

music conservatory  
of westchester



## **Music Conservatory of Westchester Music Therapy Institute Receives ASCAP Award**

**Westchester County, NY (January 31, 2011)** – The Music Conservatory of Westchester, a non-profit community school of the arts in White Plains, NY, is the recipient of The ASCAP Foundation Barbara and John LoFrumento Award. This award of \$10,000 enables the Conservatory’s Music Therapy Institute (MTI) to expand its music therapy program, providing weekly music therapy sessions to special needs students in the Eastchester School District. MTI now partners with eight school districts in the county, providing music therapy programs for their students with special needs.

Established by ASCAP CEO John LoFrumento and his wife, Barbara, the award makes it possible for the Conservatory to reach out to young students in the Eastchester elementary schools who might otherwise not have an opportunity to experience music and its healing abilities. The children with special needs, including autistic spectrum disorders, learning and emotional delays, and speech and language delays, are offered this program during their school day with classmates, special educators, music educators, and teaching aides.

The Music Therapy Institute’s faculty works with the district’s self-contained classes, designing and implementing a therapeutic program that will meet each student’s developmental needs. Music therapists use a variety of techniques to engage the children in meaningful, music making experiences. Through songwriting, vocal exploration, and instrumental activities, the students are encouraged to improve musical skill development and address areas such as communication and language development, socialization, emotional development, and self-expression.

“We are thrilled to receive such national recognition by the ASCAP Foundation in support of our Music Therapy Institute,” said the Music Conservatory’s Executive Director Carol Shiffman. “We are committed to providing an excellent music education for students of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, and are eager to further develop our music therapy program with the help of this award.”

In order to maintain their programs, however, the Conservatory must continually seek additional funding sources. “The number of students and programs seeking our services continues to grow each year, as does the need for scholarship assistance and program support,” said Shiffman.

In addition to The ASCAP Foundation honor, the Conservatory received a Community Grant award of \$1,500 earlier this month from CVS Caremark in support of its Music Therapy Institute.

The Music Conservatory of Westchester is located at 216 Central Avenue in White Plains, NY. Registration is always open and financial assistance is available for qualifying students. They can be reached at (914) 761-3900 or by visiting [www.musicconservatory.org](http://www.musicconservatory.org). Follow the Conservatory on Facebook (Westchester MusicConservatory) and Twitter (@MusicCW), or check their new blog ([www.musicconservatoryblog.org](http://www.musicconservatoryblog.org)) for the latest news and updates.

### **About the Music Conservatory of Westchester**

Founded in 1929, the Music Conservatory of Westchester ([www.musicconservatory.org](http://www.musicconservatory.org)) is a non-profit community school of the arts, providing music, musical theatre education, and music therapy for people of all ages and abilities. The Conservatory’s 36,000-square-foot facility in White Plains

offers a Recital Hall and 43 acoustically designed classrooms and teaching studios. Their comprehensive programs, which serve 3,700 students annually, include performing ensembles, musicianship classes, student performances, master classes, workshops, and more. All students receive free admission to the Conservatory's annual series of faculty recitals and children's concerts. This year, the Conservatory awarded \$110,000 in scholarship support and tuition assistance to more than 115 of its students. The Conservatory is chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.



ASCAP's Barbara and John LoFrumento Award will support the Music Therapy Institute at the Music Conservatory of Westchester, which enables special needs children the opportunity to experience music and its healing abilities.



ASCAP CEO John LoFrumento (right) and his wife Barbara (left) present The ASCAP Foundation Barbara and John LoFrumento Award to Lisa Sandagata, Director of Outreach Services for the Music Conservatory of Westchester's Music Therapy Institute.

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