

THE NEW YORK
POPS

A DIFFERENT KIND OF ORCHESTRA

EDUCATION REPORT FY25

POPS 

LEARNING, TO SCALE.



| SUMMARY

In the 2024-2025 school year, PopsEd continued to provide meaningful musical experiences for students across all five boroughs of New York City through our free programs: Kids in the Balcony, Kids on Stage, and PopsEd Residencies.

Kids in the Balcony (KIB) welcomed over 1,400 students to experience The New York Pops live at Carnegie Hall.

Kids on Stage (KOS) offered 22 middle school students the unique opportunity to perform alongside New York Pops musicians on the Carnegie Hall stage, honoring legendary songwriter Diane Warren.

Conducting Apprenticeship, a program *part of Kids on Stage*, gave four high school students hands-on training in the art of conducting with Maestro Steven Reineke, with expanded opportunities to audit rehearsals.

PopsEd Residencies brought music, song, and dance instruction directly into classrooms, reaching more than 2,100 students.

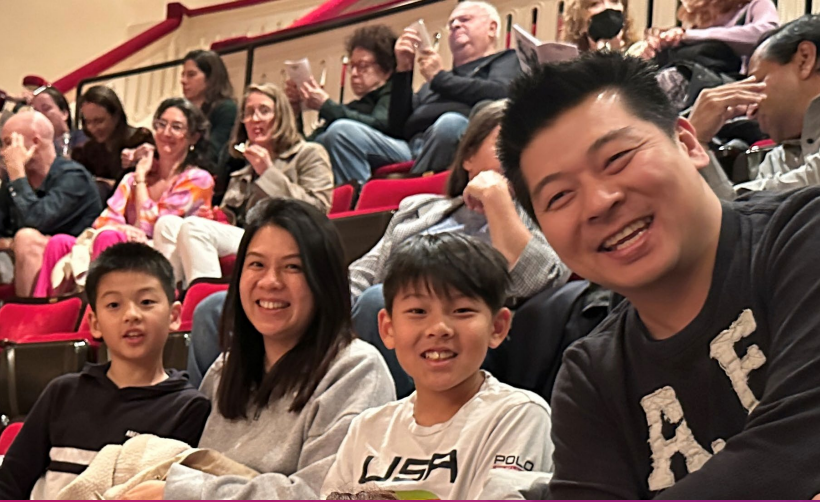
We could not serve the students of New York City without your generous support.

Thank you!



Anne M. Swanson
President and Executive Director

KIDS IN THE BALCONY



*Kids in the Balcony is a program that provides **FREE** tickets to The New York Pops concerts at Carnegie Hall to New York City students and their families.*

+ 1,400 students and families served in 2024-2025

77%

of participants are from underserved communities

13%

of participants are students with disabilities

11%

of participants are English language learners

40%

of participants are from low-income households

Students were provided with **pre-concert curriculum** and **virtual workshops** to prepare them for the concert-going experience. These pre-concert experiences shared information about the orchestra and fun facts about guest artists, as well as introduced students to the instruments of the orchestra.

This season, we also held an **in-person workshop** for our December concert allowing students to meet Steven Reineke and experience live instrument demonstrations from musicians in the orchestra.



MEET THE NEW YORK POPS

The New York Pops was founded in 1983. Our current Music Director is Steven Reineke.

The founder and first Music Director was Skitch Henderson, who was The Tonight Show bandleader years before Quasimodo!

There is a total of 78 musicians. The average number of rehearsals before each concert is ONLY TWO!

Some notable guests include Norm Lewis, The Muppets, Ruthie Ann Miles, Avenue Q, Puppets, Luca Laurenti, Matthew Morrison, Kelli O'Hara, Queen Latifah, Barry Manilow, Lea Salonga, James Monroe Iglehart, and me.

MEET THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

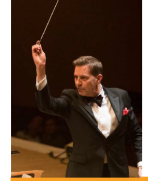


Photo by Richard Termine.

