

LiveConnections

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
& 2017-2018 SEASON



a season of community collaboration

LiveConnections' 2017-2018 season starts with the question:
"How can music build community?"

Our answer is to connect **nationally and internationally renowned musicians**, as well as local favorites, with LiveConnections' community of youth from public schools, individuals with disabilities, and adventurous music-lovers.

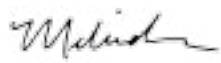
To connect artists with each other to present **distinctive, boundary-crossing music**.

To see the potential for **collaboration across ages, abilities, backgrounds and musical genres**.

This year, we are thrilled to **honor Youngmoo Kim of Drexel University's ExCITE Center** with our third annual Connector Award. Youngmoo's innovations at the intersections of technology, education and the arts are exactly the kind of out-of-the-box community-building we love.

We can't wait to hear all the music that emerges this season, to see the vibrant community that is built. **We hope you'll join us** along the way.

Thanks for being part of our community!



Melinda Steffy
Executive Director



Hal Real
President



David Bradley
Founding Director

Big Hurrah 2017

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LiveConnections

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big hurrah 2017

November 14, 2017
5:30–8:30pm

at World Cafe Live, 3025 Walnut Street, Philadelphia

Connector & Young Connector Awards

honoring **Youngmoo Kim**, director of Drexel's ExCITE Center, & **Devon Leonard**, a student at Our Lady of Confidence Day School

performances showcasing LiveConnections' innovative & collaborative music-making

- ✦ "Cybersounds" trio Andrew Lipke, Angela Zator Nelson & David Rosen
- ✦ "African-American Spirituals" trio Allen Pinkney, Luke Carlos O'Reilly & Kwasi Burgee
- ✦ frequent collaborators Jakub Ciupinski, theremin; Josh Robinson, percussion; & Yolanda Wisher, poet
- ✦ students from Hill-Freedman World Academy & Freire Charter Middle School

drinks & hors d'oeuvres

all proceeds benefit LiveConnections' music education & community programs



Connector Award

LiveConnections proudly honors **Youngmoo Kim**, director of Drexel University's ExCITE Center, with our 3rd annual **Connector Award** at this year's Big Hurrah. The award recognizes someone who shares LiveConnections' vision for crossing boundaries and who works to build bridges, create collaborations and fuel innovation through the power of connection and relationship. Youngmoo embodies that—he's an innovator at the intersection of technology, education and the arts.

Youngmoo received his PhD in Media Arts and Sciences from MIT in 2003 and also holds Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering and Music (Vocal Performance Practice) from Stanford University, as well as a BS in Engineering and a BA in Music from Swarthmore College. His research group, the Music & Entertainment Technology Laboratory (MET-lab), focuses on the machine understanding of audio, particularly for music information retrieval. Other areas of active research at MET-lab include human-machine interfaces and robotics for expressive interaction, real-time analysis, synthesis and visualization of sound, and K-12 outreach for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Design, and Mathematics) education.

He and ExCITE are LiveConnections partners, spearheading the design of our "Cybersounds" Bridge Session, an interactive live experience that uses ExCITE Center technology to help kids visualize and learn about how sound works and how music can be made.



Young Connector Award

New this year, LiveConnections is presenting our first **Young Connector Award** to a student from our programs who demonstrates creativity, leadership and the ability to foster connections among people. This year's recipient, **Devon Leonard**, is a student at Our Lady of Confidence Day School, which serves teenagers and young adults (ages 15-21) with intellectual disabilities. Devon's teacher Diana Van Thuyne had this to say:

"Through various situations, Devon has enhanced the school community relationship between Our Lady of Confidence and Bishop McDevitt High School. Last December, not only did Devon choose the song students were to sing, but he directed his fellow students during the presentation which took place in front of the entire school. Devon was also asked to serve as the JV baseball manager for Bishop McDevitt. The coaches saw his athletic ability and felt he would be an asset during baseball practice drills. Devon has been installed as this year's Student Ambassador which helps foster the inclusive relationship between OLC and Bishop McDevitt."



thanks to our 2017 sponsors!

