



Sinfonietta Strings believes that music is necessary to unite us and uplift us during this time of crisis in our communities.

In response to COVID-19, eight string teachers are reaching out to 167 string students through Zoom, Skype or Facetime with online lessons. It is very moving to the string teachers to see their students' faces light up when they connect to each other. The students are very excited about continuing to play and learn in this virtual space. Sinfonietta Strings is honored to bring beauty and humanity to their students through the gift of music.

Virtual lessons are not the only enhancement the program is offering in response to the pandemic. A COVID-19 emergency grant from United Way of Greater Nashua enables teachers to create online tutorials. These tutorials are loaded onto the Sinfonietta website, SinfoniettaStrings.org, for students to view daily and use as an additional tool to learn their music. New online tutorials continue to be created and uploaded. Sinfonietta string orchestra members, too, will continue to learn their music on an individual basis with online tutorials and a weekly update from the Director through a YouTube video. MP3 files for all music in this year's repertoire is now available on the website and students are encouraged to both listen to the pieces and then play along with the recordings.

Sinfonietta Strings student intern, Lela Spira-Savett, has organized high school string students to conduct Zoom or Facetime practice sessions, with parental permission, for our students at Title 1 elementary schools. Clara Chung, Trisha Mistry, Aedan Pickett, Andre Ostaudelafont and Lela Spira-Savett are excited to reach out and create a connection to younger elementary school students during this time when students are isolated from each other and their school community.



Amherst Street School, December 2019

The virtual tools created by Sinfonietta Strings in response to COVID-19 have been so well received by students that the program will continue to use them as supplemental tools, even after the pandemic has passed. Teachers are delighted to see their students' string playing continues to flourish with the new tools and plans for a celebratory concert when all are together again are underway.

With Heartfelt Thanks

Sinfonietta Strings thanks their community of supporters.

A thank you to Tom Benson of *FiddleDogs, LLC*, who was able to repair a student's cello repaired without person to person contact in just 24 hours.

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If you would like to donate to Sinfonietta Strings' COVID-19 response effort please text "Strings" to 41444 or go to SinfoniettaStrings.org, and click on "Support Us".

