

The Denver **MUSICIAN**



Denver Musicians Association
Local 20-623, AFM, AFL - CIO

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Performance **builds** Confidence



Give them confidence.

 **Give Them Music**
www.givethemmusic.org

Bron Wright is formerly with the Charleston Symphony (SC), and is currently playing Principal Trombone in the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and Fort Collins Symphony. Bron is one of a growing number of accomplished musicians who refuse to sit back and watch as music education opportunities are lost. *Give Them Music* is Bron's latest effort to fill this void with a new approach to offering musical resources. The *Denver Musician* is thankful for the opportunity to learn more about *Give Them Music* through this interview.

Denver Musician: What is the purpose of *Give Them Music*, and what prompted you to go down this road?

Bron: *Give Them Music* exists to promote and revive the performing arts in our schools and communities through performance outreach programs and by providing opportunities, resources and incentives for schools to re-establish or develop the arts back into their programs. The main principle behind our performance outreach programs is to raise funding through private donations, special fundraising events and grants to perform and conduct free outreach programs to schools without current arts programs or to schools who have lost their music and arts programs due to budget cuts.

Give Them Music does not exist to promote music as a profession or career but rather to enhance and build upon the skills and confidence needed for youth to succeed in their own personal goals through the teamwork and performance of music.

The project has been a brainchild of mine for almost a decade and is a culmination of ideas from friends and colleagues around the country. *Give Them Music* really didn't take shape until this past summer when I was on a personal quest to cycle all 42 mountain passes here in Colorado. The quest took a total of 74 hours, 1,010 miles and nearly 100,000 feet of elevation gain. A majority of that time was spent trying to ignore the pain and cramps in my legs and lower back. This allowed plenty of time to conceive and develop the project in my mind. When it came time to put it down on paper it was rather quick and easy because everything had already been well thought out. I quickly enlisted friends and colleagues who currently play with professional orchestras around the country to contribute sound samples of all the instruments to create an online petting zoo where kids can go to hear, see and learn about every instrument in the orchestra. They can then print free fingering charts, scales, manuscript paper, use an online metronome and look up musical glossary terms.

Denver Musician: The mission behind *Give Them Music* is "to promote and revive the performing arts in our schools and communities through performance outreach programs and by providing opportunities, resources and incentives for schools to re-establish or develop the arts back into their programs." What is truly unique about *Give Them Music* that should attract the attention of professional musicians and music educators?

Bron: What's different to me is the approach. Again, I'm not here to promote music as a profession but to foster and develop personal goals through the discipline and confidence-building qualities achieved by music. A strong barrier exists when relating music to kids. For so long music participation has been associated by a majority of youth as being "band geeks." It sounds like small potatoes but that's a very tough wall to break down. But when you start to bring music to a level that kids can relate to that barrier becomes much smaller. Their perception suddenly changes when they learn that Julia Roberts played clarinet, Drew Carey played trumpet, Tedy Bruschi of the New England Patriots played alto sax, Neil Armstrong played baritone horn and Bernie Williams of the NY Yankees played classical guitar. Hmm, maybe music can be cool after all!



Bron Wright

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