



The CMAC Project

Classical Music *Across Cultures*

The CMAC Project
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The CMAC Project Receives Cemala Foundation Grant

Generous grant to help fund outreach project for underserved string music students and bring together the Greensboro community in a unique and impactful way.

GREENSBORO, NC, September 1, 2011 – [The Cemala Foundation](#) has awarded a generous \$10,000 grant to the [CMAC Project](#) (Classical Music Across Cultures) to help fund an aggressive three-day outreach program that will reach thousands of Guilford County string music students and area university music education majors, as well as bring together the Greensboro community in a unique and impactful way – artistically, socially and educationally. This project will help build classical music audiences, reach out to underserved public school music students, and help prepare teachers to better meet the needs of their underserved students.

Gaining the support of the Cemala Foundation for the CMAC Project is a major victory for violin teacher and CMAC Project Coordinator, Marta Richardson, who teaches nearly 200 students at Peeler Open School for the Performing Arts. Marta, a dedicated teacher who has taught violin to hundreds of children over the years, states, “ ... one of my greatest disappointments is to see a talented child stop studying violin for lack of resources and support.”

The Cemala grant will help fund the primary goal of the project, which is to bring the internationally renowned, all Black and Latino chamber orchestra, [Sphinx Virtuosi featuring the Catalyst Quartet](#) to Greensboro during their 2011 National Tour. The Sphinx Virtuosi is comprised of 20 alumni of the acclaimed [Sphinx Competition](#) for young Black and Latino string players. “My students are 75% non-white. Every time I show them videos of Sphinx, I can see something resonating inside of them. This project is going to be life changing,” says Marta. “There is documented proof that very few professional orchestras in our country truly reflect diversity. The solution to this dilemma starts in the public school music classroom. One of the most powerful ways to inspire children of color to pursue classical music is to allow them to see musicians like themselves, like Sphinx Virtuosi, performing. To experience such a performance has the potential to expand a child's vision, captivate their attention and motivate them to dream bigger.”

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--Marta Richardson, Violin Teacher & CMAC Project Coordinator

The CMAC Project includes:

- A two-day residency, October 6th - 7th, targeting GCS string programs with the most diverse student make-up

- A welcoming reception for Sphinx at the [International Civil Rights Center & Museum](#) on October 6th (By invitation only for music faculty from GCS, area universities, public officials, arts organizations, media, etc.)
- A university level master class featuring the renown [Catalyst Quartet](#) at UNCG Recital Hall on October 7th
- A public concert at Aycock Auditorium on Friday evening, October 7th at 7:30 PM (A limited number of free student tickets are available.)
- A free Saturday morning workshop at the Greensboro Cultural Center for area string students in grades 6 - 12

About the Cemala Foundation

[The Cemala Foundation](#) is a private family foundation established in 1986 by Martha A. and Ceasar Cone II to continue the family tradition of commitment to enhancing the quality of life of the community through grants to qualified charitable organizations.

About the CMAC Project

[The CMAC Project](#) (Classical Music Across Cultures) will help build classical music audiences, bring together diverse people groups and cultures, influence children's futures and much more. Learn more about the CMAC Project by visiting CMACProject.org and connecting with us on [facebook/CMACProject](https://facebook.com/CMACProject), twitter.com/CMACProject, youtube.com/CMACProject, and linkedin.com (Keyword: CMAC Project).

About Marta Richardson

The visionary for this project is Marta Richardson, a public school violin teacher at Peeler Open School for the Performing Arts in Greensboro, NC. Marta is a graduate of the [UNCG School of Music](#), a former member of the [Greensboro Symphony](#) and a founding member of the world music group [Songs of Water](#).