HOLIDAY SONG PUZZLE

This concert offers a variety of classic carols and contemporary favorites. How many words can you find in the word search? Write and match the words you find to the song titles.

Z F N R O C K V E I R Y C K V
B T F O C W H Y E A R U H Y O
A I N C E L I T T L E O R Z M
G M S H C L O K O B O B I X E
R E H R F U Z G W C W E S H R
P U I I M P F P W A A L T O R
M B P S W G I M C R N L M L Y
W H S T I O I T S O T S A Y T
S C T M Y J N D K L G J S W N
K C N A R O D K H J G I F Z
P T R S H E L O E Y W U O F U
P N E C I L E F E R S S I X U
R I H W I Q Z W F F X A D N
S O L Y O O C E N S Q U O A G
H S R O S W V B A W V O L H J

O _ _ _ _ NIGHT
_ _ _ _ BELLS
ALL I _ _ _ _ FOR _ _ _ _ IS YOU
THE FIRST _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ OF THE BELLS
IT'S THE MOST _ _ _ _ OF THE
HAVE YOURSELF A _ _ _ _
JINGLE BELL _ _ _ _
I SAW THREE _ _ _ _
MAN WITH THE _ _ _ _

Answer on back cover

KIDS IN THE BALCONY PARTNER SCHOOLS

BROOKLYN	BRONX	MANHATTAN	STATEN ISLAND	QUEENS	
P.S.134	P.S. 24	M.S. 167	Susan E. Wagner H.S.	P.S. 171	J.H.S. 189
P.S. 241	M.S. 144	The East Harlem School	I.S. 75	Forest Hills H.S.	P.S./M.S. 219
I.S. 318	M.S. 180	La Guardia H.S.		J.H.S. 157	M.S. 74
STM Brooklyn Strings		P.S. 4		P.S. 144	P.S. 303
P.S. 682		Stuyvesant H.S.		P.S. 212	P.S. 224Q

KIDS IN THE BALCONY TESTIMONIALS



"The songs were beautiful, the conductor was entertaining, and the artists were extravagant! I also really loved the pamphlet that was made for the NYPopEd kids to explain the different instruments, artists, and reflective questions."

- Parent

"The energy! The vocalists were amazing as is the orchestra. The shoutouts by borough were great. We are truly thankful for the opportunity to take my students to Carnegie. They always have glowing reviews..."

- Music teacher

"Everything from the solo performers to the fact that students played along with the other instrumentalist ...was beautiful. Please don't stop your initiative to give families opportunities to attend... my students learn so much from each performance."

- Linda, teacher from Brooklyn

KIDS ON STAGE

Kids on Stage is a **FREE** comprehensive program that provides middle and high school students access to the professional performance process from **the first audition to the final note.**

In 2024-2025:

116

**NYC students applied to
*Kids on Stage***



104

Students invited to audition



22

**Middle school
instrumentalists
were chosen**

4

**High school
conducting
apprentices
were selected**

Jury included members of The New York Pops orchestra and PopsEd Teaching Artists

Education Report FY25



This season, Brian Worsdale (Director, *Kids on Stage*) led the *Kids on Stage* rehearsals with the experience culminating onstage at Carnegie Hall alongside The New York Pops musicians at our annual Birthday Gala.

Kids on Stage students were also offered 24 scholarships to the French Woods Festival of Performing Arts.



