



QUARTER NOTES

MARCH 2018 • ISSUE 1

Welcome to Quarter Notes, Youth Music Project's new – and appropriately titled – quarterly newsletter!

There's rarely a quiet moment (literally or figuratively) in our bustling musical home, and we're excited to launch this newsletter to keep you up to date on all the ongoing activities and excitement happening here.

So many folks in the community are making contributions to Youth Music Project that are both impactful and inspiring. The In the Spotlight column shines a light on someone who is connected to Youth Music Project and helping us grow in new ways. This quarter, I sat down with instructor Ivy Ricci and talked about her timely music video, "Girls Sit Screaming."

We're also very excited to share Student Stories, where you can learn about some of the amazing young musicians who are instrumental (pun intended) in making Youth Music Project the unique and special place that it is. It's why we're here, after all. This quarter, we're highlighting our Advanced Track Ensemble. This ensemble and our intern band performed to a delighted crowd on the main stage of the Winter Blues Festival earlier this month. This is our second gig at the fest, now in its seventh year, and they generously donated the event proceeds to Youth Music Project and the Oregon Food Bank. Thank you, Winter Blues Festival, for supporting our young, upcoming musicians!

There's lots to look forward to in 2018. For example, did you know that we launched our first Family Leadership Council this winter? We're honored to work with engaged parents and families to help advance Youth Music Project's impact and efficacy in the classroom and the community. If you're interested in joining this group, give us a call – meetings typically occur on the last Thursday of every month.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Quarter Notes and learn something new about Youth Music Project and the people that make it possible. A heartfelt thanks for being part of our vibrant, musical family. Together, through the power of music, we are making a positive difference in the lives of so many.

Best,


Travis Magrane
Executive Director



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Youth Music Project

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Youth Music Project is the only nonprofit music school in Clackamas County.

STUDENT STORIES: **ADVANCED TRACK**

Here at Youth Music Project, we are continually seeking out ways to support opportunities for musical growth in our students. This year, we have been paying specific attention to engaging our advanced and teen students. As part of this effort, we began piloting an Advanced Track group this past fall.

At the start of the year, this ensemble of eight talented young musicians was selected through a rigorous process of auditions, along with teacher recommendations. Band members commit to rehearsing for two hours every Saturday throughout the year as well as several performance opportunities. Commenting on the level of commitment and focus required of these students, Advanced Track instructor Brian Robertson said, "I greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with students who are interested in challenging themselves to achieve a high level of musicianship. It is very rewarding to see them demonstrate remarkable growth in such a short period of time."

During the practice sessions, in addition to strengthening their individual musical skills, the students work on music theory, how to build a performance set for a specific gig, expanding their skills on a variety of instruments, performance technique, and playing together as a cohesive ensemble. "I have especially enjoyed being able to match my music with other people's music," said drummer Ashleigh. "I like hearing all of the instruments come together to create a song."

The group has already taken to the stage this school year! In the fall, they played with Roger Fisher, a founding member of the legendary classic rock band Heart, at our Annual Gala, and "decked the halls" at the World of Speed Motorsports Museum's holiday celebration. "My favorite part about participating in Advanced Track this year has been pushing myself outside of my comfort zone at times," said guitarist Maximus. "I really enjoyed singing and playing guitar with Roger Fisher of the band Heart. He brought a lot of energy and positivity to his music. I have also been exposed to genres of music that I didn't even know I liked!"

2018 ADVANCED TRACK BAND MEMBERS

- Cameron:** guitar/vocal; freshman
- Abigail:** keyboard/vocal; freshman
- Morgan:** guitar/bass/vocal; freshman
- Victoria:** keyboard/vocal; eighth grade
- Marjie:** drums/vocal; sophomore
- Maximas:** guitar/bass/vocal; eighth grade
- William:** guitar/drums/vocal; freshman
- Ashleigh:** drums/aux. percussion; eighth grade

"My favorite part of participating in the Advanced Track is all the opportunities we have been given to perform, and listening and learning a piece of music with different instruments. Also, the outcomes of the songs are so cool and amazing to listen to."

