

PROCESS AND AUTHENTICITY (PART 2)

SMALL GROUP MUSIC INSTRUCTION
SYOSSET CSD



FEBRUARY 2026

VISUAL ARTS
PRESENTATION

- Habits of Mind
- Sustained Investigation
- Development of Voice

PROCESS

A series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end



Creative acts are iterative in nature



A great product is the result of a sound process



Without process, results are non-repeatable

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A series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end

Curiosity, experimentation, noticing, and reflection are core mindsets that become essential differentiators in AI-driven creativity. AI generates options efficiently, but human processes for discernment and meaning-making sustain innovation.

Stanford d.school (2025)



AUTHENTICITY

Authenticity is the quality of being genuine, real, and true to one's own core values, personality, or origins, rather than an imitation

“Disciplinary backgrounds emphasizing contextual reasoning, stylistic awareness, and aesthetic judgment confer a measurable advantage in detecting AI-generated [work], underscoring the pedagogical value of integrating such creative competencies for AI literacy and ethical discernment.” Gerardo, H., Clemenceau, M., & Tellier, K. (2025)



TONIGHT'S FOCUS: SMALL GROUP AND LESSON INSTRUCTION IN SYOSSET

- Begins in 4th grade – continues through 12th grade
- Small, focused group size according to instrument and proficiency
- Majority of Instructional Focus
- Side-by-side coaching and modeling by Syosset Music Faculty

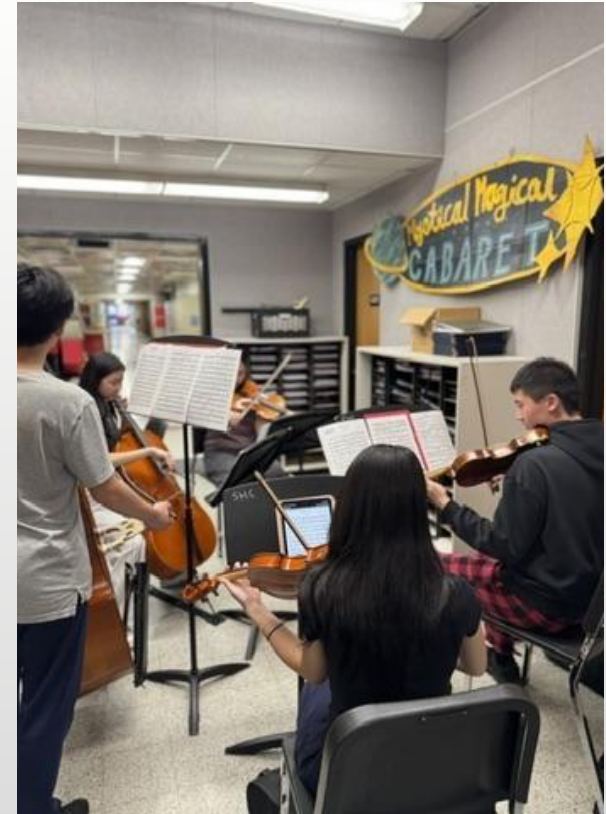
WHERE WE PERFORM

- **Community Performances**
- Chamber Music Club
- Competitions
- Solo Recitals
- Honors Piano Recital



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NYSSMA

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION



- 1,768 Syosset students performed a solo or chamber piece in Spring 2026
- NYSSMA Levels Range from 1 through 6, increasing in difficulty and sophistication
- Students and groups receive a rating from an independent adjudicator
- Students and teachers use this feedback to support teaching and learning

ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP LESSONS

Angelina Mendez & Emily Napolitano, Grade 5

Ms. Amy Kausner, Orchestra Director

South Grove Elementary

Performing *Selections from My First Progressive Duets*, arr. Gadza/Clark

ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP LESSONS

- Developmental, beginning Grade 3
 - Listening Skills
 - Technique
 - Confidence
- Essential Side-by-side coaching
 - Develop characteristic tone
 - Phrasing and musicality





**MIDDLE SCHOOL
SMALL GROUP
LESSONS**

Timothy Mangeruga & John Min, Grade 6

Mandy Boonshaft, Band Director, South Woods Middle School

Performing Selections from 30 Melodious Duets

by Carl Strommen



MIDDLE SCHOOL SMALL GROUP LESSONS

- Increased Independence
- Development of voice
- Exploration of Advanced Technique
- More Rigorous Musical Demands

A young man with glasses is playing a violin on a stage. He is wearing a dark t-shirt and is looking down at his instrument. The background is dark with a red curtain on the right. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**HIGH SCHOOL
SMALL GROUP
LESSONS AND
CHAMBER
MUSIC**

Aiden Chamtemsins & Daniel Ming, Grade 12

Stephanie Merten, Orchestra Director, Syosset High School

Performing *Song No. 1* from *Fünf Lieder*, Op. 105

by Johannes Brahms

A young man with glasses is playing a violin on a stage. He is wearing a dark t-shirt and is looking down at his instrument. The background shows a red curtain and a microphone stand. The image is dimly lit, with the text overlaid in white.

HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUP LESSONS AND CHAMBER MUSIC

- Masterworks from various periods and styles
- Collegiate/Professional-Level Repertoire
- Mastery of Non-Verbal Communication

CHAMBER
MUSIC SOCIETY
OF LINCOLN
CENTER
YOUNG
ARTISTS
PROGRAM

- Highly-Competitive
- 3 Groups considered from each School
- 1st Round – Recorded Performance
- 2nd Round - CMS Regional Invitational
- Regional winners selected to perform at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center

Matthew Gu & Milo Gu, Grade 7

Jeanne Chung, Orchestra Director, South Woods Middle School

Performing *Les entretiens de la belle et de la bête a Ma mère l'oye*
by Maurice Ravel



NEW YORK STATE PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

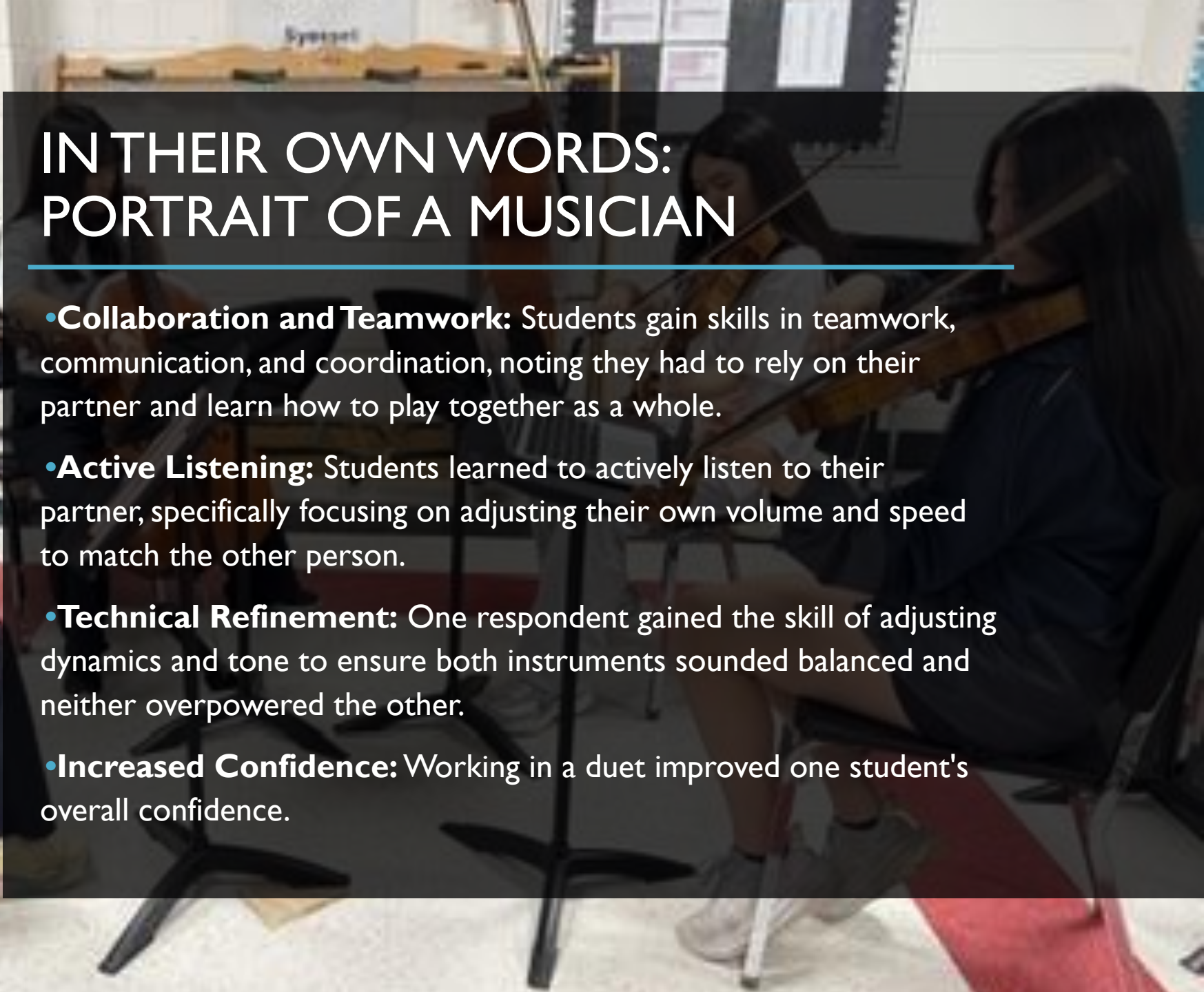
- Academically Prepared
- Creative Innovator
- Critical Thinker
- Effective Communicator
- Global Citizen
- Reflective and Future Focused





IN THEIR OWN WORDS: PORTRAIT OF A MUSICIAN

- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Students gain skills in teamwork, communication, and coordination, noting they had to rely on their partner and learn how to play together as a whole.
- **Active Listening:** Students learned to actively listen to their partner, specifically focusing on adjusting their own volume and speed to match the other person.
- **Technical Refinement:** One respondent gained the skill of adjusting dynamics and tone to ensure both instruments sounded balanced and neither overpowered the other.
- **Increased Confidence:** Working in a duet improved one student's overall confidence.





THANK YOU

@SYOSSETARTS