



Musicians at Play
FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Musicians at Play Foundation's 3rd Annual RISE DIVERSITY ORCHESTRA PROJECT Maps Career Path for Aspiring Young Musicians

***Artistic Director and World-Renown Conductor Anthony Parnter to
Lead the 2024 RISE Orchestra***

February 13, 2024 (Los Angeles, CA) – In its third year of changing the diversity landscape of scoring musicians on Hollywood's feature film and TV shows, the Musicians at Play (MAP) Foundation brings its ***RISE Diversity Orchestra Project*** back to the Warner Brothers Eastwood Scoring Stage on February 17th and 18th. Celebrating Black History Month, MAP's RISE mentorship program offers high-level training among the studio system's most talented orchestra members, pairing professional studio musician mentors with BIPOC music students in Southern California interested in careers in the feature film and TV arena.

"We're thrilled to see the enthusiasm of the program both from the industry perspective, but also for the students participating and the mentors who share their gifts," said MAP Founder April Williams. "This program began as a dream three years ago to provide an opportunity to an underserved community, and each year, thanks to the support of the Department of Cultural Affairs, the LA County Department of Arts & Culture and Netflix, we keep growing with more new students as well as returning alumni."

The program aims to provide career pathing and exposure to students in underserved or underrepresented communities. After this third year, the program will have mentored nearly 150 students, most ranging between 16-24 years of age and looking for careers in professional performing music.

Conductor Anthony Parnter serves as MAP's Artistic Director and is passionate about creating opportunities for students.

"Each year, I'm blown away by the hard work, commitment and sheer talent the students show, from working each week with their mentors to sitting on the famous sound stage and wowing the control booth with their performance" said Parnter. "It's truly a blessing to be able to give back in such a way and help the next generation succeed."

MAP's RISE Diversity Orchestra Project was founded in 2022 by music industry professionals including Anthony Parnter, Reggie Wilson, Booker White and John Acosta, and, the musician mentors featured in the program are credited on soundtracks to films like *Star Wars*, *UP*, *L.A. Confidential*, *The Bourne Identity*, *Schindler's List*, *Home Alone*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, and *JAWS*, to name a few. Students will be rehearsing and performing selections from *The Mandalorian* and *Black Panther* at this year's event.

Added Kristin Sakoda, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture: "Strengthening arts education and pathways to creative careers is crucial to the creative economy in our region. I am proud to support Musicians at Play and programs like RISE that expand access for underrepresented youth with funding through our Organizational Grant Program on behalf of Los Angeles County. We know these programs are rewarding for both students and mentors, as well as the music, film, and entertainment fields that will benefit now and in years to come."

The RISE Diversity Project is sponsored by Netflix's Fund for Creative Equity, the company's \$100 million commitment to help build new pathways for underrepresented communities within entertainment. The RISE Diversity Project is scoring weekend features MAP mentors, who are all accredited educators and working professionals in film, TV, and symphonic orchestras.

The Musicians at Play (MAP) Foundation, founded by the family of composer John Williams, hopes to serve diverse communities that struggle with consistent music education. To support further programming, donations can be made at www.musiciansatplay.org.

The Musicians at Play (MAP) Foundation is a 501(C3) Non-Profit Music Performance and Education Foundation with EIN #47-3332460.

ABOUT Musicians at Play (MAP) Foundation:

The Musicians at Play (MAP) Foundation creates access to and awareness of Los Angeles' diverse musical heritage, through educational music and mentorship programs, as well as professional performances which fill the socio-economic needs of underserved youth and communities. MAP's programs help students to build career skills and pathways to support the creative cultural expression of the community. MAP's core values of Access, Excellence, Racial Equity and Inclusivity ensure free access to communities in underserved populations who have little to no ability to receive arts or music education. MAP's purpose is to provide tuition-free music instruction programs aligned with VAPA standards to support teachers, parents, students and community members in defunded, marginalized communities suffering from systemic racism and the digital divide. Facilitated by accredited educators who are also professional local musicians in the Film, Concert Hall and Recording Industries in Los Angeles, MAP's programs cross fourteen disciplines among woodwinds, strings and percussion instruments. For more, visit MAP at www.musiciansatplay.org.

###

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FOR SET VISIT / COVERAGE:

Staci Griesbach
Musicians At Play Foundation
StaciGriesbach@LunaWorldwide.com