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Current at time of printing 10/18/2017
[Image: Jaci Downs Photography]



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CONNECTOR AWARD SPONSOR

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PROGRAM BOOK ADS

Astral Artists
Intercultural Journeys
Symphony in C

about LiveConnections

LiveConnections, a nonprofit organization in residence at World Cafe Live, creates programs that *inspire learning and build community through collaborative music-making*. In 2008, a team of artists, educators and entrepreneurs founded LiveConnections to address declining music education in Philadelphia schools and tap into the people-connecting power of music. Across all of our programs, LiveConnections is committed to artistry of the highest caliber, collaboration, community-building and accessibility/inclusion. We approach live music as an essential social and educational experience that helps create engaged and well-rounded global citizens.

Each year, LiveConnections reaches 5,000 participants with our educational programs. **Bridge Sessions**, our signature interactive performances at World Cafe Live, blend live music with hands-on activities. Sessions introduce students from Philadelphia public schools and youth and adults with disabilities to diverse musical cultures and build skills in listening, expressing ideas and synthesizing new information. We also offer **in-school and after-school residencies** at partner schools, providing sustained, in-depth music-making experiences for students from under-resourced schools.

LiveConnections prioritizes **accessibility for people with disabilities** who face barriers to participation in the arts. We present Bridge Sessions and in-facility workshops targeted for youth and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities, and our interactive, adaptive approach means individuals may fully engage at their own ability levels.

In addition, LiveConnections curates a critically acclaimed concert series featuring adventurous, boundary-crossing collaborations. Our **LiveConnections Presents concerts** feature Grammy winners, local talent and rising stars; we frequently commission new music that blends musical styles and cultures; and our concert artists participate in our educational and community programming.

