CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF CO-FOUNDEERS
JOHN HICKENLOOPER
42ND GOVERNOR OF COLORADO &
ISAAC SLADE
GRAMMY-NOMINATED ROCK MUSICIAN OF THE FRAY

HIGHLIGHTS OF TAKE NOTE COLORADO’S INAUGURAL YEARS

FOUNDER’S REPORT
2017-2019
Music has been an integral part of my life and career. I feel so fortunate to have learned how to play an instrument at a young age. But the arts and music education are being stripped from our schools and, in doing that, depriving our children of so much more — the opportunity for self-expression, to learn how to collaborate, to feel empowered. We know that playing an instrument can improve test scores, memory, language acquisition, and so much more — removing music education holds our kids back.

Take Note Colorado was formed understanding the many benefits that music and music education can bring to our lives. More and more research empirically demonstrates the benefits that anyone who plays, and even listens to, music experiences.

Thanks to Isaac Slade, Libby Anschutz and Pat Stryker/Bohemian Foundation, we were able to bring together people from all different backgrounds, already doing incredible work, to create a statewide initiative focused on music education — connecting and collaborating with communities and organizations to form a network of resources to provide access to instruments and instruction to every K-12 student in Colorado.

The first two years of Take Note have been incredible as we have accomplished so much to be proud of — we’ve grown, adapted, and informed our path for the future. We are immensely grateful to everyone who has worked on and supported Take Note Colorado. And we are thrilled to share our progress from the first two years and to continue this incredible work.

John Hickenlooper
42nd Governor of Colorado

Building this initiative with our incredible team has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I’ve usually just watched things like this from afar, wondering how great people get great things done. Working on Take Note Colorado and watching it take shape has been thrilling — as it went from the original few who cooked up the idea, to me and a handful of people jumping onboard to help realize the vision, all the way to the established, thriving organization it is today.

Its success would have been impossible without the tireless support and guidance of the dozen or so who focused on everything from the smallest details to the grand vision, moving the football down the field. I’ve witnessed firsthand the resilience and determination of these passionate expert board members and key players as they’ve maneuvered the ball, especially after setbacks and challenges, and created a never-before-attempted massive statewide private-public partnership. It’s all been chasing the bold idea that Colorado can be the first state in the nation where every K-12 student can learn the universal language of music if they want to, removing the numerous boundaries and obstacles that so many face.

Our core group of founders have built a coalition of equally patient and determined business, not-for-profit, education, philanthropic, arts and government leaders, to create a road to universal music access. If we stay on track and keep the current pace, we could see the completion of Gov. Hickenlooper’s ambitious vision before the end of the 2020s, and its resilience and design could continue to serve future Colorado students for generations to come.

Isaac Slade
Grammy-Nominated rock musician, The Fray

_from the founders_

**THE VISION**

Every K-12 student in Colorado has access to musical instruments and instruction.

— Music Matters, Arts Education Partnership, 2018

MUSIC EDUCATION DEVELOPS THE ABILITIES ESSENTIAL FOR LIFELONG SUCCESS:

- Sharpens attentiveness
- Strengthens perseverance
- Equips students to be creative
- Supports self-esteem and social and cultural identities.

— Music Matters, Arts Education Partnership, 2018
In the Summer of 2016, former Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper and his Community Partnerships senior advisor, Jamie Van Leeuwen, convened musicians and music-lovers, Isaac Slade, Libby Anschutz and Pat Stryker, to share a moonshot of the Governor’s to make Colorado the first state in the nation where all of its K-12 students have access to musical instruments and instruction.

Upon securing the leadership of Take Note Colorado in Slade, Anschutz and Bohemian Foundation, the founding group expanded to include Cheryl Zimlich representing Stryker and Bohemian Foundation, Chuck Morris of AEG Presents, and Chris Tetzeli of TAS Management.

To house and administer the statewide music initiative Libby Anschutz underwrote operations and nonprofit start-up costs and founded the nonprofit, Colorado Music Coalition*, with Karen Radman as Executive Director. The founding board and steering committee recruited additional members to help lead the volunteer-run initiative, adding talented representatives from our community in: Wendy Aiello of Aiello Public Relations & Marketing, Scott Campbell of AEG Presents, Walt DeHaven of CBS4, Christie Isenberg of AMP the Cause, Margaret Hunt of Colorado Creative Industries and Bryce Merrill of Bohemian Foundation.

This founding group shares in the belief that we can all play a role in bringing music into the lives of students and have contributed hundreds of hours of their time and talent to do just that. From visiting all of the pilot school districts statewide to loaning office space for Take Note interns to promoting, publicizing and marketing to introducing artists and other community partners to Take Note—this founding board has provided Take Note with the resources that have allowed us to raise the roof for music education, gaining support of thousands of Coloradoans who believe in the power of music to change lives and drive positive social change.

