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## CALENDAR

**April 27, 2015**

### Faculty Recital

6:30 p.m.

Central United  
Methodist Church

**May 9, 2015**

### May Gala Concert

4 p.m. Reception

5 p.m. Concert

Memorial Hall  
Steele Indian School Park



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chip Wise, *President*  
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## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

Dr. Kimberly Marshall  
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## FOUNDERS

Rosebell "Rosie" & Woody Schurz

For a list of music faculty, staff and funders visit [rosieshouse.org](http://rosieshouse.org)

## SPRING 2015 NOTES

# Rosie's House

A MUSIC ACADEMY FOR CHILDREN



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

On March 6th, Rosie's House celebrated 19 years of changing lives through music. As I reflect on this anniversary, I am compelled to tell the story of Rosie's House. Founded in 1996 by Rosie Schurz, a German immigrant, our academy was established in a small home in an impoverished neighborhood near the Arizona State Capitol. Rising above the poverty that plagued the Phoenix Oakland community, Rosie created a safe place for youth to express their creativity and pursue their musical dreams.

Rosie's own story of war and hope inspires our values and mission. During World War II, as war ravaged the countryside, Rosie fled her home in Germany. On her family's journey to safety, eight-year old Rosie had to leave her violin behind. Throughout her life, her sense of loss for her violin remained poignant; and finally, as an adult, she found respite in providing a second "home" to disadvantaged children. Our home, Rosie's House, provides children everything Rosie wanted as a child: safety, stability and music.

With a feeling of amazement, awe and admiration, I am delighted to convey that Rosie's story continues to inspire us all. Last April, decades after she left her first violin behind in Germany, Rosie again picked up the violin. She decided it was not too late to pursue her passion for music; and currently she is taking violin lessons with Rosie's House faculty member Patty Waxman. I invite you to attend and applaud this inspirational feat – Rosie will perform alongside our faculty members on our April 27 Faculty Recital.

The power of music uplifts, inspires and triumphs over the darkest of human circumstances. In our 19 years of providing free music education, we have seen the same perseverance and passion exemplified in Rosie's story reflected in our own students' stories. Thank you for believing in our mission and I hope you will continue to be a part of our efforts and success.

Sincerely,

*Becky Bell Ballard*

EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Founder Rosie Schurz performs violin with Patty Waxman



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Vashawn Arora, a clarinet student of Dr. Audrey Miller, placed first-chair in the Northwestern ABODA Regional Band. As first-chair clarinetist, Vashawn performed in a three-day band festival in Bullhead City, Arizona. This honor is highly competitive and Vashawn credits his success to Rosie's House.

*"The musical training at Rosie's House helped me understand how to practice and really understand the true meaning of etudes and scales. The musical performances with Rosie's House gave me the confidence to continue to express myself through music. Through this music academy, I have gained skills to help guide me for the rest of my life."*

~ Vashawn Arora, clarinet student

## SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



### **Rosie's House Presents First-Ever May Gala Concert**

More than 200 arts supporters, advocates, business leaders, and sponsors attended our first-ever May Gala Concert with the theme of "A Midsummer Dream" on May 17, 2014. The May Gala Concert (presented in past years as the Great Performers Concert) incorporated added features: a specialty reception with delicious bites from *The Parlor*, a bountiful silent auction and video testimonials from our students. The concert program featured our top nine student performers. Gala Committee Chair Katy Heth also led the *Give Music...Give a Dream Campaign*. Overall, the Gala and Campaign raised over \$62,000 for the students of Rosie's House.



### **Rosie's House Performs at Black & White Ball and Business Awards**

Rosie's House Advanced Mariachi students performed at The Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 56th Annual Black & White Ball and Business Awards on May 3, 2014. More than 1,100 guests attended and reveled in the gala's theme "Noche de Garibaldi," a tribute to the history and influence of Mariachi music. Our Rosie's House Advanced Mariachi Ensemble won over the hearts of the audience members with their enthusiasm, energy and artistry.



### **Red Note Foundation Supports Rosie's House**

Red Note Foundation was formed to continue the legacy of Kristen Hooker, a talented bassoonist, to beautify the world through the promotion of music education and performance. At the 2nd Annual Benefit Concert at the Mesa Arts Center, the Rosie's House Saxophone Quartet performed *Bach's Bist de bei mir (If Thou Be Near)*. Executive & Artistic Director Becky Ballard was honored to accept a bassoon donation during the concert. Rosie's House will be launching a bassoon program in 2015 with the support of the Red Note Foundation. To learn more visit [RedNoteFoundation.org](http://RedNoteFoundation.org).

# CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS

## Makey Makey Banana Pianos

**SNAPSHOT:** “It won’t work if the circuit is not complete!” Students from Loyola Academy and Phoenix Collegiate Academy are learning about the conductivity of bananas! The *Makey Makey*, an electronic interface created by MIT students, is inspiring musical inventions from our students. Learning about circuits, conductivity and basic electronics is all part of the new ARTS ACHIEVE curriculum.

