

Music for *Food*

Music to the ears, food to the table...



OUR MISSION

Music for Food is a musician-led initiative for local hunger relief. Our concerts raise resources and awareness in the fight against hunger, empowering any musicians who wish to use their artistry to further social justice.

We believe both music and food are essential to human life and growth. Music has the power to call forth the best in us, inspiring awareness and action when artists and audiences work together to transform the ineffable into tangible and needed food resources.

OUR STORY

In 2010, inspired by Carol Rodland's Rochester-based "If Music be the Food..." food drive concerts, violist Kim Kashkashian launched Music for Food with a group of Boston-based musicians and guest artists. Music for Food has grown to include chapters in over 10 U.S. cities, additional collaborative concerts across the nation, and a growing international presence.

Our founding and our growth are based upon **two core principles:**

- ◆ Musicians volunteer their talent and energy
- ◆ 100% of audience donations go to a local hunger relief organization

Now in its **9th season**, Music for Food has created over **500,000 meals** through donations made at concerts on behalf of nearly **100 hunger-relief organizations** worldwide. More than **160 international artists** have performed on Music for Food concerts to date.

"The concept of Music for Food came into existence in discussions with friends and colleagues. We spoke about the need to use our training and talents to serve our community. We felt that a concert series with a focus on fighting hunger here at home would serve artists, audiences, and those in need. Music for Food is a model that is sustainable and replicable for musicians who wish to act for hunger relief in their own communities."

-Kim Kashkashian, Founder & Artistic Director



OUR ACTIVITIES

ARTISTS

An artist plays a benefit concert for a local pantry, sharing the gift of music and inspiring the gift of food. Concerts are designed to be intimate events, informing audiences about the serious need for hunger relief in their community.

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & PRESENTERS

Individual artists or ensembles work with a presenter to designate a performance as a Music for Food event, and donate their fee to a local food pantry. An arts presenter or organization chooses a local pantry and sets up one of the following Music for Food donation options:

- Contribute audience donations to a local pantry.
- Donate a portion of ticket sales.
- Match the amount donated by the artist or audience.

ARTIST FELLOWS PROGRAM

Artist Fellows are selected on the basis of artistic merit and a demonstrated commitment to civic engagement through music. The training they receive during their nine-month residency enables them to act as artist-advocates at the forefront of Music for Food's educational and community outreach initiatives.

SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

Academic Partnerships offer college and conservatory students a chance to work alongside faculty to organize and perform benefit concerts for local hunger relief efforts.



ARTIST FELLOWS PROGRAM

Music for Food's Artist Fellows program helps young musicians become citizen-artists and learn to use music as a tool for social justice. Fellows serve as ambassadors for Music for Food, presenting assemblies, masterclasses, and concerts at middle and high schools in the Greater Boston area.

HOW IT WORKS

- Music for Food Artist Fellows present interactive performance-assemblies that inform school students about the issue of hunger and their ability to use music to make a difference in their community.
- Through follow-up visits, Artist Fellows partner with music school teachers to help students prepare for their own benefit concert. This guidance can encompass practical details, such as selecting a pantry, as well as artistic mentoring through individual and ensemble coaching.
- Students perform a benefit concert for the community and donate all proceeds to a local food pantry.
- Post-concert, students and teachers are asked to share their experiences with Music for Food and provide feedback on the program.

"The way [The Artist Fellows] spoke—clearly, expressively, with humor and wit, and energy—the audience was rapt the entire time. And that was a range of people from 9 years old to adult."

*—Gillian Rogell
Director of Chamber Music Studies
Rivers School Conservatory*

IMPACT

Students learn about the integration of music and community service, transforming their concert into a platform for active civic engagement. Donations collected provide much needed aid towards local hunger relief efforts. Every dollar raised translates into three meals created for those in need.

To date, Music for Food has partnered with Atrium School (Watertown), Belmont High School (Belmont), Conservatory at Highlands (Newton), Rivers School & Rivers School Conservatory (Weston), Roxbury Latin (West Roxbury), St. Paul's Choir School (Cambridge), Waring School (Beverly), and others.

"Music for Food has helped the boys at the school to understand how their music can be used to help the less fortunate, and how to share their music with a broader audience. I couldn't recommend it strongly enough as a collaborative experience."

*—John Robinson, Director of Music
St. Paul's Choir School*



SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

Music for Food's Service Learning Program demonstrates the desire to give and share within the community and outside of traditional concert settings. It empowers students across multiple disciplines to engage in a collaborative community-based project. Raising awareness of hunger in our home communities, in conjunction with the healing power of music, offers a living model for students and forms a dynamic bond between a school and its community. Music for Food has an active relationship with New England Conservatory, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and Curtis Institute of Music to further develop a replicable model for service learning.

OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

When this program is embedded in the culture of a school, it offers students, emerging artists, and teachers an important opportunity to develop useful skills and awareness of their relevance as artist-citizens. Students too often progress without awareness of the potential power of the music they practice. The Service Learning Program helps students break out of a "practice room mentality" and develop a keen understanding of music as a transformative force in society.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. Artistic director/team *(volunteer)*

Recruits volunteer performers, plans concert programs, facilitates communication between school and community partners, and oversees mentoring program.

2. Performers *(volunteer)*

Faculty and students perform in annual concert(s) to benefit a local food pantry.

3. Interns *(work study or for credit)*

Students support the goals of Music for Food by providing operational and administrative assistance and performing in community engagement concerts at food pantries.

