Welcome from The Philly POPS

Karen Corbin
The Philly POPS, President and CEO

Hello,

It’s no secret that music and POPSinSchools are close to my heart. Both of my parents were graduates of the School District of Philadelphia—my Mother was an accomplished soprano; my Father and my Grandfather were huge jazz fans. I am pleased to be able to make a difference with The Philly POPS in the Philadelphia community.

I met Terell Stafford at the first POPS-supported All-City Jazz Festival and was inspired by his talents—both in performance and in education. Providing support was the first initiative in the founding of POPSinSchools, a supplemental music education program which raises the music leaders of tomorrow, while also combating the reduction in funding for music education throughout the School District.

POPSinSchools has grown tremendously—with relationships to 20 educational partners, including 15 School District of Philadelphia schools. POPSinSchools reached hundreds of new students in the 2022-2023 school year, and after the interruption of in-class learning, we introduced POPSinSchools@Home—which has now reached over 22,000 students from the comfort of home and continues to grow weekly with new lessons and content. We’ll keep this digital platform forever.

I particularly treasure seeing the accomplishments of our POPSinSchools students. Dan McCain played on stage with Christian McBride, and John Meko is now the Education and Community Engagement Associate with the POPS! We hope you will join us in building POPSinSchools and POPSinSchools@Home to even greater heights—raising our School District’s next Leslie Odom, Jr., Christian McBride, or Patti LaBelle. With gratitude,

Karen Corbin

Opening Remarks

Terrell Stafford
The Philly POPS, Artistic Director for Jazz

Hello,

Like so many other musicians, my musical career started with a moment of wonder. I remember sitting in a concert hall as a child with my parents, as I watched a trumpet player gracefully and powerfully perform a piece by Tchaikovsky. I looked at my parents and said, “that’s what I want to do.” I had no idea how much that day would shape my life.

My career has been full of these moments of inspiration. When I was getting started as a musician, some of this city’s legends—like Shirley Scott and Jimmy Heath—took me under their wings. I watched them perform, took their guidance, and melded it into my own style. Looking back from today, I’ve performed on more than 130 albums—including seven of my own. Several of these albums have won GRAMMY awards. But, I would not be here without my mentors.

A large part of my journey has been as a mentor and an educator—giving back to the next generation of musicians, as my mentors gave to me. That’s why I’ve dedicated myself to teaching worldwide, based here in Philadelphia. I’m the Director of Jazz Studies and Chair of Instrumental studies at Temple University, but I regularly teach throughout the country in residencies and workshops. I also have a yearly residency in the Netherlands.

With the POPS, I educate students through All-City Jazz, direct the All-City Jazz Orchestra, and direct The Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia, which has given performance opportunities to some of my students at Temple University.

I strive to bring students their own moments of wonder—inspired by their accomplishments and the accomplishments of others. We hope that you can help us bring moments of wonder to the students of Philadelphia.

Sincerely,
Terell Stafford
Purpose

POPSinSchools is an EITC-certified program that provides musical training, performance opportunities, and access to POPS concerts and rehearsals to students in the tri-state area. Our purpose is to supplement quality music education and offer valuable experiences to students who would not usually have access to these opportunities.

POPSinSchools’ Core Four Pillars

Measuring and achieving our goals!

1. Assessment
Every school is different. The POPS team visits each location, meets with the administration and with music educators. They collaborate in the design of a program tailored to meet each school’s needs.

2. Immediate Interactive Participation
Rather than performing for the students, POPSinSchools engages young people immediately in choral or instrumental activity.

3. Performance
Students perform throughout the school year – either in their school in front of their peers, teachers, and parents, or in public, such as at the City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting, or in the All-City Jazz Festival.

4. Access
POPSinSchools participants are provided free ticket opportunities to at least one Philly POPS concert.
POPSinSchools Programs

The POPS is pleased to be full-time in Philadelphia School District schools across six different council districts in the city! In addition to the programs that the students receive in person, the POPS also has a vast reservoir of educational content titled POPSinSchools@HOME, located on our YouTube channel and website!

