Maximus Musicus Visits the Orchestra

The Orchestra of St. Luke’s, led by esteemed conductor Karina Canellakis, provided the music – and even some acting – for Maxi’s story.

Photo credit: Aaron Adler Photography

"Maximus Musicus crept inside a very large house..."

...And on Monday and Tuesday, December 1st and 2nd, the house Maximus crept into was 92Y’s Kaufmann Concert Hall, as he made his New York City debut in four dazzling concerts for 3,200 public school students and their teachers. These concerts presented a stellar cast of performers, including author and flautist Hallfríður (Haffi) Ólafsdóttir, the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, conductor Karina Canellakis, and even Maximus himself! Students sat with their eyes
glued to the stage, enraptured by Haffi’s storytelling, the original illustrations by Þórarinn Már Baldursson projected behind the orchestra, and the familiar music of Maurice Ravel. The concert also featured a fanfare commissioned specifically for these concerts composed by Tryggvi M. Baldvinsson. At the end of the show, students joined Maximus in singing and dancing Maxi’s Song - “Maximus Musicus, music mouse! “

MIS’s first ever livestream!
December 2 was the third annual #GivingTuesday, an international day of giving founded by 92nd Street Y in partnership with the United Nations Foundation. As part of the celebration of giving taking place here in the building, 92Y decided to livestream one of the Musical Introduction Series concerts online, completely free, for anyone in the world to watch. The Center for Educational Outreach was honored to share this concert experience with students across the globe, helping to spread the spirit of giving by granting free access to this high quality educational concert and curriculum. (To watch the webcast on 92Y On Demand, click here: http://92yondemand.org/maximus-musicus-honor-givingtuesday/).

Top 10 Cities That Tuned Into the Livestream

1. New York
2. Reykjavik
3. Chicago
4. Los Angeles
5. London
6. San Francisco
7. Boston
8. Toronto
9. Houston
10. Sao Paulo

Over 400 computers logged on to watch Maxi’s concert, allowing students from Argentina, South Africa, India, and Australia to join Maxi as he learned about the joys of playing in an orchestra from the comfort of their own classrooms.

A group of students in Argentina gathers for a photo after watching Maximus Musicus live on the web.
Instrument Families of the Orchestra

Throughout the first unit of the Musical Introduction Series, students learned about musical layers and techniques, elements of storytelling, the culture and geography of Iceland, and instrument families of the orchestra. How much do YOU remember about the orchestra? Write the names of the four instrument families in the boxes below, and the instruments that belong underneath.

1.颗粒
2.键
3.弦
4.膜

(Check your students' My Music Journals for the answers!)
Up Next… Hazmat Modine!

The teachers who have been with us for many years may remember harmonica virtuoso Wade Schuman and his band Hazmat Modine, who are back for MIS this year to help the students continue learning about musical storytelling through their funky tunes and bluesy sounds. And as a result of the overwhelming response to the livestream of the Maximus Musicus concert on December 2, each unit for the rest of the year will have one show that is streamed online - for free! We’ll be sending more information your way soon.

We are also selling tickets for the remaining three concerts of the year – so if you loved Maximus Musicus and want to share the 92Y concert experience with classes who are not enrolled in the Musical Introduction Series, write to LGelman@92y.org to let us know.

Goodbye until next time… and Happy New Year!