

The T.R.I.O. Project

Teaching and Responding through Internet Outreach

In the past few decades, technology has undoubtedly reshaped most aspects of our lives, from personal relationships to education through the uses of computers, cell phones, etc. In many ways, technology has improved most practical operations in our daily lives, making things faster, more efficient, and all the more possible. More and more, such great technological advantages are widely available to even the most remote places in our world. Having this in mind, an opportunity to use technology to benefit music education caught our eyes. With the use of online video communication applications, we intend to reach out to young musicians in rural settings and offer them music education, guidance, and support. We also, in limited circumstances, plan to serve promising musicians who no longer have access to a private music teacher due to their changed financial situation brought about by the recent economic downturn.

“Musical opportunities in a small town are few and far between,” as one of our co-developers, Kathryn Peterson, experienced firsthand. “I grew up in Lamesa, a small West Texas town, and attended an elementary school that was surrounded by cotton fields. Luckily, our little town had a fantastic piano teacher, despite my rural settings, with whom I began taking lessons from at age 5. When I reached the 6th grade, I decided to learn to play the French horn in our school’s Beginning Band class. As time went on, my passion for music grew. I was very fortunate to have parents who realized that I had a musical talent worth fostering. Upon entering the 8th grade, I began studying piano, cello, and horn in the nearest city, Lubbock, which is located 60 miles from my hometown. It was there that I began to have access to teachers who had been trained in these specific instruments and really began to make progress. Eventually, my parents allowed me to apply to Idyllwild Arts Academy in California, one of three boarding high schools for the performing arts in the U.S., where I enrolled my sophomore year. While at Idyllwild, I had the opportunity to learn from many great musicians and educators on a more full-time basis and my ability and talent began to really flourish. I would have never had access to that level of musical education in the rural community where I was raised. I was extremely

fortunate that someone recognized that I had talent and got me to the right teachers. Had I not been given the opportunity to study and learn from musicians on my specific instrument, my musical aspirations would have probably gone unrealized.

The world is a very different place now than it was when I started Beginner Band. Because of the Internet, New York City, and Lamesa, Texas (or any rural area for that matter), are just a click away. I personally experienced the possibilities of Internet music lessons through a video lesson I had with my horn teacher, David Wakefield. It was through that experience that I realized that any kid in any rural setting could have access to top musical expertise in the form of an Internet lesson. I would venture to guess that there are many talented young students that, because of their geographical location or economic situation, do not have access to the lessons they need to excel in their music. With the invention of the Internet, kids in rural communities could have the same opportunities as their peers who live in larger cities. Growing up in rural West Texas, I would have loved to have had a friend and mentor who loved music just as much as I did. Through the magic of the Internet, it is now possible... and we at Juilliard can be the ones to lead the way.”

We are aware that many young musicians in rural settings are deprived of the high quality music education that is crucial to their development as young artists. Just as deprived are those students who are no longer able to study with a private teacher as music lessons are one of the first “luxuries” to go in bad economic times. Therefore, our target crowd for this project includes students who possess raw musical talent and have a burning desire to improve and refine their talent, but who are unable to receive ample music instruction due to their location or economic situation. We are looking to work with students in middle school and high school (grades 8-12) who have at least two years of experience with their instruments.

The Internet is the perfect tool to bridge the gap between the young musicians in rural settings and the music education that is more available to those in the city. Just as long distance friendships and relationships are sustained through the practice of online video communication, select Juilliard students can develop mentorship with young musicians in need. Regular “video chatting” sessions will be held between the Juilliard mentors and the young students, during which time the Juilliard mentors can provide various types of musical assistance, instruction, and guidance.

The program we have in mind is beneficial to all those who partake in this unique

opportunity. The young musicians will be able to receive high quality musical education and guidance that would otherwise be difficult for them to obtain, and the Juilliard students who are serving as mentors will have the opportunity to develop their teaching skills and participate in a philanthropic cause.

To spread the word of our objective, we will utilize several methods of advertisement. These include direct advertisement to middle schools and high schools in rural locations and advertisement through professional educational organizations that can help us reach out to candidates. This process, in addition to gathering Juilliard students to be mentors for this program, will naturally require monetary support. Therefore, we wholeheartedly ask that you consider making a generous contribution to this innovative and worthwhile cause that we are so ambitious to undertake and help us make dreams a reality for the next generation of budding musicians.

Kathryn Peterson and Alice (Gi-Young) Hwang, Founders
Idyllwild Arts Academy, Class of 2009
The Juilliard School, Class of 2013