* In January 2019, Colorado Music Coalition formally changed its name to Take Note Colorado.
Little Kids Rock and Bohemian Foundation put forth a 2:1 challenge match to Take Note Colorado, allocating $2,250,000 in total support to expand Modern Band in Colorado. Thus far, 128 teachers in Colorado have been trained in Modern Band.

As a central partner to Take Note, investing money, time and other resources, Little Kids Rock, and the Modern Band pedagogy that they employ across the US, are critical to our success. Modern Band is a student-centered, highly inclusive and culturally-responsive pedagogy that trains teachers to focus instruction on the music that students choose to listen to. By offering students instruction in rock, hip hop, Mariachi, country, metal and other current genres, teachers increase the number and type of students who are accessing instruments and instruction. Modern Band is an economical choice for providing access to students, running at $5,000-$8,000 per school to 1) train a teacher, 2) provide a full set of modern band classroom instruments, and 3) connect the teacher to peers and resources nationally to continue their professional development. Take Note believes that rural schools with small budgets can benefit significantly from this inclusive and affordable approach.

Both Little Kids Rock and Bohemian Foundation have generously loaned their staff resources and expertise to our Instruments & Instruction work throughout the state. Leading Take Note’s programmatic work, board members, Cheryl Zimlich and Bryce Merrill of Bohemian Foundation have served at the helm in the pilot district feasibility study, while also activating The Music District program, DeTour. DeTour has brought Colorado musicians to facilitate interactive music workshops to our pilot school districts, engaging students with hands-on music-making.

Little Kids Rock has provided their Colorado Director of Programs, Mary Claxton, to Take Note’s Instruments & Instruction Working Group, where she has conducted site visits to consult with schools, funders and community organizations on Take Note’s work.

On March 6, 2017, Take Note.The Concert and its beneficiary nonprofit, the newly named Take Note Colorado, made headlines all across the state as news spread about the Governor’s moonshot to provide access to musical instruments and instruction to every K-12 student in Colorado. Thanks to our friends at Aiello Public Relations & Marketing and in the Communications Office of the Governor, news of our launch made it statewide. The enthusiasm in which both the concert, proudly showcasing some of Colorado’s finest musicians, and, especially, the cause were received exemplified what the founding members already knew to be true—that music is a universal language.

Take Note.The Concert drew over 4,500 people to the 1STBANK Center, raising over $530,000 for our mission.

Music students from Salida del Sol in Greeley and Lesher Middle School in Fort Collins perform at Colorado Governor Jared Polis’ Blue Sneaker Ball Inauguration Celebration.

Modern band students from schools across Colorado participate in a Jam Fest in Grand Junction.

One of Take Note Colorado’s founding Artists Ambassadors, TrackSuit Wedding, are joined by fellow Artist Ambassadors from Big Head Todd and The Monsters and String Cheese Incident for a captivating jam session at Take Note’s launch. Pictured left to right: Jeremy Lawton, Libby Anschutz, Josh Shatten, Bill Nerini, Erica Brown, All Franklin, Trevor Mariotti, Todd Park Mohr and Sta Miller.

(Above) Denver’s own music success story, Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats, headline Take Note.The Concert. Pictured here with a youthful boost to their horn section from two Poudre School District high school students. (Right) International sensation OneRepublic added to our world-class line-up for Take Note’s launch concert. Here three-time Grammy award winning singer-songwriter-producer, Ryan Tedder, serenades Take Note’s audience.

Julia, a Poudre School District middle school student, performs for our founding sponsors and donors at our VIP pre-party at Take Note.The Concert.
EAST OTERO SCHOOL DISTRICT
LA JUNTA, CO

Sitting on the south bank of the Arkansas River in Southeastern Colorado, La Junta is located in shortgrass prairie country, about 65 miles east of Pueblo on the BNSF Railway line. For more than 100 years, La Junta has formed a junction for commercial, agricultural, and ranching ventures.

With three-quarters of the student population qualifying for free and reduced lunch, an indicator of poverty, East Otero School District is the most economically-challenged and smallest of Take Note’s pilot districts, with only three schools in the entire district. Due to funding, La Junta is one of many rural school districts in Colorado that have moved to a four-day school week. For a rural farming community like La Junta, a day off of school each workweek is a burden to families who then have to find alternative, safe and, ideally, free and educational, activities for their kids while they are working.

Partnering with the local library, Woodruff Memorial Library, Take Note activated DeTour to pilot free interactive youth music workshops featuring harmony singing, auto-tuning and turntable demos and more on Fridays, marketing to the districts’ students. Additional workshops and music program offerings will also be conducted at the Library in Summer 2019.

