

# Increasing Access to Music Education for Youth in Greater Minnesota

## MacPhail Center for Music

The MacPhail Center for Music has been working to increase access to high-quality music education for youth across Greater Minnesota for the past decade. Two of these efforts are their Online School Partnerships and Sing Play Learn with MacPhail® Online Early Childhood Music Partnerships program. MacPhail partnered with Wilder Research to evaluate these programs to better understand how they are being implemented and what outcomes youth achieve through participation in these programs. The following is a summary of what we learned when evaluating the Sing Play Learn program.

### Sing Play Learn with MacPhail®

Sing Play Learn with MacPhail® Online Early Childhood Music Partnerships strives to increase access to high quality music education for early childhood students in Greater Minnesota. The virtual musical play experiences are customized to support classroom goals via collaboration with the early childhood classroom teachers and taught by MacPhail-trained early childhood music specialists.

#### ▶ Participation in the program was found to have 3 major outcomes for students:

##### 1. Increase in student engagement through personalized music learning experiences

*“Once my students knew what the expectations were during music class, they were able to attend better. They love their [MacPhail Teaching Artist] and look forward to classes with her.”*

*–Classroom teacher at a participating school*

##### 2. Increase in student listening skills through sung directives, call-and-response activities, and following along with others in the room

*“There's a very clear line to musical activities promoting those skills. So when we're doing an echo song, for example, we are listening to a teacher, and responding, they're listening for a melodic or rhythmic pattern, and imitating that directly in their response.”*

*–Teaching Artist*

##### 3. Increase in student regulation skills through:



Musical transitions in the classroom to reduce chaos and instability



Following directions from the Teaching Artist



Learning call-and-response activities

*“We use a few of the songs in the classroom as attention getters or transition songs, they are really catchy and the preschoolers enjoy singing along with them.”*

*–Classroom teacher at a participating school*

## Participation in the program increases access to music instruction throughout the state and provides a resource for partner schools

Schools in Greater Minnesota have access to music education, which they might not otherwise be able to provide.

In the 2020-21 school year:

**4 SCHOOLS**

partnered with the Sing Play Learn program

**179 STUDENTS**

participated

**139 HOURS**

of instruction were provided

*"I continue to be just delighted by how well the online format works. Watching them build musical skills, which help all the other skills that are on the list of what preschoolers are needing to learn and how they need to develop, is just good to see."*

*—Teaching Artist*

## Partner schools benefit from the additional resources provided to them through the program

Classroom educators reported that it's easy for them to collaborate with MacPhail and that Teaching Artists are helpful resources for them in their work. This includes:



Music lessons that align with lessons in regular classroom instruction to complement the teacher's work



Songs to use as transitions between activities or to grab students' attention

*"The [music] classes are incredibly developmentally appropriate and catered to the needs of our classroom. We have really enjoyed being able to connect what we are learning in the classroom to different themes in music."*

*—Classroom teacher at a participating school*

*"A lot of times we're working on different skills, school readiness skills, literacy skills, impulse control, executive functioning skills. Ideally it'll fit into what they're already learning at their center... That child development piece is at the center of what we do. Of course we want people to know and love music, but we want them to be fully developed humans and good citizens of the world too."*

*—MacPhail Teaching Artist*

