO In the Schools (SITS) programs. We are pleased to share the following report (Q3 2017 14.2) detailing our SITS activities during our 2018 fiscal year.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Established in 1942, SYSO's mission is to harness the power of music education to provide young people pathways to artistic excellence, intellectual development, and emotional growth. One way we fulfill this mission is through our *SYSO In the Schools (SITS)* program, which is made up of two services: Endangered Instruments Program (EIP) and Musical Pathways Project (MPPT).

EIP places SYSO's professional music coaches in classrooms to enhance in-school music programs. Our coaches are able to assist the music teachers and share their knowledge and experience on less-commonly played instruments. In result, EIP partner schools are able to increase the size of their classes and expand their students' opportunities to play less-common instruments, such as the viola, string bass, oboe, French horn, and more. EIP is provided to schools at a subsidized rate of \$30 per hour with SYSO contributing the remaining \$20 per hour.



MPPT provides the highest quality instruction to students and teachers at no charge, which is made possible by SYSO's individual and institutional donors. In partnership with SPS, we place SITS in schools that are most in need of our services. After identifying these schools, SYSO pairs our professional music coaches with each school's music teacher. Together, they build a curriculum that provides students with personalized instrumental music instruction in private and small group lessons, and a mixed ages after-school club.

Each year, SITS improves music education programs for public schools across the greater Seattle area and creates new musical opportunities for students of all backgrounds, giving students access to personalized music instruction from our trained coaches, the chance to play a wider range of instruments, and the social and emotional benefits of having a robust music education.

COMMUNITY SERVED

In 2018, SITS provided professional instrumental music instruction to 780 students within 42 K- 12 schools. Our MPP partner schools were identified by the Seattle Public School



(SPS) district as those most in need of improved music education services. SPS chose schools based on the presence of other music classes and the percentage of students eligible for federal free and reduced price meals (FRPM). In 2017-18, MPP worked within SPS’ underserved southeast region, where 93% of students are people of color and 68% are FRPM-qualified, which is twice the SPS average. In addition to serving students, SITS helped 35 music teachers strengthen their music curriculum and improve the selection of instruments and repertoire.

“Coaches offered consistency during music teacher turnover at Denny, which helped students to persist in their playing. I would have quit in seventh grade without my coach. The coaches were there more consistently than the music teachers.”
 —Chief Sealth High School Student

“[Our Music Coach] has been an invaluable resource in regards to the information he is able to convey regarding low string technique and the string classroom. His support has been a truly wonderful thing.”
 —SPS Music Teacher

2017-18 SITS OUTCOMES

After each school year, SITS works with an outside consulting firm to conduct a thorough evaluation of SITS by gathering and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data from constructive interviews, observations, focus groups, and pre- and post-program surveys from students, music teachers, and coaches. We are pleased to share that all of our surveyed students rated their experience as good or very good with 95% saying that they would like to work with a SYSO music coach again. Within the school year, our evaluation showed that SITS increased students’ Musical Competency, Joy, Skills in Music, and Identity Formation. The following are observations made in each of these categories during the 2017-18 school year.

1. Musical Competency: Coaches supported students to persist in developing their musical instrument skills.

- All of students surveyed agree that the coaches encourage them to keep playing even when they make a mistake.
- Students say that knowing the coaches will be there motivates them to attend class and keep playing.
- Coaches make instrument-playing accessible to students by supporting them through the initial frustration of learning to play.



“Coaches help with fundamentals and technique. They help us to focus and strive towards doing better.” —Aki Kurose Middle School Student

2. Joy: Students have fun making music in SITS.

- 9 out of 10 students surveyed agree that “working with a coach increases my interest in making music.”



“Working with a coach is fun and helps students be happy.”

—Aki Kurose Middle School Student

“I enjoy learning music and getting a base knowledge of something I love.”

—Chief Sealth High School Student

3. Skills Beyond Music: Students learn personal responsibility and work towards goals.

- 89% of SITS students surveyed learned to set goals and work towards achieving them by working with their coaches.
- 94% of SITS students surveyed strongly agree that they can be a better musician with continued practice and persistence.

“Playing violin has helped me as a person. I have learned to vent my frustration into music instead of other people.” —Aki Kurose Middle School Student

4. Identity Formation: Students gain a sense of belonging, confidence, humility, and begin to plan for the future.

- 95% of SITS students surveyed agree working with a coach increased their confidence in their ability to play an instrument
- 92% of SITS students report pride in their instrument
- 9 out of 10 SITS students surveyed agree that they belong to a community of musicians.
- 79% of SITS students surveyed agree playing an instrument will help them get into college.

“I see students who take part in this program grow in confidence. Not only with their musicianship but also in other aspects of life. Many have noticed that they start doing better in math.”

—SYSO Music Coach

“Playing violin helps me to connect to friends with similar interests.”

—Aki Kurose Middle School Student

“If I can do well with my instrument, I can do well in other classes.”

—Chief Sealth High School Student

CONCLUSION

It is through the vital support of funders, like Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions, that we can continue to give the innumerable benefits of music for thousands of youth each year. We are thrilled to receive continued funding from Tulalip Tribes for SITS in 2019. Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement. If you would like to learn more about our work or visit us at SYSO, please contact me at Kathleen.allen@syso.org or 206-362-2300.

Kathleen Allen, Executive Director