

# Donors Promise to Help Juilliard Youth Program

By DANIEL J. WAKIN

Word that the Juilliard School had lost financing for a prized musical training program for black and Latino children has brought forth numerous offers of help, including a major pledge from the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation of Los Angeles, school and foundation officials said on Friday.

Juilliard's president, Joseph W. Polisi, said he was sending out information to foundations and individual donors who had inquired about helping the Music Advancement Program, which accepts about 50 children a year. It offers instrumental lessons, ear training and theory classes on Saturdays, mostly at no cost. The course lasts two years.

Juilliard quietly sent out word in recent weeks that it would not be having auditions next month for an incoming class but that this year's crop of first-year students could come back next year to finish. After that, the program would continue only if financing could be found, Juilliard said. The school said it could not finance the program on its own because of broadly imposed budget cuts.

The decision disappointed dozens of children, including a contingent of violin students at the Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary elementary school in East Harlem who had been studying all year for the auditions.

After an article about the suspension in The New York Times on Wednesday, Mr. Polisi said, many offers to help came in, including an inquiry from the foun-

dation of Eli Broad, a billionaire philanthropist who is a major donor in the worlds of education, the arts, medicine and science. A foundation spokeswoman, Erica S. Lepping, said Mr. Broad had pledged \$425,000 over four years, which she said was enough for the program "to become sustainable for the foreseeable future." Mr. Broad "believes strongly that poor and minority students should get the same access to arts education," Ms. Lepping said.

Mr. Polisi said he would seek pledges to keep the program go-

*Music classes for minority children may get a new life.*

ing for three to four years. A year costs roughly \$450,000.

"I did tell everybody that I'm not going to accept a dime until I'm sure I have a million and a half in place," he said. "I can't restart a program and then close it down again." He said he was hopeful the entire sum could be raised.

"We're enormously grateful of course," Mr. Polisi said of the Broad pledge. He added that he was waiting to see the results of the other inquiries. "I'm hopeful that if all of these inquiries turn into pledges, we'll be able to ensure the life of the program for at least four more years."



KIRSTEN LUCE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Students at Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School in East Harlem have been working to audition for Saturday classes at Juilliard.

### *Juilliard Curtails Program That Serves Poor Children*

By DANIEL J. WAKIN

The Juilliard School's music-training program for poor minority schoolchildren — a rigorous curriculum that the conservatory holds up as a national model — has been slashed, disappointing dozens of children preparing to audition.

The Music Advancement Program will take back about 50 children in the fall to finish the second year of their two-year course. But it has canceled auditions next month for the incoming class, said Joseph W. Polisi, Juilliard's president. About 50 are admitted each year.

Mr. Polisi said that the school

could not raise the \$400,000 necessary to finance the whole program, and that across-the-board budget cuts meant there was no money elsewhere for it. "I was the guy who started it 20 years ago, and I believe deeply in it," Mr. Polisi said. "It's an extremely important part of me and Juilliard." But the likelihood of raising enough money was "exceedingly low," he said. Mr. Polisi said he hoped to raise money to restart the program, on a smaller scale, in two years.

"It's like cutting down the bush, but it's going to bloom with fresh growth in a few years," he said. "It's not going out of business by any stretch."



KRISTEN LUCE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bianca Odle, left, and Samantha McPherson at Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School.

Cultural institutions have been shrinking budgets left and right, and the program's reduction showed that even classical music programs for the poor are not immune. Orchestras, conservatories, opera companies and other music institutions point with particular pride at their efforts in this area. The Musical Advance-

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KRISTEN LUCE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

At Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary, clockwise from far right: Bianca Odle, Gabrielle Green, Fatouma Diallo, Brittaney Campbell, Alicia Campbell, Brianna Fields and Sammantha McPherson.

## Juilliard Curtails Program That Serves Poor Children

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ment Program is one of 10 outreach programs at Juilliard. The school and Carnegie Hall cut back another project, known as the Academy, a joint effort that places recent conservatory graduates in New York public schools to help teach music.

"It's really heartbreaking," Ronen Segev, a professional pianist and Juilliard alumnus, said of the cutback. "It means a lot to these kids."

Mr. Segev founded Ten O'Clock Classics, an organization that presents concerts in unusual places and provides music education to poor youngsters. Ten O'Clock Classics serves as a feeder for the Juilliard advancement program, providing violin lessons at Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary elementary school in East Harlem.

"It was just pretty shocking for us," Mr. Segev said, adding that he is a Juilliard supporter, but that he fears the program will not return. "These kids who have been preparing for auditions are just left out in the cold."

Juilliard has held out the Music Advancement Program as a prototype for other conservatories in how to bring musical training to children who would not normally have access.

Like the legions of paying students in Juilliard's precollege division, the program's partici-

pants stay at Juilliard from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Saturdays and take individual lessons and classes in ear training, theory and performance. Instruments are provided for those who can't afford them. Most students pay no tuition. The program is open to students in Grades 3 through 8.

Four Mount Carmel students made it into the program last year. "That is a fantastic thing," said Suzanne Kaszynski, the principal of the 270-student Mount Carmel. Several seventh graders intent on auditioning were particularly upset because they would be too old for any future auditions.

Jeffrey Wang, the violin teacher at the elementary school, who is paid partly by Ten O'Clock Classics, said he struggled to explain to his students the financial issues behind why their opportunity to audition this year had evaporated.

"I don't know if they understood the full scope," he said. "It's like a badge of honor to be able to audition for something that has the name Juilliard on it."

The students had been working hard on a Gavotte from Book 1 of the Suzuki violin method for the Juilliard judges. Mr. Wang said their efforts would not go to waste.

"We'll still play it at the spring concert," he said.