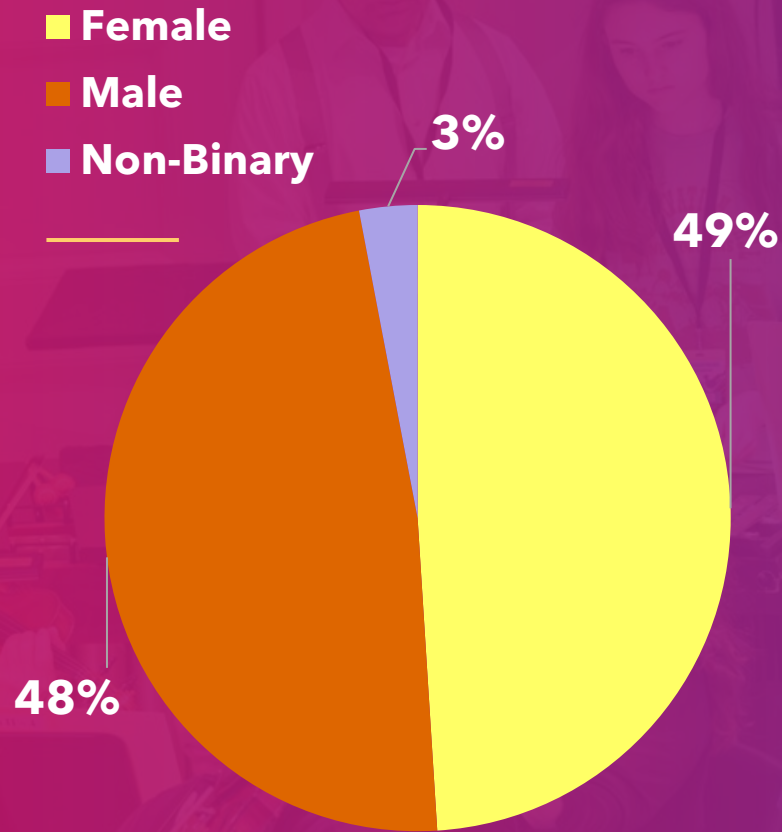


KIDS ON STAGE: CONDUCTING APPRENTICESHIP

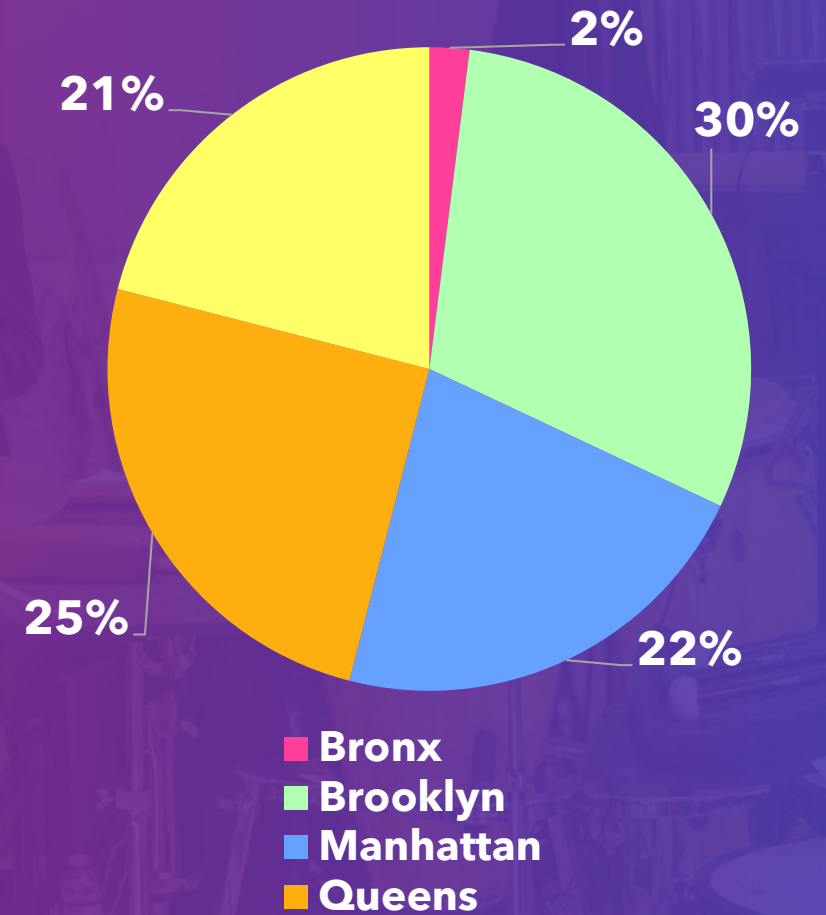
The KOS Conducting Apprentice program gives high school junior and senior music students the chance to study the many facets of conducting. This year, students received instruction from Brian Worsdale, as well as a masterclass from Steven Reineke.

