



MAYA'S
MUSIC
THERAPY
FUND

Changing Lives, One Song at a Time

Symphony

Since 1989

Maya's Music Therapy Fund Newsletter Spring/Summer 2026



"Maya's Music Therapy Fund brightens their lives and teaches them coordination, how to work as a group, and social skills. It's a fabulous program!"

Maya's Update

Hi, Friends. I want to start off this year's Maya's update by thanking all of you for your generous support that has allowed us to thrive and serve our community of participants for almost 40 years. Our annual Spring Festival in March—held for the second time at the Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley—was a joyful and inspirational occasion that showcased our enthusiastic performers and highlighted the great love and commitment of families and friends who support them.

I also want to recognize and call out our amazing music therapists, Titia Martin and Rob Cheifetz, who match the joy and enthusiasm of our clients at the Festival and inspire our participants and their families all year round.

As you'll read about in this newsletter, we have started off the year with an exciting new program: serving young children. I am also very pleased to report that Sandra Martin-Dent, a longtime volunteer and Maya's board member, has taken on the role of Executive Director and is helping to streamline our administrative functions and expand our development efforts.

We are so grateful for the amazing support our community brings us. Thank you again for helping Maya's thrive, even in these turbulent times. As always, I am so proud of the accomplishments of our participants, which many of you witnessed at the Spring Festival and you can see photos of here.

With gratitude, Joanna Cooper





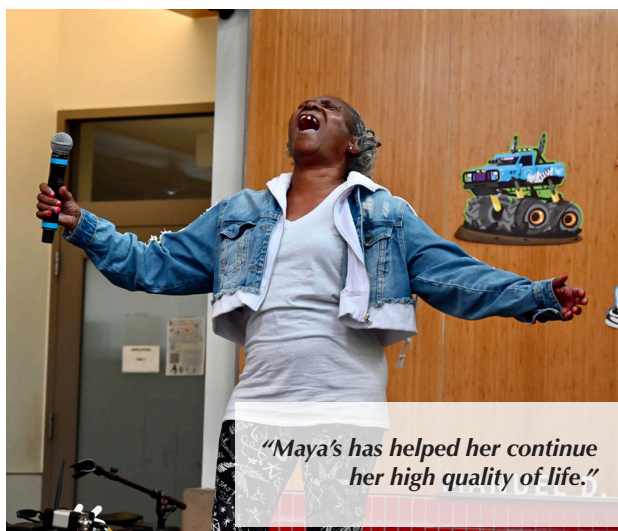
New Program at Maya's

Maya's has started a new program at Little House Preschool in Richmond thanks to the coordinated efforts of our therapists, parents, and teacher Miss Patricia. Music therapist Rob Cheifetz visits every Friday where he is welcomed by up to ten enthusiastic faces of two to six-year-olds.

"These kids are so hungry for music!" exclaims Rob. Music provides a structured playground for positive development at any age. During the course of a forty minute session Rob leads the group in singing, drumming, dancing, and self-regulating through guided relaxation. "Everyone thrives when all individuals' voices and choices are honored," explains Rob.

Miss Patricia runs a wonderful program of adapted pre-K education with the help of several trusted parents and community members. Her school has garnered glowing testimony from the families she serves on the Berkeley Parents Network webpage, "I literally feel like I won the preschool lottery!" Rob feels lucky to contribute to the curriculum, "where children are seen, supported, and guided with intention... for kids who may need a little extra support with regulation, attention, or social skills, they truly thrive here."

We look forward to a continued partnership with Miss Patricia and Little House. Hopefully you'll get to meet some of these young participants yourself at the next Maya's Spring Festival.



Thank You to Our Donors

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*On behalf of Casey Callow and
Marissa Heirich*
Nancy and Frank Clough
In memory of Gussie Struckman
Kimberly Hval
In honor of my son Andy
Alison Jordan
*In honor of students and
staff and all who participate in
this awesome endeavor*
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In honor of Heather Rosnow
Barbara Lawson
In honor of Carl Whitaker
Elaine Leitner
In honor of Maya Maravilla
Dina Pollack & Mike Stearns
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Please Consider Donating Today!

Go to mayasmusic.org to donate.
Thank you for supporting Maya's!

Message from new board member Maya Maravilla

A year ago this month, Carl Whitaker invited me to interview for a position on the Board of Maya's Music Therapy Fund. I have known Carl for most of my life through my mother, Kathy Fisher, who passed away recently. Long before "Friend of MMTF" became an official role, my mom embodied that spirit in every way.

Through both of them, I came to know just how special MMTF truly is. I remember the garden parties, the moving performances, the warmth behind every event, and even the joy of winning one of the beautiful homes at auction.

Of course, the invitation to join was only the beginning. The interview meant attending a Board meeting to see whether it felt like the right fit. At MMTF, that matters deeply, because this Board truly is a family—people who give their time, energy, resources, and love simply because they believe in the mission. We have all seen the difference that mission makes, whether at concerts or in the videos on our website. Every guitar stroke and every sung note is a reminder of the joy and healing this program brings to the MMTF clients and their families.

Being welcomed into this family has felt like a heaven-sent gift from my mom, and it fills me with hope for what a small group of committed people—supported by passionate friends and supporters—can do to bring more light into the world.

So if, after reading this note, you find yourself wondering what it means to be a "Friend of MMTF"—or how to become one—I hope you'll reach out. There is always room for more friends.



Maya's Mission

Maya's Music Therapy Fund provides people with developmental disabilities access to music therapy to facilitate self-expression and build community.

The Vision of Maya's Music Therapy Fund is to enrich lives through music therapy.

Our Values

Compassion

We are committed to our clients, treating them with respect and dignity.

Inclusivity

All people with developmental disabilities are welcome.

Affordability

We provide our services at low-cost or no charge. No one is turned away for lack of funds.

Board of Directors

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