



Wadleigh Secondary represents at Little Kids Rock Songwriting Exhibition, 2021

From the Music Teacher, Roslyn White:

American Composers Orchestra has engaging teaching artists who the students easily relate to and connect with. The music students work with ACO deepens their understanding of themselves, promotes creative expression, and encourages productive collaboration. It has been such a positive experience partnering with ACO over the past two years. They find ways to supplement the work teachers are already doing in class in an interactive and easily digestible format which encourages students to take chances and have fun making music.

CASE STUDY #2

Wadleigh Secondary School

Harlem, Manhattan

Sonic Spark Lab

Summary: ACO Teaching Artists met 2x per week with a middle school band class and a 9th grade band class via zoom during the pandemic year. Students learned to use Digital Audio Workstations and to relate their creative efforts to these new instruments - which they learned completely via Zoom.

The students spent the first part of the year learning a wide range of approaches and processes for sound exploration, which culminated in each student creating an original piece to serve as their very own entrance music. They spent the second part of the year connecting their art to their community, using letters written by classmates to local and national politicians as source material for collaborative works. Many of the resulting works were featured in the Wadleigh year-end showcase and 7 student works won awards in the Little Kids Rock Songwriting Exhibition.

Outcomes:

- Students found deeper connections to their instruments, and their community than would have been possible otherwise
- Notably higher attendance on Sonic Spark Lab days
- Students gained a sense of accomplishment and purpose within their school community