

One of the most impactful ways that the Campolindo Music Boosters support our students' music education is through the funding of "Master Classes". This year, like last year, about 45% of our annual spending will be for this purpose. So what are master classes, and how do our students benefit from them?

One form of the master class happens at Campo when a professional musician comes in and offers a clinic for an ensemble. Most typically, these are prominent conductors that bring a fresh perspective and their wealth of expertise to the current repertoire being studied by one of our ensembles. These guest conductors come in for a day and often work with multiple ensembles. Students learn not only from the insights of the guest conductor on the day of the clinic, but also during rehearsals in preparation for their arrival.

An extensive example of this form of the master class happens every day in our Jazz program. The instrumentation of a Jazz Ensemble is very well defined and somewhat limited in numbers. The philosophy of Campolindo's program is to accept all interested students into our Jazz program, but that has meant that we have recently had more students than can be accommodated in a single ensemble. Our "Friends of Jazz" program allows us to provide daily master classes to one ensemble while our regular faculty member (Mr. Johnson) works with another. This means that for every jazz rehearsal, the Music Boosters are funding a master class with a professional musician.

Alternatively, a professional musician may come in to give targeted instruction to a particular section of the ensemble. Delivered in the form of sectional rehearsals, these master classes offer students a unique opportunity to interact with and learn from a professional who performs on the same instrument as those students. These musicians are able to provide a level of detail that is not otherwise available in the classroom setting. Students have the opportunity to interact with and learn from a professional musician in an intimate setting.

Our Master Class program also funds guest artists who come to Campolindo to perform for or with our students. The Gold Coast Chamber Players are a fabulous local resource for our music program. Two or three times a year, they come in with a chamber ensemble of professional musicians and perform just for our music students. The performance includes educational talks about the music or instruments that the students are hearing. We also provide funding to bring in guest artists who perform with our ensembles in public performances. Through this program, students learn from rehearsing and performing alongside a professional musician. Often, the highlights of this program are the informal and intimate interactions that are enabled between our students and more experienced musicians.

In coordination with our Music Director, these Master Classes provide all Campolindo Instrumental Music students with a rich opportunity to work directly with professional musicians while learning their craft on their own instrument. Your support of the Campolindo Music Boosters makes such a program possible. Thank you for your support!