



CONDUCTOR CECELIA SHARPE LEADS AN ACADEMY ALLEGRO CONCERT.



SINFONIA CONDUCTOR TONY KREMPA GOES OVER A PIECE WITH CONCERTMISTRESS JANE POELMAN OF ROCHESTER HILLS.



VIOLINIST NATALIE GRATSCHEV OF GROSSE POINTE PRACTICES WITH THE ACADEMY PRESTO.



CELLIST YO-YO MA JOKES WITH STUDENTS DURING A WORKSHOP ON ORCHESTRA HALL STAGE.

The Power of Dreams

Honda Gives the Gift of Music Education

BY MARNI RAITT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE CRACHIOLA

Music and the arts are essential to a well-rounded education. They ignite children's creative energy and passion. They help them discover new talents. They expose kids to a world of history and culture beyond their normal, everyday experiences.

However, with dwindling budgets in public schools, the arts are often the first programs to be cut from curriculums. Detroit Symphony Orchestra music education programs are working against this trend by offering world-class training and performance opportunities to students of all ability levels, from elementary school to college graduate students.

The DSO relies on contributions to support its educational activities. Enter **Honda**. With a reputation for innovation, Honda's philanthropic programs include a broad range of initiatives focused on youth and education, science and technology.

In January, the DSO and Honda announced an exciting collaboration. With a gift of over \$1 million, Honda has established **The Power of Dreams Music Education Fund** to support the DSO's acclaimed music education programs and to launch a new initiative to introduce Detroit children to the wonders of learning to play a string instrument.



DSO TROMBONIST RANDY HAWES HELPS A CHILD AT KIDZONE DURING SUPER SATURDAYS @ THE MAX.



REBECCA GILBERT

A MEMBER OF THE BERNARD WOMA TRIO DEMONSTRATES THE KUOR, A TRADITIONAL GHANAIAN INSTRUMENT, AT A RECENT TINY TOTS CONCERT.



JOE CRACHIOLA

CONDUCTOR THOMAS WILKINS TALKS TO STUDENTS ABOUT MUSIC DURING AN EDUCATIONAL CONCERT SERIES PERFORMANCE.

The Power of Dreams String Project will target communities where musical opportunities are either non-existent or unaffordable. The fund will also provide private lessons to aspiring students with financial need in the String Project, DSO Civic Ensembles and/or Detroit School of Arts (DSA), enabling them to fully develop their musical capabilities.

Maestro Leonard Slatkin, who becomes Music Director of the DSO next fall, says, "Music education is a top priority for me. The innovative quality of the DSO's programs, and my ability to lead in this area, is one of the things that attracted me to Detroit. I look forward to working with Honda to provide musical opportunities that will make an impact on our young people. Together we will be leaders in the field."

"We are pleased to join the DSO in a shared vision for creating unique and engaging educational experiences to help young people realize their dreams," says Gary Kessler, senior vice president of Human Resources and Administration and Office of Inclusion and Diversity at Honda.

The DSO's educational programs encompass ten different Civic Youth Ensembles (CYE) offering advanced training for orchestral, chamber, wind and jazz musicians. Nearly 500 students rehearse weekly at the Max M. Fisher Music Center and perform concerts throughout the year.

Participants enjoy unparalleled access to some of the top musicians in the world including renowned conductors and guest artists and members of the DSO. Additional programs include a partnership with the DSA; an Educational Concert Series for schoolchildren; and the National City Young People's Concerts and Tiny Tots Series.

Honda is also encouraging its employees and the public to donate to The Power of Dreams Music Education Fund. Donors of \$100 or more to the fund are eligible to win a variety of gifts, including the grand prize, a Polished Metal Metallic 2008 Accord EX-L V6 sedan. Gift can be made online at www.detroitssymphony.com or by calling (313) 576-5111.

THE POWER OF DREAMS
MUSIC EDUCATION FUND

DSO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC JAZZ ORCHESTRA JAM AT THE NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW IN JANUARY.

HONDA
The Power of Dreams



VIOLIN VICTOR VINSON JR. OF DETROIT CONCENTRATES DURING AN ACADEMY PRESTO REHEARSAL.