Instrumental Music

POPSinSchools focuses on instrumental music lessons early in students’ education, to help them form skills and competencies at a young age. POPSinSchools elementary school students receive guitar lessons at several of the schools, drumming and bucket-drumming lessons, brass music lessons such as the trumpet and the trombone, and instrumental performances.

High school students can participate in All-City Jazz—which offers jazz education programming and lessons throughout the year, culminating in the annual All-City Jazz Festival.

General Music Program

With cuts district-wide to music education programming, POPSinSchools works with the School District of Philadelphia and Temple University to provide general music education classes. This unique music program has been developed at the Isaac Sheppard School and is led by professional musician and educator Sean Bailey, who holds weekly assemblies at Isaac Sheppard and De Burgos schools to showcase different musical instruments, styles, and techniques to the young students.

Lesson content from in-school programs is recorded and posted to POPSinSchools@Home in the Masterclasses and Lesson Plans category, so students learning from home have access to the same materials as those learning in-person.

Education Partners

Isaac A. Sheppard School
George W. Childs School
Bache-Martin School
Franklin Learning Center
George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science
Julia R. Masterman School
George Washington High School
Central High School
Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts
Academy at Benjamin Rush

Girard Academic Music Program
Samuel Fels School
Philadelphia Military School
Drexel University
Temple University
LUCY Outreach (Lifting Up Camden’s Youth)
POPSinSchools Highlights

Isaac Sheppard School

Julia De Burgos School

John Welsh School

Bache-Martin School

Girard Academic Music Program

LUCY Outreach
All City Jazz

All-City Jazz is the high school program for eight Philadelphia School District schools, which culminates in the All-City Jazz Festival, a full day of performance and educational activities each spring in celebration of Jazz History Month. Each year, students are selected by audition to perform in the All-City Jazz Orchestra.

This honor band is directed by POPS Artistic Director for Jazz Terell Stafford and performs at the end of the All-City Jazz Festival. The educational component of All-City Jazz is vital to the development of student musicians and guarantees a flourishing future for jazz in Philadelphia.

In 2015, All-City Jazz was the founding event for the POPS’ POPSinSchools supplemental music education program and began the POPS’ engagement with renowned trumpeter Terell Stafford. Today, Terell is the POPS Artistic Director for Jazz and director of The Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia, as well as Director of Jazz Studies and Chair of Instrumental Studies at Temple University and Director of the All-City Jazz Orchestra.

The 2023 All-City Jazz Festival was on May 10th, 2023—marking the end of jazz appreciation month. This year’s festival took place at the historic Cherry Street Pier, whose location and grand interior combined with the fantastic spring weather made a fantastic setting for this event! The festival featured performances from 8 PSD high schools, and the full All-City Jazz band, the by-audition honor band directed by Terell Stafford.

Bringing Learning Home with POPSinSchools@HOME

With the interruption to the school year in mid-March 2020, we launched POPSinSchools@HOME.

POPSinSchools@HOME continues the work of POPSinSchools. The digital classroom was well-received, reaching more than 30,000 students during the pandemic, and will continue as an added POPSinSchools program. New videos, activities, and instructional content – in English and Spanish – are posted on this page. There are four categories:

LEARN

programs are sorted by grade level, but everyone can join this virtual classroom.

HEAR

from student musicians in POPSinSchools to see how far they’ve come.

NOTES

are inspirational messages from artists we admire.

MASTERCLASSES

and lesson plans provide video series from our virtual school programs.
Imagine the Future

POPSinSchools is always growing—and with continued support and sponsorship, the future is bright! Here are some of the new developments for POPSinSchools.

The Philly POPS’ jazz programming keeps Philadelphia’s jazz history alive—with lessons, masterclasses, and performances.

Expanding programming into West Philadelphia

With programs in North and South Philadelphia, Center City, and Camden, the POPS looks to grow into West Philadelphia—a neighborhood that has its own storied history with jazz and other forms of music. This expansion began last summer with a camp program at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, and looks to expand into schools of all levels in the 2023-2024 school year.

Spanish Language Programming

Bilingual education reaches more students in their first language. Instructors such as Emmanual Lozada-Mendez and Maria Marmarou help bilingual students in programs such as Esperanza Charter School and LUCY Outreach to learn more efficiently.