Although all of the three schools in the district offer music to their students, many of their instruments in inventory were in disrepair and unusable, limiting the number of students who could participate. In addition to establishing music workshops at Woodruff, Take Note supported the district with a grant to cover instrument repair as well as donated over 100 new musical instruments for students’ use.

Source: Colorado Department of Education, Schoolyear 2018-19

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-3
FORT MORGAN, CO

Located on the Eastern Plains about 80 miles northeast of Denver, Fort Morgan has been home to immigrants and migrant workers since it was first settled in the mid-1800s. With a local economy based in the agri-business sector, several large producers operate factories/factories in Fort Morgan. Because of the nature of the physically demanding, unskilled work, English language proficiency has not, historically, been required. Today, over a quarter of Fort Morgan’s population speak a primary language other than English.

Over the past decade, Fort Morgan has seen an influx of newcomers from East Africa, many Somali refugees, who have dramatically increased the diversity of this rural agricultural town. To ensure that Take Note would impact this refugee population, we partnered with the district and a community organization, OneMorgan County, whose mission is to “foster relationships among diverse people and organizations to strengthen the inclusive nature of [Fort Morgan’s] community.” By offering culturally-relevant, student-centered music programming, Take Note and its partners were able to reach more immigrant students with music that was both familiar to them while being taught by fellow newcomers.

Take Note also donated 33 new musical instruments to the district to loan out to low-income, minority and/or newcomer students and made a grant to support teacher stipends to provide free music programming for district students during Summer 2018 and afterschool in Schoolyear 2018-19. Eight teachers were trained in Modern Band, serving 1,840 students.

Source: Colorado Department of Education, Schoolyear 2018-19

9 in 10 Americans believe that the arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education.

— Americans Speak Out About the Arts Americans for the Arts, 2018
Since its founding in 2014 by musician/philanthropist Libby Anschutz, and her band, Tracksuit Wedding, Sing It To Me Santa has become an annual Denver holiday tradition. Anchoring the line-up each year, Tracksuit Wedding brings its unique vintage rock/funk/blues sound of originals, covers and even a few holiday tunes to get the Ogden Theatre audience in the holiday spirit. National artists headline the show.

As a Take Note co-founder, Libby designated the newly-launched initiative as the beneficiary of her concert beginning in 2017. $125,000 was allocated from that first year’s proceeds to support students in Denver Public Schools who do not have access to music instruction at their schools. Growing bigger each year, 2018’s gross was the highest yet, raising over $320,000 in support of Take Note’s mission.

Take Note co-founders—former Governor John Hickenlooper (left), join musician/philanthropist Libby Anschutz (center) and her band, Tracksuit Wedding.

Stay true to Take Note Colorado’s mission, young musicians are granted an opportunity to take the stage and are featured in the performance line-up. Here Devon, from Aurora Public Schools, performs with Isaac Slade.

Grammy-nominated, rock/blues band, The Record Company, headlined in 2017—and then again in 2018 at On Tap with KBCO.


Sponsors like, Sage Hospitality’s Urban Farmer, MillerCoors and Globe Hall BBQ provide for a happening VIP party, while raising funds for music for kids.

Colorado country outlaw musician, Ryan Chrys (& the Rough Cuts), makes magic as our very own Santa.

Take Note could not have made the impact it has on our Colorado communities without the aid of promotions and media partners, AEG Presents Rocky Mountains, CBS4 News and 97.3 KBCO radio. Not only has each of these partners spread the word about Take Note’s vision, but they’ve gone above and beyond in ensuring that the initiative took root throughout Colorado.

AEG PRESENTS

Under the leadership of Walt DeHaven, GM of CBS4 Denver and Take Note board member, Take Note’s worthy cause made the news, while our partners at the station created Public Service Announcements to spread the word of our statewide initiative. In 2019, Take Note became the proud awardee of a $73,000 grant from the national affiliate, CBS EcoMedia.

From emceeing and promoting our concerts to making Take Note its charitable beneficiary and inviting our Artists Ambassadors to Studio C, our partners at 97.3 KBCO have played a key role in Take Note’s early success.

CBS4’s Emmy award-winning journalists, Karen Leigh and Jim Benemann, interview Todd Park Mohr and Nathaniel Rateliff (respectively) about Take Note’s launch.

On Tap with KBCO Presents Live Music at Breckenridge Brewery benefiting Take Note Colorado.
AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS / ADAMS - ARAPAHOE 28J
AURORA, CO

Located in the Denver metro area, Aurora Public Schools is one of the largest districts in the state with over 38,000 students. Aurora is an ethnically diverse district with over 160 languages spoken by students coming from more than 130 countries. With such a diverse student population, Aurora determined that Take Note could be most helpful in providing funds for the district to implement its own music mini-grant program. Mini-grants up to $2,000 per school allowed teachers to outline specifically how they believed they could better reach their English Language Learners (ELL) and underserved students who may not be accessing their music offerings. Grants were awarded to purchase classroom instruments and offer new culturally-relevant, student-centered programs through Aurora’s music educators and community partners. Through Take Note’s partner, Little Kids Rock, 23 teachers were also trained in modern band, serving 5,111 Aurora students.

