



The KIC Beat 🎵 August 2025 Edition

A message from the directors

We're excited to begin our **12th year of after-school programming at KIC**, and so glad that you are a part of this community!

This summer's camp was a huge success, with **55 campers, 45 mentors, and 250 audience members across three performances**. In just two short weeks, our mentors and staff guided campers through learning and mastering lines, dances, songs, costumes, sets, and props for a performance that was full of humor, heart, and fun. We're incredibly proud of our team and deeply grateful to this community for supporting them.

The new school year is just around the corner! Please mark your calendars for these important dates:

- **First day of KIC (Mon/Wed/Fri students):** September 22
- **First day of KIC (Thurs/Fri students):** September 25
- **Back-to-KIC Night:** September 26, 5:30–7:00 PM — for all KIC students, mentors, and families, facilitated by our brand-new KIC Crew

We're also excited to share that this is the first edition of our monthly family newsletter. Each month, you'll receive key updates, calendars, and reminders about events and fundraising, as well as glimpses into what your kids have been up to at KIC. Our hope is that this becomes a predictable, easy way to stay connected and informed.

Here's to another year of music, growth, and community—we can't wait to see you soon!

With gratitude,
Laura, Kirsten, and Any



KIC News: Staffing updates

When you return to KIC this fall, you might notice a few changes. After five incredible years of service, Christine Edwards will be stepping aside as our Executive Director. Christine has been instrumental in securing highly competitive grants and organizing fundraising efforts that have allowed us to substantially grow our program. We are profoundly grateful to her for all her hard work on behalf of KIC. Although she will no longer be the Executive Director, Christine will continue to support KIC's program and fundraising efforts.

We are excited to announce that Rebecca Marchand will be assuming the role of Executive Director. Rebecca brings a diverse background in leadership, team building, and community engagement through her roles as a Starbucks District Manager, Ombudsman for the U.S. Navy, and Teaching Assistant at The Island School. She has extensive experience in management and organizational support, as well as in directly supporting teachers and students in the classroom. Passionate about working with families and youth, Rebecca is dedicated to fostering inclusive, supportive environments where young people can learn, grow, and thrive. As a mother of three KIC students, Rebecca also has an intimate understanding and appreciation of our program and our KIC community. We feel very lucky to have her!

In other news, Deborah Hobden, our Communications Director and violin/viola teacher will be moving behind the scenes to assist Rebecca with our development and fundraising efforts in the role of Development Coordinator. Although she will no longer be teaching in the after school program, she will still be out and about at KIC events. She's looking forward to supporting the long-term sustainability of this magical program.



Student of the Month: Anya Dunston

This summer, Ani Dunston spent two weeks at the YOLA National Festival in Los Angeles, where she auditioned for and was selected to perform in both the Overture



Gratitude Corner

KIC's Education Director, Any Torres, was part of the support staff for the YOLA National Festival, where nearly 200 young musicians from across the country gathered to learn and perform together. Because of

Orchestra and Overture Chamber group. It was her very first music camp outside of KIC, and she thrived—growing as a cellist, making friends from across the country, and performing on the stage of the Disney Concert Hall. We're so proud of Ani and excited to see all the ways she continues to shine!

her leadership, KIC musicians had the opportunity to take part in this prestigious program and came away with positive, life-changing experiences.

Any's care for our students, her ability to build connections with Sistema programs nationwide, and her gift for opening doors to new collaborations continue to strengthen KIC in lasting ways. Her dedication, vision, and heart make her a true champion for our community every single day.

We are so grateful for you, Any!

News from Healthy and Whole

Hey KIC buddies! We once again look forward to exploring with you what it is to be "Healthy & Whole". For those new to the program, this is the 20 minutes a week that students learn emotional regulation skills from a volunteer therapist and volunteer mindfulness coach. During Friday rotations, Kim Goerlitz and Naomi Nichols spend time teaching students breathing exercises, mindfulness practices, yoga, emotional awareness strategies, self-compassion, and cognitive behavioral techniques. We start the school year by reflecting on our experiences of three core KIC values: kindness, inspiration, and community -- values our own students named and continue to define as we grow together. Can't wait to be with you all soon!

-Kim & Naomi



Support KIC at our fall fundraiser

Hi everyone!

It's hard to believe, but we are already preparing for our annual fall gala and auction- A Night to Delight! This year's event will be on **Saturday, November 15th at Kiana Lodge.**

Each year we rely on the talents and generosity of our KIC community to make this event a success. The money raised at the gala constitutes a significant percentage of our budget, and is critical to ensuring that we can continue to offer KIC programming for free to any child that wants to participate. We are currently in need of volunteers to take on the following responsibilities:

- **Procurement lead.** Help us secure wonderful items for our auction! This is an essential, mostly behind-the-scenes job.
- **Decor lead.** Help us dream up a beautiful event design and lead setup with a team of 2-4 people the day of the event.
- **Check in/check out team.** During the event we will need 2-3 organized volunteers to assist attendees with check-in and check-out using our auction software.
- **Donate an item, service, or experience.** Can you provide a guided fishing trip, a house rental, a live performance experience or tickets to a sporting event? Do you have a skill you are ready to teach? Can you cater a beautiful meal or create a work of art?
- **Sponsor.** Do you own or work for a local business that might be willing to sponsor our event? If so, please let us know and we will gladly send along our sponsorship package!

KIC's programming is free, but running our program is not! We are so grateful to those families who step up to help us with these essential tasks.

If you are able to help or have any questions, please contact Deborah at deborah@kidsinconcert.org.

Thank you!

-Rebecca and Deborah

KIC Camp Sneak Peeks!



One for all and all for one!



Best buddies



A hairball meets an old-timer

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