by the numbers

SINCE 2008

34,000 participants served from **90+** schools & organizations

99% participated for FREE

30+ programs geared for adults with cognitive & physical disabilities

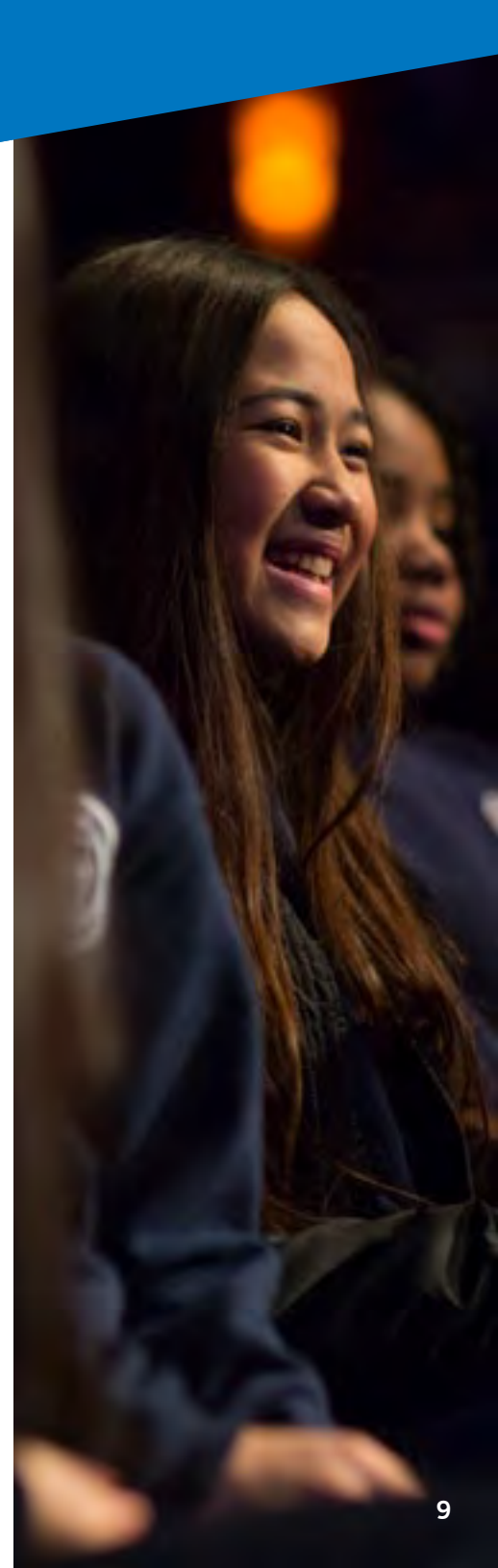
130 collaborating artists

43 LiveConnections Presents concerts featuring innovative collaborations

12 commissions of new concert music

2 albums of student songwriting

[Image: Conrad Erb Photography]





Nia Eubanks Dixon, Keisha Hutchins, Lela Aisha Jones

bridge sessions

“**The experience was mind-blowing.** This was my first time being here and I’d like to say thank you very much because **it opened up my eyes to a new world.**”

—Nahsir, 11th grade, Philadelphia

“**This coming together of music, movement and learning** is really how all schools should be. Thankfully, LiveConnections continues to make that a reality one Bridge Session at a time.”

—WHYY Friday Arts

Bridge Sessions are LiveConnections’ signature educational performances for students from public schools and people with disabilities. We reach approximately 5,000 participants each year, 99% of whom **attend for FREE**. Sessions take place at our partner venue World Cafe Live, where schools and human service organizations bring anywhere from 60 to 150 participants for an intimate performance with **professional sound, lights and atmosphere**. Teaching artists representing diverse musical traditions and cultures (classical, jazz, blues, folk, rock, hip-hop, world and more) blend **live performances with hands-on activities** that build skills in listening, expressing ideas and synthesizing new information.

[Images: Conrad Erb Photography]

BRIDGE SESSION TOPICS

African-American Spirituals: Roots & Reverberations featuring Allen Pinkney, vocals; Luke Carlos O'Reilly, keyboard; & Kwasi Burgee, percussion. From the sounds of West Africa to the potent music and messages of spirituals to the styles of gospel, blues and hip-hop, this session honors a proud and rich American musical tradition.

The Building Blocks of Music featuring Joseph Conyers, double bass; Rebecca Harris, violin; & Andrew Lipke, guitar & voice. Breaks down the fundamentals of melody, harmony and bass using a range of pop, rock and classical songs. Created in partnership with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Cybersounds featuring Andrew Lipke, guitar & voice; Angela Zator Nelson, percussion; & Dave Rosen, bass & electronics. Drexel's ExCITE Center joins us in an interactive exploration of the science of sound, including visualizations of sound waves, and the ways technology and music creatively combine.

Folk Music: The People's Music featuring Ami Yares, guitar/oud/ukulele/vocals; Elena Moon Park, violin/guitar/trumpet/vocals; & Joe Tayoun, percussion. A celebration of the diversity, themes and spirit of folk music from a variety of cultures, including East Asia, the Middle East and the U.S.

Jazz Speaks (NEW!) featuring Larry McKenna, saxophone; Luke Carlos O'Reilly, keyboard; Arturo Stable, percussion; & Yolanda Wisher, poetry & voice. Traces the journey of jazz: its origins, styles and various ways jazz "speaks," including connections to Latin culture and influence on spoken word poetry.

Language of Rhythm featuring Luke Carlos O'Reilly, keyboards; Josh Robinson, percussion; & Jacob Winterstein, spoken word. Builds an understanding of how rhythm and music relate to spoken language and gives participants a chance to write their own group poems.

Rhythmic Body featuring movement artist Lela Aisha Jones & percussionist Alex Shaw with guest percussionists Ansumane Silla & Kwasi Burgee. Looks at the intersection of movement and rhythm through polyrhythms, Brazilian *capoeira*, West African dance and hip-hop.

