

The Innovative Music Educator Chronicles

José Carrasquillo is a graduate from the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico. He is currently the Senior Music Manager of the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance in Chicago, IL. He works with multiple CPS schools where he has developed a Latin Music curriculum that exemplifies culturally responsive teaching.



Carrasquillo has developed a Latin Music curriculum that exemplifies culturally responsive teaching and that allows students to discover themselves through music.



Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT)

CRT focuses on making experiences relevant to ethnically diverse people.



Carrasquillo's curriculum has allowed students to experience their culture as well as many others in the Latin world. His example has inspired future music educators to expose their future students to a wide variety of Latin Music.

Carrasquillo has used the national instrument of Puerto Rico: the Cuatro, to promote the preservation of Latin music, especially Puerto Rican music that is being failed to be taught.

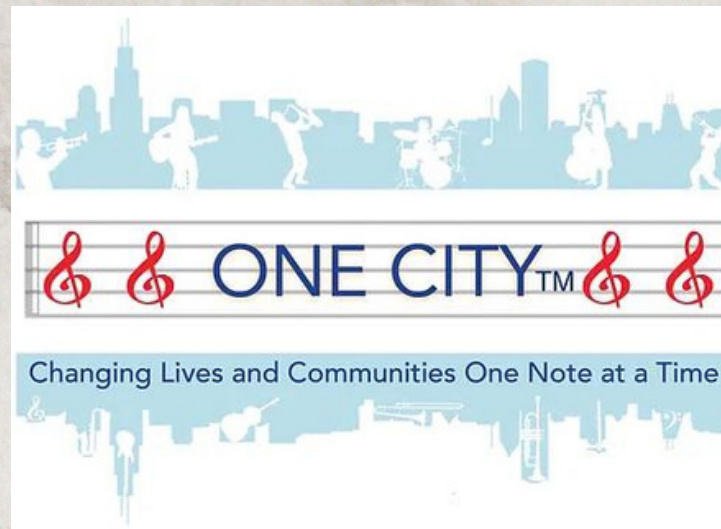


The National Cuatro Festival that takes place at the Harris Theater in Chicago, every November is a major event where Carrasquillo is able to display his work, as an educator, in preserving culture through the Latin Music Project Ensemble.

Impactful Community Programs

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In the vibrant heart of Chicago, the One City Music Program thrives at VanderCook College of Music. Dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for children and families in underserved communities, particularly in Bronzeville and its surrounding neighborhoods, One City is committed to preserving the rich musical heritage of the area. Moreover, the program offers invaluable teaching experiences to collegiate-level music education students at VanderCook College of Music, guided by master teaching mentors.



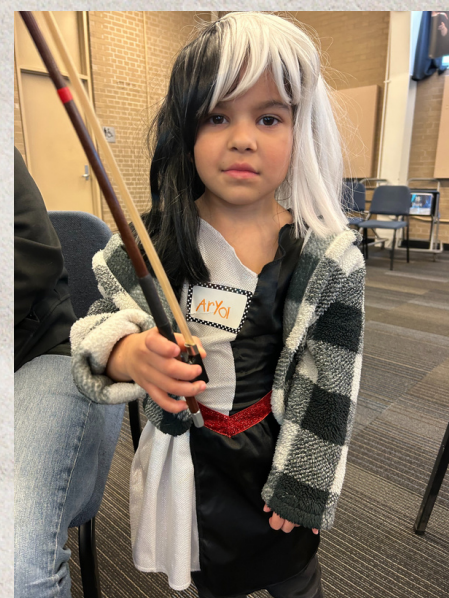
One City stands out for its distinctive approach, introducing a rare genre into the formative years of young musicians,

J A Z Z !

This shapes a unique and enriching path in their musical development.



One City not only has a Jazz and drumline program but also strings! The string department utilizes student workers who are currently in the process of their Suzuki Method training. This gives all students (college students and violin students,)



The Lowell Mason House should use such a lab class to innovate music education on both ends, students and educators.



MUSIC EDUCATION

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There are several ways that the Lowell Mason House can help foster innovation, inspiration, and inclusion for future generations.



Idea 1

The Lowell Mason House could host a free or low cost summer camp for the purpose of keeping students included in music over the summer. This summer camp can also help to foster innovation because those running the camp can bring in professionals to experiment with new techniques for teaching. Those professionals should come from all around the world to culturally inspire students.



Though this idea has been done before, we are suggesting that you use this type of camp to foster innovation in the Music Educators you bring in to teach, and inspiration in students participating in the camp. Additionally any music explored at this camp can be added to the music collection platform suggested in Idea 2.



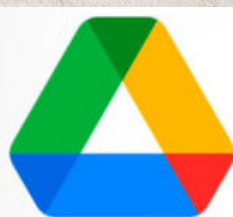
As the years go on and technology advances, it is likely that another platform will turn up that will serve this purpose better. We recommend that the Lowell Mason House creates a webpage dedicated to this idea. This way as technology advances, the webpage can be updated accordingly.

One of the other ways the Lowell Mason House can foster innovation, inspiration, and inclusion in the future is by developing a system for collecting and giving public access to arrangements of pieces from different cultures in varying ensemble settings. For our purposes, we created a Google Drive as an example.

Idea 2



https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/lkwXWrr7Qz_XfD0o9xXMvmE4mT0QqfEze?usp=drive_link



Google Drive

This google drive contains arrangements for Latin pieces from different cultures in varying ensemble settings as an example.