—Victoria, keyboardist/vocalist



8 TALENTED
YOUNG MUSICIANS

2 HOURS + MULTIPLE
EVERY WEEK PERFORMANCES

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—Ashleigh, drummer

"My favorite part about participating in Advanced Track this year has been pushing myself outside of my comfort zone at times. I really enjoyed singing and playing guitar with Roger Fisher of the band Heart. He brought a lot of energy and positivity to his music."

—Maximus, guitarist



Advanced Track in action at the Winter Blues Music Festival, March 10 at the Elks Lodge in Milwaukee — \$2,200 was raised at Winter Blues Fest this year to support Youth Music Project!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: IVY RICCI

Each quarter, we will shine the spotlight on someone connected to Youth Music Project who is doing inspiring work. This quarter, Executive Director Travis Magrane sat down with instructor Ivy Ricci and had a chat about her work at Youth Music Project and her release of a new music video.

Tell us what you do here at Youth Music Project.

I have the great pleasure and delight of teaching guitar, drums, ukulele, and rock band – which also entails collaborative songwriting. Mostly, I get to be in rooms that are full of wonderful music gear and work on ways to ignite a spark of music and creativity – which is normally already there – in my students. I get to fuel the fire of the kids that come into the room and make each student's love of music brighter.

What drew you here?

What's happening here really brings together a lot of areas of my work: youth development, music, and education in general. One of the reasons this place is so special to me is that any student who benefits from free/reduced lunch gets free lessons. Music is so important for everyone, and the fact that Youth Music Project opens its doors to people that might not otherwise have access to it is huge for me. Plus, the staff is really fun; it is truly a lovely place to work.



Can you describe the double standards?

The first line of the song is "it looks so easy for the boys to make noise." This is something I experienced myself as a young musician, also surrounded by male musicians, just noticing they received a lot of support and attention and audience for their music, really from the start, whereas the girls didn't. My friends and I, I can say in hindsight, were equally as talented – but didn't get the same support or audience for our work.

I can see now as an adult, being in the rooms where kids are six, seven, eight – there's at least as many girls as boys and the girls certainly have as much aptitude for music as the boys do. But as they get older, I see fewer girls participating in music. By the time they're teenagers, maybe there are one or two girls participating in a band, but a lot of times they are really shy. I've seen this in my travels around the country teaching music. It's also so evidenced in the field of music: When there's an all-girl band it's a news-worthy big deal, whereas it's never accentuated if it's an all-boys band – it's just a band. Why is that?

I believe one of the reasons is just the cultural expectations around gender and taking up space and making noise. So, one of the reasons the work I do at Youth Music Project is so important is that I get to work with a lot of young girls (as well as boys) and I make sure to make it a welcoming environment for girls to express themselves. There are tendencies around getting heard and, a lot of times, boys will either judge or ridicule or talk over girls and it's important to redirect that dynamic. I'm still learning about all the ways in the realm of creativity – and specifically in my field of music – in which girls subtly get stifled.



What impact do you hope to see this video, and your work in general, make?

The big-picture outcome would be for there to be more women in music – more girls feeling comfortable being in bands, more girls in music rooms as they become young adults, more representation of girls and women in music, because I think the world really needs that. There's no reason that I can see that there should be more men than woman expressing themselves in music.

In the near future, my goal is to create a forum for dialogue around cultural expectations of gender – for both boys and girls – because everyone is affected by this particular problem of girls and boys both feeling unsafe to express themselves in ways that aren't traditionally assigned to their gender in our culture.

With the video, my hope is to hold assemblies – "Girls Sit Screenings" – for middle-school aged kids, where we talk about cultural expectations around gender and their own experiences with them. Part of my methodology in teaching has to do with the innate wisdom of the people I'm working with. So I really want to hear more from kids 10–15 years old and get their experience, what they feel the expectations are on them – both the boys and girls – and get them talking about it. I think one of the many hindrances to moving forward and evolving as a culture is silence. These issues that are coming to the surface have been there for a long time, but now we have an opportunity to evolve as a culture.

To see Ivy Ricci's music video "Girls Sit Screaming," visit us on [Facebook @TheYMP](#).

