

Musical Introduction Series Final Concerts of the Year

Dear 92nd Street Y School Partners,

The 92nd Street Y would like to take this opportunity to congratulate your students, teachers and staff on their excellent work and enthusiastic participation in the 92nd Street Y's 2010-11 Musical Introduction Series Program. We recently concluded a fabulous concert series in 92Y's beautiful Kaufmann Concert Hall that began on December 8 and 9, 2010 with the Grammy Award-winning violinist Mark O'Connor and his Bluegrass String Quartet, and concluded on May 24 and 25, 2011 with the internationally acclaimed Ljova and the Kontraband.

On April 12 and 13, the 92nd Street Y was delighted to present the third concert in the 2010-11 Musical Introduction Series season, featuring globally influenced New York City band, Hazmat Modine. Renowned throughout the U.S. and Europe for their mastery of early blues styles and unique vision of a dual harmonica fronted band, Hazmat Modine presented a concert combining both traditional and cosmopolitan world influences, with a full horn section, two guitars, sousaphone and drums. The band thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the audience, as individual musicians performed in the aisles, and students came onstage to demonstrate the calypso rhythms they learned with their 92Y teaching artists in their classrooms prior to the concert.

To finish out a richly dynamic musical year, the final concerts on May 24 and 25 featured the highly original, Eastern European driven ensemble, Ljova and the Kontraband. Violist and composer Lev "Ljova" Zhurbin and his close collaborators on vocals, accordion, acoustic bass and percussion led the students in singing a song in Yiddish, making cultural connections to the songs through storytelling, and listening for the intricate melodies and textures that they studied with their teaching artists and classroom teachers. In this final concert of the year, students further explored the year's overarching theme of musical and cultural roots and how these roots help create the music they are hearing. It was especially inspiring to hear the students sing Az Der Rebbe Tanz, a lively Yiddish song about students following their teacher as the teacher dances, laughs, eats, sleeps and speaks.

We are extremely proud of the excellent work that your students accomplished throughout the year. All of their effort and curiosity was apparent at each interactive concert, when they had the opportunity to sing, move, and share their knowledge with the performing artists. Their enthusiasm and excitement carried them through their journey that began with a world-class American Bluegrass string quartet and ended with the rich musical traditions of Eastern European Jewish songs.

Through the Musical Introduction Series, we are thrilled to bring the highest quality music programming to your classrooms and our concert hall and to inspire musical and cultural creativity and appreciation in your school communities. We are so excited to be working with each of your schools, and look forward to our continued work with your students and teachers for years to come.

With warm regards,

Larisa Gelman, Director

Debra Kreisberg, Managing Director