

For Immediate Release

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Photos available upon request



bringing back the excitement of classical music



**ART OF ÉLAN AND ARTS | A REASON TO SURVIVE PRESENT
YOUNG ARTISTS IN HARMONY**

*A collaborative exploration of creativity and expression through music, art
and spoken word*

**Final Concert Presentation, December 6, 2 pm
ARTS Community Open House, 11-3 pm
ARTS, 200 East 12th Street, National City**

San Diego – November 6, 2014 - This fall Art of Élan begins an exciting 8-week residency with the nationally recognized ARTS | A Reason to Survive, a San Diego based non-profit organization that believes in the power of the arts and creativity to literally transform lives - especially those of kids facing adversity. ARTS Empower students, ages 17-22, will participate in this program.

Young Artists in Harmony consists of weekly workshops that began in October. ARTS Empower students have the opportunity to work directly with Art of Élan musicians. The residency will culminate with a unique multidisciplinary and collaborative concert during the **ARTS Community Open House on December 6th, 2 pm**, featuring originally composed music by ARTS Empower students and performed by professional musicians along with one of the students, originally composed music by San Diego Symphony violist AJ Nilles, and multimedia elements created by ARTS Inspire students.

“Our two organizations are in alignment with the belief that music is a positive outlet for youth and has the power to be transformative,” said Art of Élan Artistic Director Kate Hatmaker. “We are excited to launch this partnership to build music appreciation and inspire creativity.”

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Teaching artists from other disciplines (ceramics, visual arts, literary arts, film-making) will work with other students to create artistic elements to compliment the performance and be displayed during the open house event.

“I was bullied constantly in middle school and associated with the ‘bad kids’. I went into a downwards spiral and became careless with my life and my future. But through music, I was able to push myself through it all and get my life back together,” said Young Artist in Harmony student, Stephanie Garibay. “It was a constant factor in the success of reaching my goals and was great motivation while finding and figuring out the person I was and the person I wanted to be. It is now a great part of my life and brings true joy to my everyday life. It gives me purpose, hope and reason to keep getting up in the morning and keep striving to be the best I can be.”

A bonus of the residency will be a field trip to the upcoming November 25th Art of Élan concert at The San Diego Museum of Art for the participating students.

The Young Artists in Harmony (YAH) program is generously supported by the Stensrud Foundation. For more information on the program, please visit www.areasontosurvive.org or www.artofelan.org

About ARTS | A Reason To Survive:

ARTS | A Reason To Survive is a nationally recognized organization that believes in the power of the arts and creativity to literally transform lives—especially those of youth facing major life challenges. Multidisciplinary arts programs provided in a specially equipped 20,000 square-foot ARTS Center include a Music Room, Media Arts Lab, Performing Arts Space, Painting Studio, Mixed Media Studio, Ceramics Studio, the Industrial Arts and an ARTS Gallery.

Through a sequential program model of therapeutic arts programs, arts education, and real-world work experience, ARTS provides a guided **Heal, Inspire, and Empower** pipeline for youth to move from crises to college or careers. ARTS has created positive change in 50,000+ youth struggling with adversity, earning national recognition and



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leading creative initiatives that engage and transform communities. ARTS provides Direct Services to youth, Support Services to like-minded individuals and organizations, and Advocacy to community stakeholders and leaders about the importance of arts programming for youth, and connecting youth to creative community revitalization. For more information on ARTS, please visit www.areasontosurvive.org

About Art of Élan:

For the past 7 years Art of Élan has been pioneering unique chamber music events and bringing the excitement of classical music to diverse audiences. Created by violinist Kate Hatmaker and flutist Demarre McGill, Art of Élan is continually expanding the scope of classical music in San Diego through innovative, one-hour programming in unique performance venues. Its partnerships with The San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park, Lux Art Institute in Encinitas, The Glashaus in Barrio Logan, the Malcolm X Library and A Reason To Survive (ARTS) in National City have led to multiple commissions, world premieres, exciting cross-disciplinary productions and enthusiastic, sold-out audiences. By drawing inspiration from the word *élan*, which represents momentum, vigor and spirit, Art of Élan continues to engage and energize audiences in new ways. For more information: www.artofelan.org