CASE STUDY #3

Talent Unlimited High School
Manhattan
Compose Yourself

Summary: Music students from TU meet after school for classes with ACO Education Director, Kevin James, 10 weeks each semester. For many of the students, their final project is their first composition. The students learn healthy and open attitudes toward creativity and are guided through the process of planning and scoring, including the basics of all the instruments and professional approaches to notation.

As they near completion of their projects, they plan rehearsals, recruit musicians among their peers and produce a workshop and showcase of their new works for an audience of family members and their own school community.

Students who want to pursue composition advance to enrollment in ACO’s more ambitious, tuition-based Compose Yourself program. Many of those students continue to benefit from their Compose Yourself affiliation long after leaving High School.

TU graduate and Compose Yourself PRO member Che Buford is the current Presidential Scholar at Boston Conservatory. Che has won several high profile composition competitions in the last year alone.

Outcomes:

- For creative students and those with a need to express themselves, Compose Yourself is where they find their tribe

- Enhanced listening and leadership skills among Compose Yourself students raises level and expectations in all the ensembles where they are active

- Student-produced workshop and concert provides an outlet for composers and performers alike to showcase initiative and artistry, building pride in the community and confidence among all individuals who take part