

Carriage House Violins Newsletter

WINTER 2015



At the White House on November 10, 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama presented Project STEP with the prestigious National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. Mary Jaffee, Project STEP Executive Director, and student Ajani Boyd, 11, of Dorchester, were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the music program.

Photo by Steven E. Purcell

CHV and JSI Give Back

In addition to boasting an artistically rich musical community, the Greater Boston area is also home to a variety of philanthropic organizations designed to bring music and musical education to our most underserved populations. For years, Johnson String Instrument and Carriage House Violins have supported communities and students by contributing, donating, discounting, and lending instruments to local students and programs. As a company that benefits from the vibrancy of musical life in Boston, we feel that it is important to do our part by giving back. We are privileged to be able to provide support to the following organizations:

- Project STEP
- Shelter Music Boston
- Music for Food
- Walden Chamber Players
Young Artist Competition
- Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras' Intensive Community Program (ICP)
- The Rivers School Conservatory Honors String Quartet
- ...and dozens more

PROJECT STEP

For over thirty years, Project STEP's (String Training and Education Program) mission has been to address the racial and ethnic imbalance in classical music by "identifying musically talented children from underrepresented Boston communities and providing them with comprehensive music and string instrument instruction." Project STEP has been incredibly successful in its efforts, providing need-based scholarships for lessons, theory, solfège, chamber music, and orchestra, and helping to facilitate the development of young Black and Latino musicians. Carriage House Violins works closely with Project STEP, and we are pleased to be able to provide support in the form of instruments, advertising, performance opportunities, and financial gifts.

On November 10, 2014, Project STEP was awarded the prestigious National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. Chosen from a national pool of more than 350 nominations and 50 finalists, Project STEP is one of 12 programs across the country to receive the award, which is the highest honor for such programs in the United States. The award is administered by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. In addition to the honor of receiving the award, Project STEP will receive \$10,000.

Project STEP was recognized as an exemplary youth arts development program whose year-round, long-term engagement of students and families with classical music leads to high achievement and productive lives.

For more information about Project STEP, visit projectstep.org or visit the JSI YouTube page and watch our video about Project STEP at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkMGUz3Do54.