Tunes & Tales featuring Julia Li, violin; Charlotte Blake Alston, storytelling & kora; & Gabriel Globus-Hoenich, percussion. Uses the African folktale of Anansi the spider to introduce musical story-telling and show how sounds can convey images and emotions. Created in partnership with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Voices & Bodies in Social Action featuring artists Lela Aisha Jones, Nia Eubanks Dixon & Keisha Hutchins. How have music, movement and voices been part of the advocacy for civil and human rights? A powerful overview of the ways creative expression joins with visions of social change.

World of Percussion featuring percussionists Kwasi Burgee, Alex Shaw & François Zayas. Introduces 100 percussion instruments and rhythms from around the world through soundscapes and hands-on activities.

See page 22 for the 2017–2018 calendar.

[Image: Conrad Erb Photography]



residencies

In our residencies and workshops, we work closely with partner schools and organizations to tailor **in-depth programs that support classroom learning**. School residencies feature our interactive approach to music-making and provide opportunities for schools that participate in Bridge Sessions to engage more deeply with teaching artists on long-term projects. 2017–2018 projects include:

- ✦ **“What’s Going On,”** a songwriting and music production residency at Hill-Freedman World Academy, inspired by Motown’s artistry, entrepreneurship and voice for civil rights;
- ✦ **“Immigrant Songs,”** a songwriting and storytelling after-school program for refugee teens at Northeast High School in partnership with HIAS PA;
- ✦ A weekly after-school **percussion ensemble** at Bregy Elementary School; and
- ✦ Two weeks of our **Percussion Studio summer camp**: one for Freire Charter Middle School and one for students from the Center for Grieving Children.



Yolanda Wisher (right)



BrotherlyLove

“[LiveConnections] shows what the children of Pennsylvania can achieve when they are given the power to be **innovators, artists, musicians and thinkers.**”

—The Honorable Tonyelle Cook-Artis

[Images: Jaci Downs Photography]



Alex Shaw (right)

accessibility

“I liked the music, the drums and the words and how they expressed cultures from other countries. They make you feel like you’re talking to people in other countries. It makes you want to talk to your ancestors...**Makes me feel like I want to be an artist.**”

—Chris, participant from Programs Employing People

LiveConnections **prioritizes accessibility for people with disabilities** who face barriers to participation in the arts. In specially tailored Bridge Sessions and “On the Road” workshops, our teaching artists present material that is sensitive to the many different characteristics of those we serve, including individuals with traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabilities, autism and vision impairment, among others. Our interactive, adaptive approach means that **all participants may fully engage at their own ability levels**, regardless of whether a session targets a specific disability audience or whether “mainstreamed” students with special needs attend as part of a general education group.

[Images: Jaci Downs Photography]

concerts

“Exciting and much-needed programming.”

—Artblog

“Once again, LiveConnections’ musical matchmaking has produced a lively evening of musical discovery.”

—DCMetroTheaterArts

In our critically acclaimed **LiveConnections Presents concert series**, we pair musicians from different genres and cultural backgrounds—including Grammy winners, local talent and rising stars—to develop one-of-a-kind programs. The performances provide the opportunity for musicians to create **distinctive, boundary-crossing music**, frequently involving **new commissions** and world premieres.

Our 2017–2018 concerts ask “**How can music build community?**” To answer that, we’re bringing nationally and internationally renowned musicians to Philadelphia, supporting the creation of new music, and providing opportunities for artists to engage with LiveConnections’ local community of youth from public schools and individuals with disabilities. Ticket-buyers and underserved audiences alike will have opportunities to experience artistry of the highest caliber.



Fifth House Ensemble + Jason Vieaux

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

7:30 PM | \$30/\$20 (including fees)
Downstairs at World Cafe Live, Philadelphia

Limitless imagination, powerhouse artistry. Critically acclaimed **Fifth House Ensemble** joins Grammy-winner **Jason Vieaux** to perform **Dan Visconti’s** “Living Language.” The 30-min. guitar concerto covers a “broad musical landscape” with elements of “prog rock, neoclassicism, heavy metal, Arabian folk music, country blues” and more (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Additional ensemble and solo guitar works round out an inventive, not-your-standard-classical-music program. Students from **Play On, Philly!** will open.