Maria Marmarou with the students of LUCY Outreach
Student Successes

Dan McCain

Dan McCain is a School District of Philadelphia graduate and four-year participant in the All-City Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Artistic Director for Jazz Terell Stafford. He is an upright and electric bass player. Dan has performed in The Philly POPS Big Band, and the Philly POPS Orchestra, where he performed along CAPA graduate Christian McBride in a concert at Verizon Hall and during Fourth of July activities in front of Independence Hall. He is active in providing HEAR videos for POPSinSchools@HOME.

“The All City Jazz Festival was one of my favorite parts of high school. It was my junior year in high school that I first saw the University of Arts Z Band, which I was a part of my first two years college. Just seeing that band and how serious they were was a huge motivation for what I could be as a musician.”

John Meko

John Meko is a trumpet player who has worked in the POPS office for seven years as a Student Co-Op and is currently the Education and Community Engagement Associate with the POPS. John is a graduate of the POPS’ executive student co-op program, which allows one graduate student each year to work in the POPS office in preparation for a role in Artistic Administration or Music Education. The program is the final plank in the POPS in Schools pathway and a way of rounding out a graduate performance degree. After pursuing his M.M. in Jazz Performance at Temple University, John has performed in The Philly POPS Big Band and The Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia and has performed regularly in a variety of ensembles around Philly.

“Through my internship with the POPS, I’ve been able to learn how to be organized and have had the opportunity to work in several departments of the organization like production, sales, and education. I will continue to use these skills I’ve learned working for the POPS for the rest of my life.”

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Meet Our Educators

Terell Stafford

Terell Stafford, acclaimed trumpet player and educator based at Temple University and performing frequently in New York, has been hailed as “one of the great players of our time, a fabulous trumpet player” by piano legend McCoy Tyner. Stafford is recognized as an incredibly gifted and versatile player; he combines a deep love of melody with his own brand of spirited and adventurous lyricism.” Stafford is the Philly POPS Artistic Director for Jazz, Director of Jazz Studies and Chair of Instrumental Studies at Temple University, founder and band leader of the Terell Stafford Quintet, and Managing and Artistic Director of The Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia (JOP).

Stafford is renowned in the jazz world as an educator, performer and leader and has received countless award nominations and accolades.

Stafford was born in Miami and raised in Chicago, Illinois and Silver Spring, Maryland. He received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the University of Maryland in 1988 and a Master of Music from Rutgers University in 1993.

Terell’s work in education has spanned worldwide. Domestically, he has held residencies and workshops at Berkley College of Music, The Juilliard School, Lincoln Center, Texas State University, Michigan State University, and Centrum Jazz Workshop for the Vail Jazz Foundation. Internationally, Terell holds a residency at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, and has done virtual workshops for Michigan State University, Berkley College of Music, Conservatorium van Amsterdam, and James Morrison Academy of Music in Mount Gambier, Australia.
**POPSinSchools is Made Possible by Your Support!**

By giving a gift to POPSinSchools, you help keep our in-class, virtual, and on-stage educational and access programs going.

To make your gift to POPSinSchools, you can visit [www.phillypops.org/support](http://www.phillypops.org/support).

**Your Support Makes a Big Impact:**

- $250 buys five Ukuleles for POPS In Schools students
- $750 supports the production of 3 hours of POPSinSchools videos
- $1000 supports a School District of Philadelphia student with 5 sessions with a POPSinSchools Teaching Artist
- $2500 provides 10 School District of Philadelphia students with leased violins for a whole school year

The Philly POPS is a recognized and authorized participant in the EITC-EIO programs. As an Educational Improvement Organization (EIO), we use awarded funds to support existing programs and develop new programs for our POPSinSchools in-school, digital, and after school educational activities. What does this mean to you? If you work for, or have a company that does business in PA, you are eligible to apply for tax credits for the support you provide for the POPS educational activities. See if your company qualifies for the EITC program on the Commonwealth’s website. The most beneficial option is to apply for a 2-year commitment, as this type of commitment likely qualifies for a 90% tax credit to your business.