In 2025, students who interviewed for the Conducting Apprenticeship but were not selected for the program had the opportunity to become **Conducting Auditors** and observe and participate in the *Kids on Stage* rehearsals.

KIDS ON STAGE DEMOGRAPHICS



73%
IDENTIFY AS PEOPLE
OF COLOR



"This program impacted me by showing me how to open myself up to people I don't know as well which will help me become the band director I would like to become."

- Angelixa, conducting apprentice and senior student from Staten Island

"Also, a huge thank you to you for all of your hard work. Last night was truly magical. It was definitely the experience of a lifetime for Mattie. She told me that she has never learned so much in a such a short time and feels like she is a much better clarinet player now...It has definitely made an impact on Mattie, and she cannot wait to go to camp."

- Christie, mom of a KOS and French Woods scholarship recipient student

"It was my first time auditioning and being in a program like this. KOS opened my eyes to a higher learning of music, and has helped me to establish my practice routine and taught me the importance of playing different kinds of music."

- Raiden, KOS student from Manhattan



KIDS ON STAGE TESTIMONIALS

RESIDENCIES

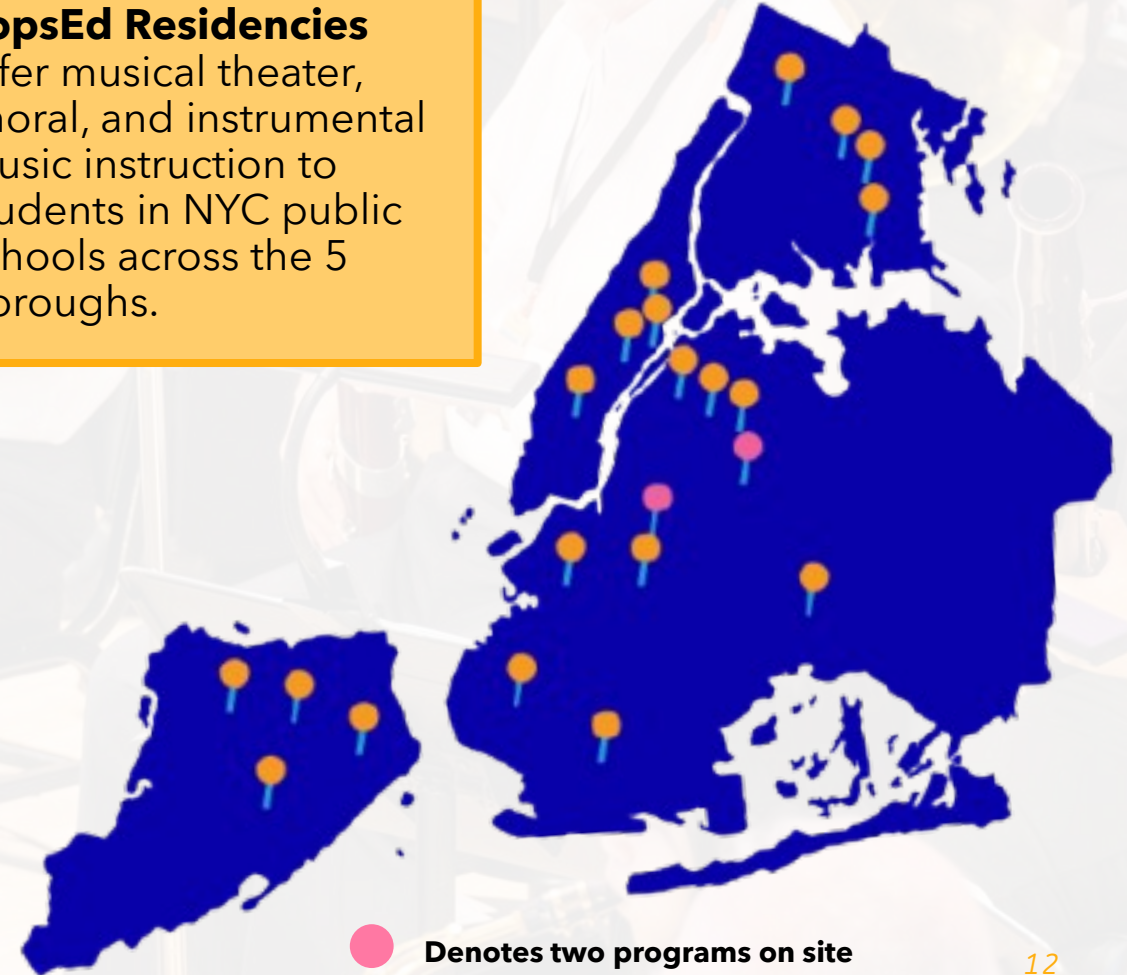


PopsEd Teaching Artists provide music education to students who otherwise might not have exposure to the arts. They also offer their skills and expertise to support and enhance existing music programs.

Curriculum is tailor-made to a school's needs while integrating *National Core Arts Standards* and *New York State Learning Standards for Music* designed to bolster children's confidence, self-expression, and artistic literacy.

PopsEd Residencies

offer musical theater, choral, and instrumental music instruction to students in NYC public schools across the 5 boroughs.



24 SITES

71%

of participants are from
underserved communities

19%

of participants are students
with disabilities



**SERVING
OVER
2,100
STUDENTS**

58%

of participants are from
low-income households

9%

of participants are English
Language Learners

OUR RESIDENCY PARTNERS