Rosie’s House launched the pilot Arts Achieve program in partnership with Loyola Academy and Phoenix Collegiate Academy in August of 2014. Over 40 students in 6th and 7th grade have participated between the two school campuses. The goal of the program is to provide a hands-on, project-based curriculum that teaches fundamental music skills while seamlessly integrating core concepts in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEAM).



## Art Songs on First Friday

**SNAPSHOT:** Angelica, a Rosie’s House vocal student, tells Artistic Director Charles Bruffy of the Phoenix Chorale about how inspiring the Chorale’s Open Rehearsal has been to her. “I was blown away when you said music is not just black notes on a white page.” Not only did Angelica perform a solo, she also listened to the Grammy-winning Phoenix Chorale from an exclusive front row seat!

The Phoenix Chorale, under the direction of Artistic Director Charles Bruffy, is regarded as one of the finest choral ensembles in North America. As part of their Free Open Rehearsal Series, four Rosie’s House vocal students were invited to perform at Trinity Cathedral in downtown Phoenix. An enthusiastic audience of music patrons cheered on our young students in their performance of solo art songs in Italian, German, and Spanish.

## Music Uplifts and Heals

**SNAPSHOT:** “I think music uplifts and heals people’s spirits. Playing at the hospital makes me feel like I am helping people, and that every note is a symbol for touching another person’s heart!” Fifteen-year old Marcus is performing on the baby grand piano in the lobby of Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center. Through the *Service Performance Series* at Banner, Rosie’s House students perform each month and also carol for patients during the Holiday Season. At a time when not being home for the Holidays is a heartbreaking reality for patients, our performance is an uplifting celebration of compassion.

Rosie’s House and Banner Good Samaritan have been partners for seven years and during this time we have presented 23 concerts to patients, nurses and families. Rosie’s House has the core value of service; through our *Service Performance Series*, as well as our *Music Mentor Program* and *Parent Service Program*, our students and parents annually dedicate over 3,000 hours of service to our community.





*Rosie's House is the recipient  
of the 2014 Governor's Arts Award  
in Arts Education*

 **PLEASE HELP US  
CHECK ITEMS OFF OUR  
WISH LIST BELOW**

## NOTEWORTHY

**MAY 2014** - 100% of our seniors graduate with plans to attend college in the fall

**SEPTEMBER 2014** - Rosie's House is selected to participate in *ATLAS*, a 2-year capacity-building program facilitated by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and designed by nonprofit expert Susan Kenny Stevens, Ph.D. As part of the program, Rosie's House receives a \$75,000 grant award

**OCTOBER 2014** - The Rosie's House Mariachi Training Program is selected as the benefitting charity of the Salt River Project *Hablamos* Employee Interest Group. Rosie's House performs at the annual Salsa Challenge event for over 600 SRP employees

**OCTOBER 2014** - Rosie's House Saxophone Quartet is invited by the City of Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture to perform at City Hall as part of National Arts & Humanities Awareness Month

**NOVEMBER 2014** - Rosie's House launches our End-of-Year Tax Credit Campaign; running from November to December 31 the campaign raised an additional \$21,000 to our annual fund

**DECEMBER 2014** - Rosie's House presents our uplifting Holiday Concert titled "Simple Gifts" featuring our Advanced Choir; and wind, string and piano soloists. The Saxophone Quartet concludes the concert with a rousing arrangement of *Simple Gifts*

**JANUARY 2015** - Five Rosie's House students achieve regional band and orchestra accolades from the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association

**FEBRUARY 2015** - Rosie's House is nominated for the prestigious National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Award. The nomination includes support letters from the Arizona Citizens for the Arts, Arizona Commission on the Arts and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

### NUMBERS OF NOTE: 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

<b>400+</b>	The number of students enrolled at Rosie's House during the school year
<b>11,000</b>	The number of lessons taught
<b>160+</b>	The number of instruments loaned
<b>50+</b>	The number of recitals, concerts, master classes and special events
<b>3,500+</b>	The number of service hours performed by students, parents and board members
<b>100%</b>	Of Rosie's House families are classified as low to moderate income
<b>4</b>	Staff members
<b>21</b>	Music faculty members
<b>75%</b>	Of music faculty members have a Masters degree or higher on the instrument they teach
<b>\$494,000</b>	Rosie's House annual budget

## ROSIE'S HOUSE IS CERTIFIED FOR THE 2015 WORKING POOR TAX CREDIT\*

**2015 WISH LIST** Rosie's House thanks all of our donors for their past support. Please help us check items off our Wish List. *Please call 602-252-8475 to make a donation.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funds to support <i>new students</i> for Fall 2015      | <input type="checkbox"/> Funds to enhance our <i>Music Theory &amp; Library classroom</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funds to support <i>Chamber Ensembles</i> for Fall 2015 | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Gift Cards</i> to Staples, Costco and Target                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funds to update our <i>Piano Lab Keyboards</i>          |   |

**FOOTNOTE:** Rosie's House: A Music Academy for Children is a 501(c)3 qualified charitable organization. For information about donating to Rosie's House, visit [rosieshouse.org](http://rosieshouse.org). \* When filing you may qualify for \$400 (per couple) or \$200 (per individual) on your Arizona tax returns.

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Gwendolyn Grace Photography, Skip Feinstein, Adolfo Solorio, and Jen Rogers.