CASE STUDY #1

Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Side-by-Side Educational Programming

Summary: The Detroit Symphony Orchestra integrated their Education department with the EarShot readings in 2019. Three days before the readings, the chosen participant composers worked alongside ACO Education Director Kevin James, guest artist Jessie Montgomery, and DSO Teaching Artists to create and implement learning modules for students K-12 in local public schools. The learning modules presented at the local schools used the music that the composers had written for the readings to teach concepts of rhythm, improvisation, and harmony. Students were invited to the readings of full works later in the week. The experience spanned 9 days, including 2 days of readings and related educational programs.

Outcomes:
- Reached 500 students and 40 adult educators in one day
- Solidified partnerships with local public schools
- Built relationships with 4 Black orchestral composers
"EarShot Education was an energizing whirlwind of a weekend that proved to me that beyond the art we create, one of the most useful and powerful skills we as artists can develop is the ability to articulate what we do for audiences of all backgrounds."

- EarShot Detroit Participant Composer

"EarShot has helped me to get in gear as I prepare to teach a 4-week summer course at a prestigious university in terms of planning a mode of engagement / interaction. It has made me approach how I would engage a classroom in a different way."

- EarShot Detroit Teaching Artist