BROOKLYN	BRONX	MANHATTAN	QUEENS	STATEN ISLAND	BROOKLYN
I.S. 318 Musical Mentors	M.S. 244 Musical Mentors	M.S. 167 Musical Mentors	P.S. 171 Chorus	Susan Wagner H.S. Private Lessons	I.S. 318 Musical Mentors
All City Marching Band	M.S. 180 Musical Mentors (strings)	The East Harlem School Chorus and Violin Club	P.S. 303 Musical Theater Choreography	Salute to Music Staten Island Strings	All City Marching Band
Salute to Music Brooklyn Band	Salute to Music Bronx Band	Salute to Music Modern Band	High School For Construction Trades, Engineering & Architecture	Salute to Music Staten Island Band	Salute to Music Brooklyn Band
Salute to Music Jazz Ensemble	Salute to Music Bronx Strings	Salute to Music Manhattan Concert Band	Salute to Music Queens Band	Hellenic School	Salute to Music Jazz Ensemble
Salute to Music Brooklyn Strings			Salute to Music Queens Chorus		Salute to Music Brooklyn Strings
P.S. 177			Salute to Music Queens Strings		



RESIDENCIES TESTIMONIALS



"PopsEd offered the perfect number of sessions with a focus on technique."

All the TAs were great, and the students seemed to continually reference what they learned from the TAs after the visits."

Alex Jung, Co-Director, All City Marching Band

"The Musical Mentors program has been an incredibly successful support to my middle school band program for the last three years. The students in my program have no previous musical experience, and the addition of three teaching artists during the school day and after school has been instrumental to their continuing growth and development."

Mary Kate Mutze, Music Teacher, MS 244, Bronx



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the Arts**



McNichols Family Foundation
Providing educational enrichment to communities in need

**THANK YOU TO
OUR **POPS**ED
SPONSORS**

Kids on Stage and Kids in the Balcony are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

PopsEd Residencies are, in part, made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Best Friend (\$20,000 and above)

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Education Report FY25

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