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–Ivy Ricci

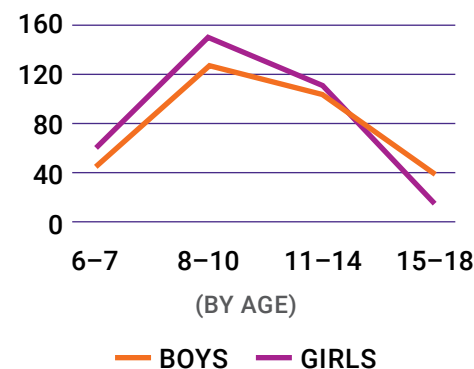
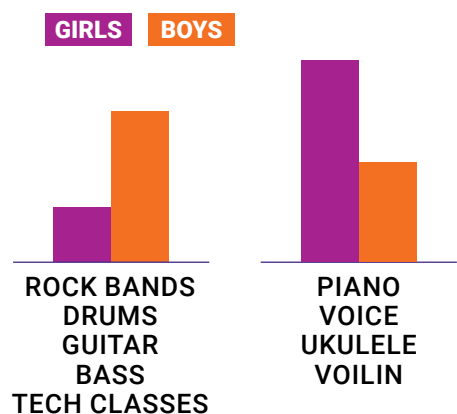
Word has it you have a new music video out – tell us about it?

The music video is for a song off my album "It's Hard to Know," which came out in September 2016. The song is the one that people kept contacting me about, telling me how it moved them and how they'd love to see it reach more people, so a handful of friends and colleagues suggested I do a music video.

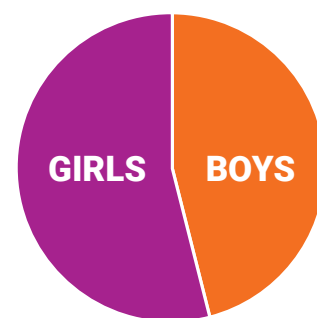
What's the song called, and what is it about?

The song is called "Girls Sit Screaming" and it's about the experience of being a girl and growing into being a woman in the field of music, noticing the double standards, and then taking a wider gaze and seeing how those same double standards apply in many career fields. The cast is mostly 10–15 years old and it's a narrative from the perspective of a 12-year-old girl. Alicia J. Rose directed it.

WINTER 2018 GENDER BREAKDOWN* OF STUDENTS:



2017 GENDER BREAKDOWN* OF STUDENTS:



*Statistics in this article are from students who indicated a gender and do not take into account the students who did not provide this information.



Congratulations to Ivy! Her video was a 2018 POWFest (Portland Oregon Women's Film Festival) official selection!



Youth Music Project's first annual Corporate Battle of the Bands will be held on June 1, 2017 at Youth Music Project's Meteor Lounge. Company-sponsored bands will take to the stage, performing their best songs before a panel of celebrity judges, friends, family, and other guests. Bands will be competing for glory, riches (not really), and the title of "Best Band."

Proceeds from the Battle of the Bands will support Youth Music Project's 2018 music programs, making it possible for more than 1,500 students to participate in music classes.

We would like to thank Hopworks Urban Brewery, Moonstruck Chocolate Company, Stoel Rives, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Bellagios Pizza, and Ambient I.T. Solutions for their support of the event. If you would like to join them, we are still looking for bands and sponsors to support the event! To enter a band, or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, contact Kristian at 503-616-5967 or kristian@youthmusicproject.org.

Tickets to the Battle of the Bands will be open to the public, so be on the lookout for purchase information in the coming weeks. 📍

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



SPRING FEVER UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who supported our Spring Fever fundraising campaign, which finished up on March 24. All donations made during the three-week campaign support Youth Music Project's tuition-assistance program, which makes music education accessible to more than 500 local youth each year. Thank you for your support! 📍



DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT

All Spring Fever donors — and any folks who have supported us in the last year — are invited to a donor appreciation event on Friday, May 11 from 6–8 p.m. The event will provide a unique opportunity to engage with Youth Music Project from a student's vantage point, directly experiencing the impact their support provides to so many young people. Guests will enjoy drinks and light snacks as they cycle through two group music classes led by Youth Music Project instructors, and will also be treated to musical performances by Youth Music Project bands. Visit youthmusicproject.org/appreciation for more info and to RSVP.

