

# Westside Music Foundation & MTAC-WLA MSSL

## 2010 PRACTICE-A-THON Information Sheet

### PURPOSE

#### WESTSIDE MUSIC FOUNDATION ([www.westsidemusicfoundation.org](http://www.westsidemusicfoundation.org))

is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public benefit charity committed to the promotion of music education and community service. The profits generated from the 2010 Practice-A-Thon will be used to support two music education projects in the West Los Angeles area: Saint Anne School and Elemental Strings.

#### MTAC-WLA MSSL (Music Students' Service League) ([www.mtacwla.org](http://www.mtacwla.org))

is a group of MTAC-WLA student volunteers dedicated to serving the community through music. MSSL projects include student performances at senior citizen homes, mentoring younger students, volunteering at MTAC functions, and fundraising with the Westside Music Foundation through recitals and the Practice-A-Thon. Special Events include the Daniel Pearl World Music Days Event.

There are many wonderful things about this practicing project: any and every student can participate, students learn the importance of charity work, and it encourages a sense of community. **Best of all, students will be practicing music to raise funds for children to whom music making is a luxury.**

#### SAINT ANNE SCHOOL ([www.saintanneschool.com](http://www.saintanneschool.com))

For over 100 years, Saint Anne School has served the community by providing quality education for the poor. SAS's 169 students hail from over 50 Los Angeles area zip codes representing residential communities of Inglewood, Hawthorne, Venice, South Los Angeles, and beyond. 85% of SAS' students commute to school in connection with parents' employment in Santa Monica. 77% of SAS students qualify for free and reduced lunches under the federal poverty index criteria. Under these criteria, SAS is the only qualified non-public Title I School within Santa Monica-Malibu School District.

Now in its third year, SAS' music program offers instrumental music instruction to every child in the school free of charge and is a finalist for a 2010 Music Center BRAVO Award. The program includes instruction in Orff-Schulwerk mallet instruments and hand percussion in grades K-3, violin in grade 4, beginning woodwinds (recorder) in grade 5, advanced woodwinds (flute, clarinet, or saxophone) in grade 6, and guitar/vocal studies in grades 7-8. Instruction is provided by volunteer professional music educators and musicians, and the donations and support of the Westside Music Foundation, Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences, Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra, and Sol La Music Academy.

#### ELEMENTAL STRINGS ([www.elementalstrings.com](http://www.elementalstrings.com))

Elemental Strings is an after-school youth orchestra for fourth and fifth grade students in the Santa Monica Community. Elemental strings was founded by the Maestro Foundation in 2004 as a small youth orchestra for elementary school-aged students. Its purpose was to inspire students and support the SMMUSD's strong elementary school music program. Of the over 200 students who have been members of ES, most continue to perform on their instruments at school and in outside programs such as the Colburn School of Performing Arts, Junior Chamber Music, String Project LA, and the LA Youth Orchestra. About 40 students, representing all of the SMMUSD elementary schools in Santa Monica, participate each season. The 2010 Practice-A-Thon will raise funds to establish Westside Music Foundation scholarship awards for students accepted into the Elemental Strings program who qualify for need-based financial aid.

### INSTRUCTIONS

All students—any age, any instrument—are eligible to participate in this two-week fundraising event! Students will record their practice hours and pledges on the *Practice-A-Thon Sponsor Sheet*.\* Students will record the number of hours practiced daily to the nearest ¼ hour in the spaces provided. Students may participate during any two-week period through April 30, 2010. At the end of the Practice-A-Thon, students will add up their total hours practiced to the nearest ¼ hour. We suggest that the two-week practice period be from **March 12-26, 2010** (the two weeks before the 2010 MTAC-WLA Certificate of Merit Evaluations), but students may choose any two-week period before **April 30, 2010**. At the conclusion of the two-week practice period, participating teachers must:

1. collect all pledge earnings (checks made payable to Westside Music Foundation)
2. collect *Practice-A-Thon Sponsor Sheet(s)*\* from each participating student
3. fill out the *Practice-A-Thon Master Studio Pledge Sheet*\*
4. send item nos. 1-3 above, in one envelope, postmarked or dropped off by **May 7, 2010** to:

Deborah H. How, President  
Westside Music Foundation  
843 Yale Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90403

\**Practice-A-Thon Sponsor Sheets & Master Studio Pledge Sheets* are available at [www.westsidemusicfoundation.org](http://www.westsidemusicfoundation.org)

### PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the student who practices the most total hours (students will be divided into age groups), the student with the most number of individual pledges (not total \$ amount), the teaching studio with the most total hours, the teaching studio with the most number of students participating, the school with the most total hours, and the school with the most number of individual students participating. Additional prizes may be awarded depending on level of project participation.

### QUESTIONS?

Please contact Dr. How at [dhow@westsidemusicfoundation.org](mailto:dhow@westsidemusicfoundation.org) or (310) 828-5130.