

## **SING FOR HOPE CELEBRATES PIANO DONATIONS WITH PERFORMANCES IN MANHATTAN, THE BRONX, AND QUEENS**

Piano artworks donated to schools, healthcare facilities, and community organizations

12/7/15 - Sing for Hope kicked off its 2015 piano donations with a special performance at **Mott Haven Academy Charter School** in the South Bronx on December 7. Sing for Hope Volunteer Artist David Chang performed for a class of first-grade students on a baby grand piano created by the **Keith Haring Foundation**, which will be housed permanently at the school.

This piano, adorned with a reproduction of renowned street artist Keith Haring's work "Untitled, 1988," was one of 50 pianos placed throughout the five boroughs this past June as part of the **Sing for Hope Pianos** community art initiative.

The city's largest recurring public art project, the **Sing for Hope Pianos** brings artist-created pianos to NYC's parks and public spaces for anyone and everyone to enjoy. From June 5-21 of this year, the pianos served as gathering places in their communities, hosting impromptu concerts by professionals and amateurs alike in an open celebration of "art for all" across New York City. After each two-week public exhibition, Sing for Hope donates the instruments to the under-resourced schools, hospitals, and community centers that the organization serves year-round, allowing the pianos to enrich lives for years to come.

Since 2010, Sing for Hope has placed **286 public pianos** across New York City and **donated over 150 pianos** to local organizations in need.

Two additional presentations this year's donated pianos will be held on **Wednesday, December 9:**

- **New York Irish Center in Long Island City, Queens**  
Volunteer Artist Paolo Tirol will present the piano created by artist Christopher Beckman, which was seen in nearby Hunter's Point South Park in June. Volunteers from the **Hunter's Point South Conservancy** served as the piano's guardian during its two weeks in the park, and nominated NYC to ensure that the piano remained a part of the community year-round.
- **DREAM Charter School in Harlem, Manhattan**  
12 members of the **Broadway choir Broadway Inspirational Voices** will perform for DREAM School's student chorus on the piano they designed and created, which was seen in Herald Square this past June.

The 2015 Sing for Hope Pianos reach communities throughout **a city in more need than ever for arts outreach programming**. One in five NYC middle and high schools have no arts teacher, and **lack of arts instruction disproportionately impacts low-income neighborhoods**: over 42 percent of these resource-starved schools are concentrated in the South Bronx and central Brooklyn. The need for more arts programming is equally great in the city's healthcare centers, and by providing musical artworks in these facilities, the Sing for Hope Pianos—and the volunteer artists that make them possible—impact these communities year round.

Funding for the Sing for Hope Pianos is provided in part by Sing for Hope's **Founders' Circle**, including The Arnhold Foundation in loving memory of Sissy Arnhold, The Anna-Maria & Stephen Kellen Foundation, and Ann Ziff.

For more information: [singforhope.org](http://singforhope.org). (Facebook/Twitter/ Instagram: @singforhope, #sfhpianos, #artforall)

## **ABOUT SING FOR HOPE**

Sing for Hope transforms lives throughout New York City by bringing the power of the arts to those who need it most. Through the volunteer service of dedicated artists—opera singers, jazz musicians, dancers, puppeteers, painters, and more—Sing for Hope provides dynamic arts outreach programming to under-resourced communities across NYC. Sing for Hope's programs include collaborative concerts for hospital patients, after-school arts classes for NYC youth, and its flagship public art initiative: The Sing for Hope Pianos. A celebration of Sing for Hope's vision of art for all, this beloved public art project reaches an estimated 2 million New Yorkers and visitors every year. Sing for Hope is defined by the volunteerism of artists, the needs of the community, and the belief in the power of the arts to uplift, unite, and transform. Founded in 2006, Sing for Hope is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

The mission of the **Keith Haring Foundation** is to sustain, expand, and protect the legacy of Keith Haring, his art, and his ideals. The Foundation supports not-for-profit organizations that assist children, as well as organizations involved in education, research and care related to AIDS. Keith Haring (1958-1990) generously contributed his talents and resources to numerous causes. He conducted art workshops with children, created logos and posters for public service agencies, and produced murals, sculptures, and paintings to benefit health centers and disadvantaged communities. In 1989, Keith established a foundation to ensure that his philanthropic legacy would continue indefinitely. **haring.com**

**Broadway Inspirational Voices (BIV)** is a diverse choir of Broadway artists united to change lives through the power of music and service. The company was founded by Michael McElroy in 1994 as the Broadway Gospel Choir and in 1999 reincarnated to its current name. In 2010, BIV became a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission consists of providing HOPE to INSPIRE and TRANSFORM youth in need through music and the arts. The choir is presently working on recording its second holiday Christmas CD, *Great Joy II: Around the World*. **broadwayinspirationalvoices.org**

## **ABOUT THE PARTNERS**

**Mott Haven Academy** (Haven Academy), a pre-K through 5th Grade charter school located in the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx, is the first school in the nation dedicated to serving the child welfare population. In partnership with our sponsor, The New York Foundling, Haven Academy seeks to remove the barriers to academic success faced by children in the child welfare system and close the achievement gap.

**New York Irish Center** is a community center in Long Island City where a warm welcome awaits the Irish in the region and, in true Irish spirit, all those who wish to be with us. There are three things that make us special, even unique: our building, our location, and most importantly our community.

**DREAM Charter School** opened in September 2008 with 50 kindergarteners and 50 first graders. The school currently serves 400 students in grades K-7 and will reach capacity with grades K-8 and a total of 450 students in the 2015-2016 school year. Unique features of DREAM include an extended day and extended year, inclusive classrooms taught by co-teaching teams and a high level of family engagement. DREAM's mission is to prepare students for high-performing high schools, colleges and beyond through a rigorous academic program that develops critical thinkers who demonstrate a love of learning, strong character, and a commitment to wellness and active citizenship.