

## Lyra During COVID

Within hours of learning in March that Philadelphia schools would close because of COVID Lyra staff retrieved harps from schools and the Kimmel Center, hand-delivering over 20 harps to our students' homes. COVID Has not been a barrier to teaching! Lyra has given over 200 virtual lessons and classes, and provided scholarships for two virtual summer programs, free to our students: Curtis Summerfest Harp Colony in partnership with Curtis Institute of Music; and All City Orchestra Summer Academy in partnership with The Mann. Our kids have made exponential progress and some have discovered that they want to become harpists! Because of you, we are able to help them change their lives, even during such trying times!



"This program greatly impacted me - it molded me into not only a great harpist but also a more well-rounded individual."

- Bryahna, Lyra Alum, Temple University

Despite the cancellation of our 15th Anniversary Gala, Lyra still finished our FY20 strong. We are well-positioned for this coming year! With featured press thanks to our in-kind donation from Brian Communications and exciting events, we are revved up to give our students more harp training and mentorship through their most important developmental years.

Thank you for your generosity. You are the catalysts that make Lyra's mission our reality.

Sincerely,

Helen Gerhold  
Executive Director

## Celebrity Panel Virtual Dinner Party



Lyra's Virtual Dinner Party was a blast with celebrity panelists Chef Elijah Milligan, opera star Denyce Graves, and Maestro Michael Stern hosted by WRTI's Debra Lew Harder. We enjoyed a captivating discussion with these panelists, a delicious recipe by Chef Eli, and a performance from Lyra's Glissando Program students and teaching artists! If you missed it, visit [LyraSociety.org/dinnerparty](http://LyraSociety.org/dinnerparty).

## Thanks AGAIN, Ken!



We would like to extend another thank you to Ken Hutchins for his sustained financial support for Lyra's Glissando Program at the Philadelphia High School for Girls! Because of Ken's generosity, all of our Girls' High students will, once again, receive individual lessons and harp classes throughout the 2020-2021 school year!

"No matter what school I attend or what job I have, I will always be able to say that I am a Harpist."

- Jermoyah, Lyra Alum, Bowdoin College

## Summer Programs & New Partnerships



Throughout the summer, Lyra partnered with The Mann Center and Curtis Institute of Music to bring All City Summer Orchestra Summer Academy and Curtis Summerfest Harp Colony to our harp students! Students learned how to write orchestral harp parts, participate in a virtual orchestra, and took Curtis masterclasses throughout our quarantined summer.

In August, Lyra partnered with the Fidler Club to play in its outdoor Garden space. There will be more Fidler Club x Lyra Society programming soon, including a Pluck N Pour! We will make an announcement via email.

*We've done it again!*

100% of Lyra's graduating class is going to a four-year college or university!

### Lyra's Press Coverage

**brian.**  
COMMUNICATIONS

Thanks to pro-bono services from Brian Communications, Lyra was featured in The Philadelphia Inquirer and TWICE on 6ABC Action News! To read or watch, you may go to [LyraSociety.org/press](http://LyraSociety.org/press)

*"The Glissando program has not only taught me how to operate the harp, but also patience, determination, how to adapt to new situations, resilience, discipline, and teamwork."*

*-Jessica, Lyra Alum, Temple University*

### Glissando student María's message to you...



*Dear Lyra Family,*

*By putting a harp in my hands and incredible teachers by my side, the Lyra Society has made an irreversible impact on who I am and the person that I will become. I never in a million years thought that I would live through a global pandemic in which we would be helping each other by staying at home as much as possible. But I also never fathomed that I would have a harp at home for this long and that I would be receiving my dear Ms. Maryanne's corrections and suggestions for improvement through Zoom calls. Being able to play for her and simply connect, albeit virtually, is honestly what I look forward to every week. To the Lyra Society, thank you for bringing happiness to my home during this time. I am beyond grateful; words cannot do justice to the gift you have given my family and me - since the beginning, and especially during this time.*

*I would like to extend this gratitude from the bottom of my heart to the friends and supporters of the Lyra Society as well; you, too, have given me this experience that I will never forget. Because of all of you, whenever I will think back on my time spent during the COVID-19 pandemic, I will first and foremost remember how blessed I was to be able to continue my study of the harp and continue having that source of peace, beauty, and inspiration in my life. I hope that you all have found your source of brightness, too, and that you and those you love are and will remain well.*

*Love,  
María*

*Glissando Program Student*