

About Oaktown Jazz Workshops

The mission of Oaktown Jazz Workshops (OJW) is to promote, preserve, and present jazz music so that youth develop a sense of ownership and pride in this uniquely American cultural and artistic tradition. The young and talented musicians of Oaktown Jazz Workshops have impressed audiences for over twenty years. Formed in 1994 by the late founder, trumpeter Khalil Shaheed, Oaktown Jazz Workshops celebrates jazz music as an American indigenous art form of profound artistic and cultural significance. OJW values jazz as an important art form with a rich legacy that has touched the lives of many generations and continues to influence contemporary culture. OJW promotes jazz as not only a complex and enjoyable music, but also an important embodiment of American history.

Centrally located in Jack London Square, Oaktown Jazz Workshops offers a range of accessible and comprehensive music programs for Bay Area youth ages 10 to 18. Many of OJW's students participate in our program from age 10 to 18! And many of our alumni return as “near-peer” guest teachers and performers to support our program while serving as role models and inspiration for the next generation of young musicians. Now, in our 24rd year, OJW is pleased to continue offer the following:

After-school Instrumental Music Workshops:

- **Combo Workshop** (Tuesday class for young musicians ages 12 - 18) Combo allows young musicians to learn to improvise solos on their instruments while playing different types of jazz and blues tunes in a full band setting with the guidance from our faculty of professional musicians. Students generally have some experience on their instruments (school band, individual lessons, etc.). 50 workshops offered year-round, on Tuesdays from 4-6pm
- **Performance Ensemble Workshop** (Wednesday class for older teen musicians ages 14 -18). Our Wednesday workshop is where young musicians who are familiar with performing jazz continue to improve their musicianship, develop their personal voice and musically challenge themselves in a band setting. 50 workshops offered year-round, on Wednesdays from 4:00-6:00pm'
- **Jazz Improvisation Workshop:** (Thursday performance class for emerging young musicians ages 10 - 14). This 10-week course is offered every spring and fall to prepare young musicians for our year round Tuesday workshops. Curriculum includes; Ensemble Playing, Ear Training, Melodic Phrasing and Harmonic Forms. 20 classes on Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:30pm
- **Music Theory Workshop:** (Thursday class to enhance the education provided in our workshop, for ages 14 - 18). Curriculum includes; Modes, Chord Analysis, Ear Training and Composition. 20 classes offered on Thursdays from 5:30pm to 6:30pm
- **Jazz Encounters:** Interactive clinics with internationally renowned musicians who are in town to perform in concert at Yoshi's Oakland. Minimum 4 clinics per year, TBD Oaktown Jazz Workshops also conducts public school clinics and presentations through our Jazz

in the Schools program, and hosts “Jazz Encounters” throughout the year, to give youth opportunities to learn directly from internationally renowned touring musicians.

- **Jazz in the Schools:** Presentations and clinics at public schools throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. In a 45 minute session the artists perform and talk about the history of jazz, famous musicians and tips on how to listen to and appreciate jazz with an emphasis on involving students in the discussion. Frequency varies, average 6 presentations per year, TBD
- **Community Performances:** Youth musicians perform in concert at festivals and venues such as the Oakland Art Museum. Minimum 15 musical performances per year, TBD
OJW musicians regularly perform at a range of events (average two per month) for wide audiences around the Bay Area.

Statement of Need

A lack of consistent music programming in public schools and after-school often bars youth living in impoverished communities from being exposed to high quality music instruction and comprehensive musical training. Many of the young people enrolled in Oaktown Jazz Workshops are not likely to receive private music lessons and therefore are disadvantaged in developing their artistic abilities and building competitive portfolios for colleges. OJW works to expand the musical training and performance opportunities among youth from underserved communities by providing a thorough, focused, and advanced level of instruction that is not currently available in most public schools or community organizations. Through an extensive range of programs, OJW instills a love of live music and cultivates an awareness of the rich history of jazz among youth of all ages. The audiences at our concerts, as well as the students engaged in our programs, reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the East Bay.

Objectives: Oaktown Jazz Workshops provides a safe and fun space for young people from diverse background to come together and develop their musical abilities all year long. While a young person's program involvement may last up to eight years, we strive to ensure that after one year, all youth participants will achieve the following goals:

- Be more prepared to work within professional artistic settings, and develop positive professional practices, increased employable skills, and a plan for pursuing post-secondary education and/or a career.
- Develop social skills, engage in supportive relationships with peers, and receive mentorship from music instructors

- Express increased confidence and healthy self-esteem, while upholding the dignity and value of other young musicians
- Develop discipline and leadership skills as emerging artists and in turn serve as role models among peers and within their families and communities.
- Understand the rich history of jazz music, its historical meaning, and influence on contemporary musical genres
- Be able to perform, with skill and courage in professionally produced musical showcases and collaborative concerts.

