



EL SISTEMA SANTA CRUZ NEWSLETTER

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EL SISTEMA @ RADCLIFF

December has been a busy month for the new El Sistema program at Radcliff Elementary School. On December 4th, El Sistema had its first ever performance at the Watsonville Library during the release of the new literacy app, "Paso a Paso, Creciendo Juntos" or "Step by Step Growing Together". Two days later, the same group of students performed at a board meeting. Finally, on December 15th, after a general rehearsal performed for the all school during assembly time, El Sistema played at night in front of over 400 parents and community members. Music directors Camilo Ortiz and Amalia Diaz have been working with the students for less than four months in the after school program and the performance far exceeded expectations! Families beamed with pride as they watched the children performing! After the performance, proud Principal Ulli Kummerow invited parents to a reception and refreshments.



Rehearsal, Children's Opera, UCSC.

"Paso a Paso", Watsonville Library.



EL SISTEMA @ GAULT

On December 10, UCSC students were joined by El Sistema students from Gault Elementary school who auditioned for the children's opera that the UCSC music department in association with Opera Parallèle present every year as a free gift to the community. This year's opera, "Xochitl and the Flowers", which was sung in Spanish and English, told the touching story of an immigrant family from El Salvador beginning a new life in San Francisco. The opera based on a book by Jorge Argueta was composed by Chris Pratorius Gomez. Roma Olvera wrote the libretto. Sheila Willey directed and Nathaniel Berman conducted. What a treat to the community!

KEY DATES

February 10th, Young Performer Show, Santa Cruz High

March 20th, La Posada Retirement Community

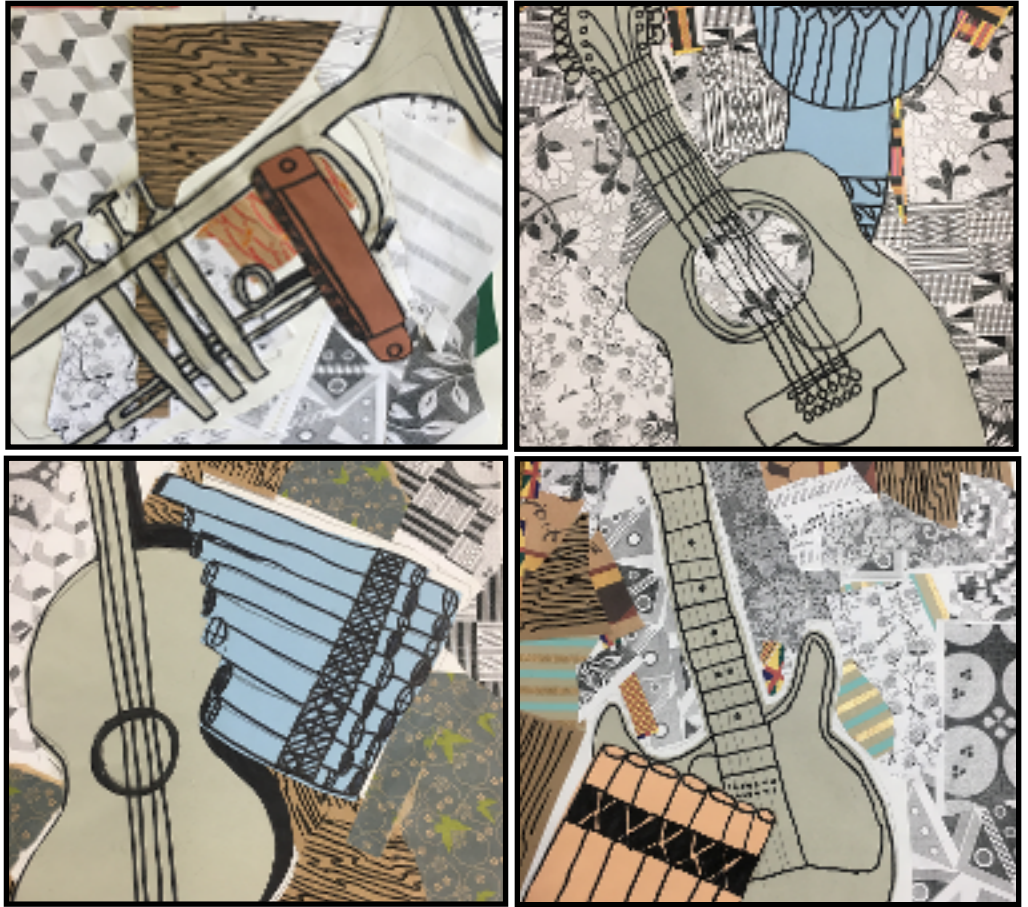
April 30th, Dia de los Ninos, Monterey Bay Aquarium

May 21st, Music in May: Radcliff Elementary School

ABOUT EL SISTEMA SANTA CRUZ

We are an organization committed to transforming the lives of our youth and communities through the inspiration, discipline, and performance of classical ensemble music. El Sistema Santa Cruz was founded in 2012, as an El Sistema inspired orchestral and choral education program. It is a bold and ambitious systematic approach to community enhancement and the creation of community values through orchestral and ensemble playing and singing. Students engage in rigorous daily practice and rehearsals, perform regularly on stage and throughout the community, and learn the importance of becoming responsible citizens. Our staff offer music education each day after school to students at Gault and Radcliff elementary schools. We are currently serving over 200 students. El Sistema Santa Cruz is working with local school districts and local foundations to offer a tuition-free program to all its students during the school year and during a short summer session. In addition to providing musical training and enrichment, El Sistema teaches respect, responsibility, cooperation, community service, empathy and dedication. Surveys have shown that El Sistema students benefit from improved study habits, improved grades and improved self-esteem and confidence.

MUSIC INSPIRED ART



Collages from 4th and 5th graders at Gault Elementary School under the supervision of Art teacher Vickie Gilbert,



A big thank you to all the community members, partners, foundations, businesses, teachers, administrators, schools, school districts, parents and students who contributed to the creation and growth of El Sistema Santa Cruz. We're half way through our seventh season and could have not done it without you. Our deepest gratitude for such extraordinary support.

YOU CAN FIND US AT:

www.elsistemasantacruz.org

Gault Elementary School, 1320
Seabright Ave, Santa Cruz , CA 95062

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Rodriguez St, Watsonville, CA 95076

