

## Newsletter No.7: October, 2015

### National Research Study for El Sistema-inspired Music Programs



#### Key Topics:

- Great News
- Photo Call
- Good Ideas
- Fall Data Collection Calendar and Check In
- Research links

*Photo courtesy of Longy School of Music of Bard College*

#### Great News!

As we shared with you via e-mail, the Buck Family Foundation has decided to continue their support of this Study for an additional year. We are very grateful for the generosity of the Foundation, but we know that this would not have happened without the hard work from all of you. We look forward to discussing details with each of you. Please feel free to share this news with your boards and your own funders.

#### Photo Call

As we progress through the year, we often find ourselves in need of compelling photos that illustrate our work. We are hoping to develop a bank of photographs that represent the children and sites that participate in the Study, and would like to invite each one of you to send us 2-3 representative photos. We will be sure to credit your site and will share with our funders as well. Thank you in advance for helping us in this way. You may e-mail them directly to Judy.

#### Good Ideas

In the category of good ideas, many sites are reporting that they plan to use at least some of their fall stipend to 1) compensate TAs or staff who are serving as evaluators for the performance measures; 2) compensate staff or outside experts to serve as proctors for the booklet measures; or 3) compensate a reliable parent, intern or a local high school student to help organize, scan and label data.

## **Fall 2015 Data Collection Calendar and Check In**

By now, most sites have completed the booklet measures. Collecting this data within two weeks of program start allows us to have a true look at how students respond at the very beginning of their music program, as, and gives us the best opportunity to capture the change your program makes in students. Thanks to all of you for completing this work – let us know if you have any feedback that might help support others in the next round.

Most sites have also completed the IRR Training for the staff and teaching artists who will serve as evaluators for the music performance measures. Please be in touch with Judy if you need to complete this process.

Most sites are now turning their attention toward the music performance measures, **to be completed by the end of October**. If you have not yet coordinated your calendar with us for these dates, please be in touch to make sure that one of the Research Team or the Research Fellows can be there to support you on site. As you know, this will involve travel arrangements and requires some lead time to organize.

Here are some further calendar reminders

### **Throughout OCTOBER**

- Measures are administered
- Calendars are coordinated with Research Fellows and Principal Investigators who will be on site to support performance measures and other aspects of study
- Data is collected, scanned, and photocopied
- **BY October 31 all measures are completed**

### **Week of NOVEMBER 2 – NOVEMBER 6**

- Scanning and Photocopying are completed
- ALL original booklets and rating sheets are mailed

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **November-December 2015: Processing of Fall Data Collection**

- Phone conference with researcher to hear observations and suggestions and review data

## **Research Links:**

Memorizing music (and more on the neurological fascination with musicians)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-32428022>

Do chimpanzees respond to music? See what the experts are saying.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/music-matters/201407/do-chimpanzees-music>

## **Any Questions?**

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