Assessment, Evaluation & Learning

To ensure that students receive a well-rounded music education, each participant was measured by his or her ability to: 1) read, notate, listen to, analyze, and describe music in a meaningful way; 2) apply instrumental musical skills through composing, arranging, improvising and performing work; 3) Connect and apply what is learned in the workshops to careers or other art forms, through the mentorship provided by the professional teaching staff.

Oaktown Jazz Workshops measures the success of its programs based on three criteria: 1) Artistic Productions, measured through the number of musical performances produced for the public, 2) Community Engagement, measured through the number of youth served, the number of class hours, and class attendance patterns, and audience numbers reached, 3) Student-Learning, measured through pre- and post- performance assessments measuring the musical skills participants have gained and their comfort with and exposure to different art forms, and increased knowledge of jazz music and its contributions to American culture.

Finances

OJW has a diversified funding base that includes earned income, gifts from individuals, and grants.

- OJW's *earned income* is from tuition, and fees from concerts/performances and school-based programs. Earned income comprises approximately one third of the annual revenue.
- OJW also currently has a dedicated *individual support* base including the board of directors (at 100% giving), one bequest, and more than 250 community members who make gifts ranging from \$25 to \$2,000 per year. Individual giving comprises approximately one third of the annual funding base.
- Finally, OJW receives *grants* from government agencies such as the City of Oakland's Cultural Arts Fund and from foundations such as the East Bay Community Foundation, the Clorox Foundation, and the Left Tilt Fund. Grants comprise approximately one third of the annual funding base.

Funding Strategy

OJW's executive director and board of directors work with part-time grant writers to regularly pursue funding from a range of sources including local businesses, foundations, government agencies and community members interested in supporting arts/culture youth programming. OJW's board of directors is very active in fundraising for the organization. They organize an annual OJW Fundraiser (benefit concert) and also facilitate connections to potential donors and local businesses. We currently send out two appeal letters per year (reaching more than 1,000 online and 500 via paper mail), spring and end-of-year. We strive to submit at least one proposal per month to foundations and government agencies. Our goal for the upcoming year is to maintain our levels of earned income while increasing contributed income by 15%.

Faculty Expectations:

As a Youth Development organization, OJW has the following expectations of its faculty:

Attire: Instructors' appearance should be professional and demonstrate a positive image of the organization.

Healthy boundaries: OJW instructors should avoid bringing up personal issues in front of students, and should avoid asking students personal questions as it may make them feel uncomfortable.

Food: As professional musicians, OJW instructors hold irregular schedules and often times may not be able to plan meals. OJW is a flexible organization but eating in front of students during workshop or class hours is inappropriate. Our students may be hungry and not have the money to purchase food after school. Unfortunately some may live in "food insecure" homes. If it is necessary to eat during class or workshop times, do so discreetly out of sight from the group. Drinks are OK.

Punctuality and presence: If a workshop starts at 4PM that is when OJW instructors are to begin engaging with the students. Even if only one student has shown up at that point and playing music may for the time being seem irrelevant, it is important to interact with them. OJW serves as bridge to adulthood for children so this moment may be a great opportunity to simply chat and give the student a chance to practice their conversational chops.

Performances: OJW gigs are also opportunities to spend time and mentor our youth. It's about the hang. Take time and energy to talk to the young musicians. This is also a great opportunity for the young musicians to get to know each other so feel free to sit back and watch but do not simply set up your instrument and walk away until "needed."

Student contact outside of OJW: If there is a time when communication between an OJW student and OJW instructor is needed, always make sure that it is done through the students primary care giver. E.g. Use the parent/family member's telephone number or include the parent/family member in text messages and emails.

Non OJW gigs: As students progress through our program they often times develop into

musicians capable of performing at professional gigs. Please do not involve students in professional gigs without first consulting OJW's director and the instrumental specialists of their primary instrument. E.g. If interested in involving a young saxophone player in a professional non OJW gig, consult both OJW's primary saxophone instructors and OJW's director. Never ask the student directly without first getting private approval from their family.

Assess your students' skills and needs: Instructors are to familiarize themselves with their student's musical lives. What brand or type of instruments do they have? How well is it working? What is the student's practice routine and practice environment at home? And advocate for the young musicians! OJW is in the position of offering support to our musicians beyond the programs we offer so please help keep us informed of our students needs. E.g. instrument rentals, scholarships, etc.

Operational oversight:

Similarly, keep OJW staff informed of what maintenance, repairs and equipment are needed. Are OJW's instruments becoming run down, out of tune? We are providing an experience for teenagers who need support to identify their needs- for example, does OJW have saxophone reeds, cork grease, valve oil, drum brushes, etc. on hand?