



“Education enrichment through music is our mission”

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GALA JUNE 7th 6pm, at LINCOLN CENTER

April 11th, 2022

Dear Supporter of Highbridge Voices

Highbridge voices kept its doors open with both virtual and in-person after school programming during the Covid Pandemic. For those of our students who could not attend we provided and supported internet services. Now over 80 kids are receiving our services every week again and we have started a campaign to increase those numbers to 180 students within the next 24 months. Our needs are great to achieve these goals so we are able to serve this highly vulnerable student community in the Highbridge section of the Bronx.

Our research has shown again and again that 98% of HBV students complete high school in 4 years vs. 60% of the Bronx's District 9 students. (Study: 2011-2019). These differences have been even more amplified with the devastating impacts of Covid-19. **Now it is time to re-build.**

We were fortunate to have been able to retain a significant number of our students in spite of initial vaccine resistance and now it is time to enhance our programs, expand our reach, and rebuild to be an even stronger Highbridge Voices. Our goals are to again attain the size of 180+ student that we service per annum which would include 15+ or so Seniors applying to college each year. We are on an intensive student recruitment campaign to get us to those numbers – and with your generous support we will be in a position to continue to provide excellent high-quality services to help them achieve their potential.

Highbridge Voices has had tremendous success enriching the lives of the underserved Highbridge youth (grade school, middle school, high school) for nearly 25 years by providing a nurturing after school program based on the principles of “focus through song” in a safe environment in this one of the most underserved and low-income communities in the United States.

The impact of this service through confidence building, safe harbor, and academic work support on the students and the community have been remarkable. Countless studies and research has proven that structured after school programs in addition to caregiver support and traditional schooling enhances a growing young people's ability to succeed in society. Music as a basis of this exposure has particular proven benefits for academic success. The principles of SEL (social and emotional learning) in conjunction with academic support are expressed by HBV and have led to the success of our students in gaining post high school achievements.

Our students are regularly accepted to college as a result of their dedication and the care and counseling they receive from Highbridge engagement.

To strengthen what Highbridge Voices can provide to its students we enhanced our collaborations with professional organizations in New York City to provide high-quality programs

- **The Metropolitan Opera Guild:** Our musical program is developed under the guidance of the Met Guild community outreach program who in their research has identified that young individuals significantly benefit in their general educational development from music education. We apply these principles at Highbridge Voices. The Metropolitan Opera Staff generously provides coordinated musical instruction.
- **Fordham University:** The Fordham Center for Community Engaged Learning provides academic support for HBV students on and off-site. This service is provided in conjunction with our in-house programs.
- **MOSAIC Beacon Community Center:** Through their generosity MOSAIC assists Highbridge Voices with additional space for choir rehearsals located within short walking distance from 1360 Merriam Ave.
- **Catholic Charities Community Services:** To address any challenges that our students and their families may have Catholic Charities partners with HBV to help with guidance and counseling when required.
- **Highbridge Community Development Corporation:** Providing housing for over 700 families HCDC also provides the home for Highbridge Voices as well as many support services. HCDC is also a principal program enrollments source for many HBV students.

Our campaign for operating services and much needed capital improvements to our educational space in the Bronx will require in excess of \$1 Million for the next 3 years.

Please contribute on our web site for a tax-deductible donation as permitted or send a check to Highbridge Voices. Will you help?

www.Highbridgevoices.org Easy click and donate.

We thank you for your continued support. Please also note our that our Annual Gala will be held at Lincoln Center Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse on June 7th at 6pm . Our honorees will be **Thomas and Eileen Lamberti** who have supported both Highbridge Voices and Fordham University for many years with significant contributions.

Our students thank you.

Markus Deutsch
Co-Chair Highbridge Voices
a 501 (c) 3 Corporation

Marie Stroud
Program Director

PS: Please type in the words "**Highbridge Voices Youtube Hamilton**" in your internet browser to view examples of the student's excellent performances. One of my personal favorites was the remote compilation of "*Dear Theodosia*" from the Broadway Musical *Hamilton*. But they are all good and heartwarming. Please find it in your heart to give to this excellent cause today.