

Increasing Access to Music Education for Youth in Greater Minnesota

MacPhail Center for Music

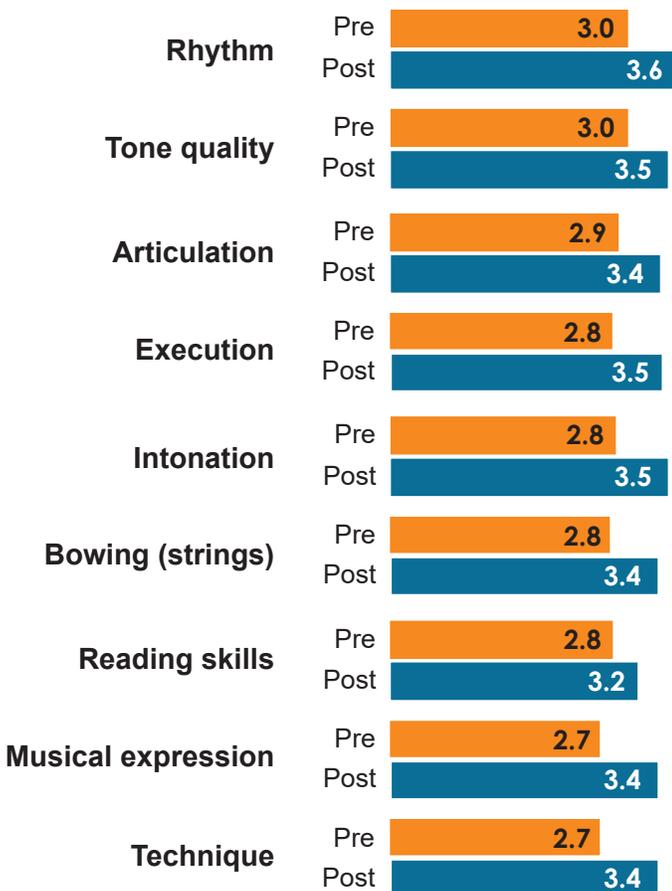
The MacPhail Center for Music has been working to increase access to high-quality music education for youth across Greater Minnesota for the past decade. Two of these efforts are their Online School Partnerships and Sing Play Learn with MacPhail® Online Early Childhood Music Partnerships program. MacPhail partnered with Wilder Research to evaluate these programs to better understand how they are being implemented and what outcomes youth achieve through participation in these programs. The following is a summary of what we learned when evaluating the programs in the 2020-2021 school year.

Online School Partnerships

The MacPhail Center for Music Online School Partnerships program aims to increase access to high-quality music education for students who attend schools in Greater Minnesota. By doing so, MacPhail has goals of improving student interest and knowledge in music and improving or maintaining positive school engagement and non-academic skills. MacPhail Teaching Artists work collaboratively with school music educators to develop curriculum and provide music instruction to students individually, in sectionals, or in large group settings via the internet.

▶ Students showed improvements in musical skills and attitudes.

Students improved in every measured musical skill over the school year:



Students improved in their musical attitudes, as well:

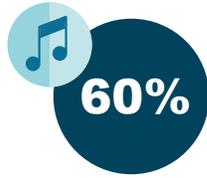


Note: These charts show mean scores at pre- and post-assessments of all Online School Partnerships program participants. 1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent, and 5=superior.

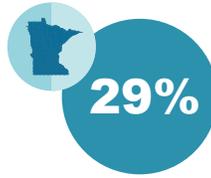
"I loved learning new skills and techniques with my instrument as well as new things about music theory. My teacher was also very nice and motivational."
 –Online School Partnerships participant



Participating students participated in competitive musical opportunities:



Solo and Ensemble Competition



All-State Band



Honor Band

"This is just an amazing opportunity for out-of-state kids. And I think it helps them compete better, with the kids who are in the Cities. Because [students who live in the Cities] kind of have a leg up – they've got proximity to MacPhail and there are more teachers available. So maybe it helps level the playing field... I don't know that [my child] would have had this awareness or skill level without MacPhail."

–Parent of OSP student

▶ Program benefits extend beyond musical skill growth

1. Students make meaningful connections with professional musicians, generally enjoy participating in the program, and are excited to come to school because of the program.

91% OF STUDENTS

like their Teaching Artist

83% OF STUDENTS

of students reported they like coming to online sessions and would recommend the sessions to others

52% OF STUDENTS

said OSP made them more excited to come to school

2. MacPhail is a resource for participating schools and their music educators

"I learned things as I sat in [on sessions]. It gave me more tools in my toolbox. Like, 'hey, let's try this.' I was able to incorporate it into my classroom."

–Music educator at a participating school

3. The Online School Partnerships program expands access to high quality musical instruction across the state

14 SCHOOLS

participated in the Online School Partnerships

900+ STUDENTS

participated

1,352 HOURS

of instruction provided

"In a small town, lessons are \$15 for a half hour. If there was no grant to help, there's no way. We're a very poor school – it wouldn't work. There are maybe two families that could do it."

–Music educator at a participating school

"I think it was, in a difficult year, a bright spot."

–Music educator at a participating school