



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Philadelphia Orchestral and Chester Choral Students Join Forces to Honor MLK Day with Free Performances

Philadelphia, PA: Play On Philly (POP), an immersive music education organization, will join the Chester Children's Chorus (CCC) to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. through two collaborative concerts on January 18th at Broad Street Ministry at 3:00 pm and at the Lang Music Building at Swarthmore College on January 20th at 4:00 pm. The concerts are free and open to the public and will feature four musical pieces: Bizet's *Les Toreadors* from *Carmen Suite No. 1*; Von Suppe's *Light Cavalry*; J.S. Bach's *Air on a G String*, arranged by Tarcisio Barreto; John W. and Frederick J. Work's *Wade in the Water*, arranged by Tarcisio Barreto, arranged for choir by John Alston; *Oh, Freedom*, arranged by Tarcisio Barreto, arranged for choir and brass by John Alston;

Let Music Sing! celebrates the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. through musical community and fellowship. For a combined 35 years, Play On Philly and Chester Children's Chorus have provided high-quality music instruction to children who would otherwise lack access in the cities of Philadelphia and Chester. POP students receive more than 400 hours of tuition-free music instruction after school daily and are loaned an instrument at no cost through an evidence-based program that helps build confidence, musical excellence, and lifelong skills for its participants. **Let Music Sing!** is one of more than 25 performances that POP students will present throughout the year.

"The **Let Music Sing!** concerts honor Dr. King's legacy of hope, beauty, and a more perfect world while showcasing the incredible talent and efforts of POP and CCC students," said POP Executive Director, Stanford Thompson, "The POP team has been thrilled to work with our long-time friends and musical colleagues at CCC to provide a unique community celebration representative of Dr. King's work."

"When Chester and Philadelphia children step on stage and perform Bach and the Beatles with refinement and joy, they show the world that they are capable of the highest achievement. Too often, our children are honored during MLK weekend, but ignored for the rest of the year." Said CCC Executive and Artistic Director, John Alston, "The CCC looks forward to sharing the stage with POP. When people hear us sing and play, they will know that with love, high expectations....and lots of practice, Dr. King's dream is possible in our lifetime."

What: Let Music Sing! Concerts
When: January 18th and 20th, 2020
Where: Broad Street Ministry (January 18th @ 3:00 p.m.)
315 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Lang Music Building (January 20th @ 4:00 p.m.)
Swarthmore College
6 Whittier Place
Swarthmore, PA 19081

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About Play On Philly:

Play On Philly (POP) provides high-quality music education to students, who would typically lack access, as a vehicle for life skills and academic achievement. We provide 2 hours of music instruction and ensemble practice every day after school and over 25 performance opportunities throughout the year. Students range from Kindergarten to 12th grade and are loaned an orchestral instrument at no cost. POP programming has proven results: our students score ten points higher on standardized tests and have improved behavior and study skills. We cultivate musical excellence, lifelong skills, and confidence. Learn more about POP at our new website: www.playonphilly.org.

About Chester Children's Chorus:

Founded in 1994, the Chester Children's Chorus provides an intensive, sophisticated, and joyful choral music experience to young people of the city of Chester, and supports their academic achievement and personal development. Twenty-five years ago the CCC began with seven boys from one elementary school; it now serves more than one hundred boys and girls in third through twelfth grades from every school in Chester. The CCC is a program of Swarthmore College, which provides generous in-kind support of its programs and operations. <https://www.swarthmore.edu/chester-childrens-chorus>

About Broad Street Ministry

Broad Street Ministry provides stabilizing services that go beyond meeting basic human needs. Along with nutritious meals, guests can benefit from a mailing address, change of clothes, and personal care items. And we partner with other best-in-class nonprofit organizations to offer medical behavioral, health care, legal assistance, and support with housing, public benefits, and personal identification. <https://www.broadstreetministry.org/>