★ **Bridge Sessions** for schools on Dec. 14

VOCES8

Sunday, March 4, 2018

3:00 PM | \$20/\$15 (including fees)
Downstairs at World Cafe Live, Philadelphia

British ensemble **VOCES8** takes a *cappella* chamber singing to a new level. Called “impeccable” (*Gramophone*), the 8-voice ensemble performs everything from Renaissance polyphony to contemporary commissions. For this concert, they’ll be joined by **school and community choirs** that have participated in “VOCES8 Method” workshops.

★ **Bridge Sessions** for schools on Mar. 5

Kinan Azmeh + Aizuri Quartet

Thursday, May 31, 2018

7:30 PM | \$30/\$20 (including fees)
Downstairs at World Cafe Live, Philadelphia

Grammy-winning Syrian clarinetist **Kinan Azmeh** and the acclaimed **Aizuri Quartet** come together for a concert spanning classical, jazz and Arab musical languages. The collaboration draws on the artists’ creative and thought-provoking approaches to music-making, featuring works by Komitas Vartaped, Yevgeniy Sharlat and a world premiere of new work by Azmeh. Students from LiveConnections’ “**Immigrant Songs**” residency will open the concert.

BUY TICKETS at liveconnections.org



Benito Meza, Bridget Kibbey, Samuel Torres
[Image: Conrad Erb Photography]



SYBARITE5, Jakub Ciupinski
[Image: Conrad Erb Photography]

2017-2018 Calendar

October 27, 2017	Professional Development for Teachers: the VOCES8 Method with Paul Smith
October 30, 2017	African-American Spirituals: Roots & Reverberations
November 6, 2017	World of Percussion
November 14, 2017	GALA: LiveConnections Big Hurrah
December 13, 2017	Folk Music: The People's Music
December 13, 2017	CONCERT: Fifth House Ensemble + Jason Vieaux
December 14, 2017	Bridge Sessions with Fifth House Ensemble + Jason Vieaux
January 16, 2018	Voices & Bodies in Social Action
January 29, 2018	Cybersounds
February 5, 2018	Jazz Speaks
February 26, 2018	African-American Spirituals: Roots & Reverberations
February 27, 2018	African-American Spirituals: Roots & Reverberations
March 4, 2018	CONCERT: VOCES8
March 5, 2018	Bridge Sessions with VOCES8
March 26, 2018	Rhythmic Body
March 27, 2018	Rhythmic Body
May 7-15, 2018	CAMPAIGN: Kids Count 2018
May 7, 2018	Language of Rhythm
May 8, 2018	Language of Rhythm
May 15, 2018	OUR 10th BIRTHDAY!
May 21, 2018	World of Percussion
May 22, 2018	World of Percussion
May 23, 2018	Folk Music: The People's Music
May 31, 2018	CONCERT: Kinan Azmeh + Aizuri Quartet

For complete details, visit liveconnections.org.