4. Mentors *(institutional staff)*

Mentors advise and train the interns, supporting them to successfully fulfill their tasks and become active members of their community.

"It is my belief that music does not exist in a vacuum. It breathes and lives because of the performers who undertake it. As a result, we as members of many communities look for ways that our music and our performances can positively impact the communities around us."

-Dr. George Case
Director of Choral Studies
Boston Conservatory

OUR IMPACT

To date, Music for Food concerts have yielded over **500,000** meals at nearly **100** food pantries around the world.



A Place to Turn, Natick, MA
ABCs Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA
Arabic Baptist Food Pantry, Newton, MA
Bay Ridge Center Food Pantry, Brooklyn, NY
Belmont Food Pantry, Belmont, MA
Beverly Bootstraps, Beverly, MA
Blessings in a Backpack, Fitchburg, MA
Broadway Community, New York, NY
Broad St. Ministry, Philadelphia, PA
Brookline Food Pantry, Brookline, MA
BU Student Food Rescue, Boston, MA
CASPER Homeless Shelter, Cambridge, MA
Centre Street Pantry, Newton, MA
City Harvest, New York, NY
Cleveland Kosher Food Pantry, Cleveland, OH
Community Servings, Jamaica Plain, MA
Crossroads Family Center, East Boston, MA
Crossroads Food Pantry, Salt Lake City, UT
Dedham Food Pantry, Dedham, MA
Families Forward Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
Feeding America, San Diego, CA
FISH of Laurel, Inc., Laurel, MD
Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry, Canaan, CT
Food for Free, Cambridge, MA
Food Link Inc., Newton, MA
Freestore Foodbank, Cincinnati, OH
Friends of Tobin, Cambridge, MA
Greater Boston Food Bank, Boston, MA
Greater Cleveland Food Bank, Cleveland, OH
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Pittsburgh, PA
Help Me Help You, Long Beach, CA
Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen, New York, NY
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women's Shelter, New York, NY
Home Sweet Home Ministries, Inc., Bloomington, IL
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church H.U.G., New York, NY
Johnnycake Center of Westerly, Westerly, RI
Kylee's Kare Kits for Kids, Leominster, MA
Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry, Lexington, MA
Lexington Food Pantry, Lexington, MA
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Los Angeles, CA
Manna Food Center, Gaithersburg, MD

Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, Cambridge, MA
Martha's Table, Washington, DC
Mid-Ohio Food Bank, Grove City, OH
Natick Service Council, Natick, MA
Network of Community Ministries, Richardson, TX
New York Common Pantry, New York, NY
Centre Street Food Pantry, Newton, MA
Newton Food Pantry, Newton, MA
Open Door, Gloucester, MA
Open Table, Concord, MA
Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, Pawcatuck, CT
Pettengill House, Salisbury, MA
Philabundance, Philadelphia, PA
Reaching-Out Community Services, Inc., New York, NY
Red Wiggler Community Farm, Germantown, MD
Region IV Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, Alexandria, VA
Rosie's Place, Boston, MA
Roslindale Food Pantry, Boston, MA
Seacoast Family Food Pantry, Portsmouth, NH
Seoul Food Bank, Seoul, South Korea
So Others Might Eat, Washington, DC
South Loop Pantry, Chicago, IL
St. Anthony's Dining Room, San Francisco, CA
Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission, Philadelphia, PA
St. Joe's Food Program, Menasha, WI
St. Mark's Church Food Cupboard, Philadelphia, PA
St. Nicholas of Tolentine Food Pantry, Jamaica, NY
St. Paul's Food Pantry, Cambridge, MA
St. Peter's Food Cupboard, Philadelphia, PA
The Church of the Advent, Tuesday Night Supper Program, Boston, MA
The Sylvia Center, New York, NY
University of Maryland Campus Pantry Fund, College Park, MD
Virginia Peninsula Food Bank, Hampton, VA
Waltham Fields, Newton, MA
Wanin Foundation, Taichung City, Taiwan
Weaver's Way Community Programs, Philadelphia, PA
West Side Campaign Against Hunger, New York, NY
Westside Food Bank, Santa Monica, CA
Women's Lunch Place, Boston, MA
Worcester County Food Bank, Shrewsbury, MA
Zola Center for Disabilities, Newton, MA

GET INVOLVED

GIVE A CONCERT

Organize a Music for Food concert in your community.

Whether it be a solo recital or collaboration with like-minded musicians, partner with a local food pantry and organize a Music for Food concert in your community.

Designate one of your concerts as a Music for Food event.

Are you appearing on a concert as part of a larger series? Connect with your presenter and dedicate your performance to Music for Food by identifying a local pantry and donating all or a portion of your fee to that pantry.



BRING MUSIC FOR FOOD TO YOUR SCHOOL

Invite Music for Food's Artist Fellows to your school music program to present an interactive assembly, offer coaching, and mentor students as they prepare for a designated Music for Food concert. Contact General Manager, Josie Davis at josie@musicforfood.net, for more information.

BECOME A NOURISHING NEIGHBOR

Nourishing Neighbors are individuals and businesses that provide Music for Food with the resources it needs to carry out its mission. Your donations ensure that we can maintain our promise that 100% of proceeds collected at concerts always benefit a local hunger relief organization. Donations can be made online at musicforfood.net or by check, payable to "Music for Food," and mailed to: P.O. Box 590561, Newton Centre, MA 02459.

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Don't miss concert announcements or exciting news! Stay connected by joining our mailing list. Visit musicforfood.net to subscribe.



OUR TEAM

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