Thank you for contributing to our mission. We look forward to seeing you on May 11! 📍

We just wrapped up an exciting Winter Term! Each week, nearly 900 students sharpened their musical skills in our classrooms.

SPRING 2018

Our Spring 2018 Term is right around the corner and registration is still open! More than 800 registrations have come in already, but there is still room in many of our classes, including some new additions to the schedule:

SONGWRITING	Ages 11–14 • Mondays • 5:30 p.m. Ages 15–18 • Thursdays • 5:30 p.m.
MUSIC THEORY	Ages 12–18 • Tuesdays • 6:30 p.m.
TEEN GLEE CLUB	Ages 14–18 • Wednesdays • 6:30 p.m.
MUSICAL THEATRE VOCAL CLASS	Ages 8–12 • Thursdays • 5:30 p.m.

See the full group class schedule or register for classes by calling us, stopping by our building, or visiting us online! 📍

PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUNG AUDIENCES

We were thrilled to bring back our partnership with Young Audiences, offering a second session of Live SET (Sound Engineering for Teens) during the winter term. Each Wednesday, this group of students learned the ins and outs of live sound engineering — a major growing field of the music industry. For their final showcase, students ran the sound for our March Teen Open Mic on Friday, March 16. The next Live SET opportunity will be during our 2018 Teen Week Camp. 📍



2018 SUMMER CAMPS

Registration for Youth Music Project summer camps is currently open! Week-long rock and pop camps start June 25 and run through August 10. Teen Week is August 13–17. Visit us online, stop by, or call the front desk for more information or to register. 📍

PLEASE WELCOME...

NEW INSTRUCTORS!

We're happy to introduce our three newest instructors:

Lindsay Clark 🎹 🎤

Daysmel Muniz 🎸 🎸

Keenan Recker 🥁 🎸

NEW STAFF!

Jesus Licciardello joins us as a bilingual administrative assistant. We're happy to have him on board.

NEW INTERNS!

We are very excited to have three new high school interns supporting our classes and programs:

Jenny Yu
Junior, West Linn High School

Yessenia Mendez
Junior, Canby High School

Sydney Steinberg
Junior, West Linn High School

Read intern and staff bios (including instructor teaching days) by visiting youthmusicproject.org/instructors and clicking the corresponding tab.



UPCOMING EVENTS

TEEN OPEN MIC NIGHTS

Join us for some Friday night entertainment on the third Friday of each month. Performers – ages 13–20 – can play or sing up to two songs, alone or as a band.

Upcoming open mic dates:

- **April 20**
- **June 15**
- **May 18**
- **July 20**

Performers sign in at 6:30 p.m. and the **show starts at 7 p.m.** Open mic nights are free to attend and perform.



DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT: MAY 11 • 6–8 P.M.

This event will provide a unique opportunity to engage with Youth Music Project from a student’s vantage point, directly experiencing the impact that donor support provides to so many young people. **See page 6 for more details.**

BATTLE OF THE BANDS: JUNE 1

Youth Music Project’s first annual Corporate Battle of the Bands showcases the musical talents and showmanship of managers, lawyers, shopkeepers, coders, doctors, CEOs, engineers, and more as they transform into rock stars for the night – at Youth Music Project’s state-of-the-art Meteor Lounge in West Linn!

This exciting event (ages 21+ only) includes a V.I.P. pre-party, signature cocktails, beer from Hopworks Urban Brewery, and tasty snacks. **See page 6 for more details or visit youthmusicproject.org/battle.**

Visit our event calendar at youthmusicproject.org for more upcoming events and up-to-date information!

SAVE THE DATE!

Youth Music Project’s 3rd Annual Benefit Event

WHEN: October 27

WHERE: World of Speed Motorsports Museum

WHO: Community and business leaders, musicians and music lovers – and you and your guests!

WHY: To transform the lives of children through the power of music – and have a blast while doing it!



SUMMER CAMPS ARE BACK!



Your kids can have fun in the sun this summer, learn music, and make friends!



REGISTER NOW

or find camp dates and other info online at youthmusicproject.org.



FIND US ONLINE:

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