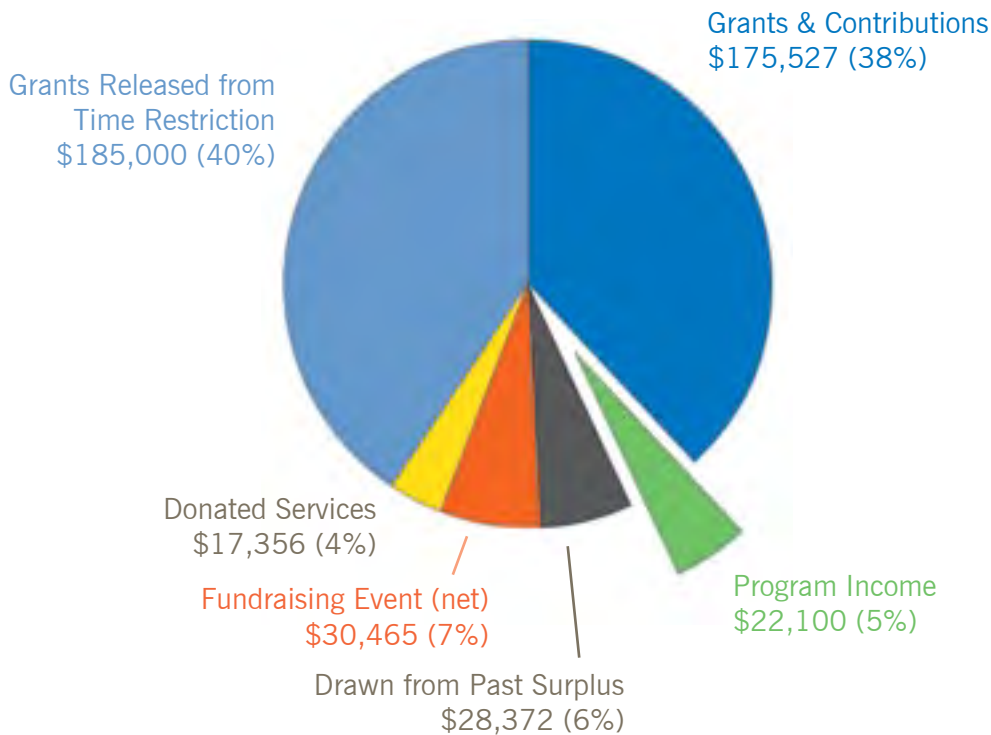


[Image: Conrad Erb Photography]

financial report FY2017

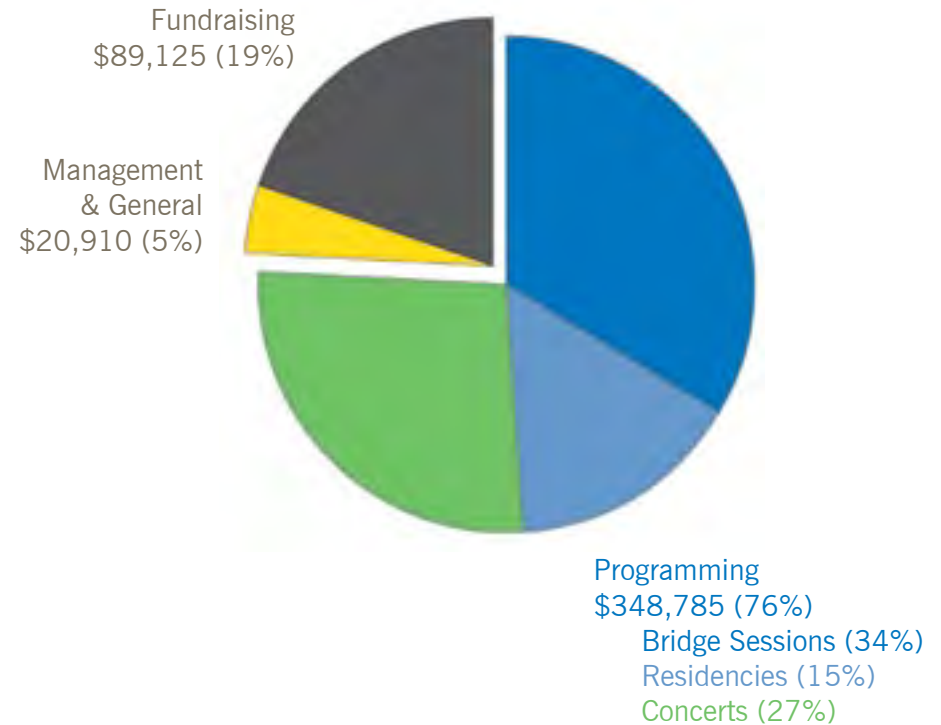
Revenue

July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017
 Unrestricted Total: \$430,448
 Drawn from Past Surplus: \$28,372
 95% contributed / 5% earned



Expenses

July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017
 Total: \$458,820



thank you to our donors!

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017



Kids Count 2017

CAMPAIGN May 8–17, 2017

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Big Hurrah 2016

GALA October 6, 2016

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