Aurora’s students and educators alike were treated to a rare opportunity to have their state Governor and a rock star address their school. Students at Clyde Miller PK-8 School performed a song with Take Note’s founding co-chairs—and made the local nightly news—during the January 2018 Take Note pilot district announcement. Earlier that same day, Slade joined eight other musicians at Aurora Frontier K-8 to engage 600 students in music workshops.

Always the Artist Ambassador, Slade bestowed a truly unique opportunity on the students of Aurora Central High School, an underperforming school that had recently been threatened with closure due to low graduation rates. In Spring 2019, Aurora Central became the honored recipient of a very special loan—a new Bösendorfer grand piano—owned by the Grammy-nominated musician and his wife, Anna. Students were even treated to a special Take Note assembly, where Slade played some of his hit songs on the Bösendorfer and facilitated a Q&A with the students.

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DENVER, CO

The largest school district in our state, Denver Public Schools (DPS), educates over 86,000 K-12 students. Of its 205 urban schools, over 75 of them do not offer music, the majority of these schools being charters. Although DPS was not one of Take Note’s original five pilot school districts, $125,000 was allocated from the proceeds of Sing It To Me Santa 2017 to provide music access to these DPS students who don’t have music offerings at school.

Take Note has been actively developing partnerships not just with DPS but also community organizations like Youth On Record, Denver Public Libraries and Denver Arts & Venues to find alternative solutions to serve students from schools where there is no music teacher. In 2018, Denver Arts & Venues even added criteria to their own grantmaking program to fund organizations and musicians who would serve students from Denver’s schools with no music.

Launching in Summer 2019, a pilot program with Denver Public Libraries (DPL) will provide modern band training to DPL summer staff from branch libraries in neighborhoods where these under-served students live. Take Note Music Experiences, experiential music-making workshops hosted by local musicians for youth, will kick-off summer music programming at select Denver library branches.

Schools that offer music programs have an 8.4% higher attendance rate than schools without music programs.

—Music Makes the Grade, National Association for Music Education
SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR FUNDING DONORS WHOSE SUPPORT HAS ALLOWED TAKE NOTE TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND INSTRUCTION TO COLORADO’S K-12 STUDENTS.

DONORS

**$100,000 +**
Libby Anschutz Foundation
The Anschutz Foundation
Boehmisch Foundation
Portlight Real Estate Group

**$50,000 - $99,999**
Bank of America
CBS EcoMedia
Hagan Lovettz LLP
Evans Amsterdam & Rob Katz
Liberty Bank/ The Free Foundation
Morganbridge Family Foundation
Oakwood Homes/BuildStrong Education
Brian Singleton (legacy award by the Denver Post Community Foundation)
Walton Family Foundation

**$25,000 - $49,999**
Steve G. & Wendy Cohen
HeartMedia / 97.3 KBCO
Christy & Walter Isenberg
McWhinney
Susan & Lee McIntire

**$10,000 - $24,999**
Anadarko
Ambrose Goldin & Delia LLP
Gary & Bruce Benson
Comfort Dental
D’Vita
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Fairview
Gary Katz
Helen Feinberg
Harmes C Fishback Foundation
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Henry & Lorie Gordon
Homes Foundation
MDC/Richmond American
Frampton

**$5,000 - $9,999**
Browning Wyatt Foster Schreck
Bryan Care LLP / Lynn Hendrix Collections to MI, LLC
Colorado Creative Industries
Diane & Charles Gallagher
Family Fund of the Denver Foundation
Brett & John Gier
Former Governor John & First Lady Robin Hickenlooper
HomeAdvisor, Inc.
Liese Noon
Pena Foundation
Romani Foundation
Shames Construction
Silver Oak
White Wave Foods
D.K. Golly & Woods

**$2,500 - $4,999**
Ace Eat Set
Christine Bemis & Brad Busse
Boledin Leib & Stogniew
Bonfils-Stanton Foundation
Scott & Sara Carpenter
Jay’s Valey
Liberty Gloves
Sara & Luke McNeice
McWhinney
Mike High United Way
OfficeScapes
Zack & Ausschick Paspel
State of CO Office of Economic Development
Chris & Rose Widmayer Jr.

**$1,000 - $2,499**
Anonymous (3)
17 Management LLC
Bart & Nicole Bansbach
Bart & Londe Dammon
Beaverton
Max & Kenney Calkins
Dean Coughlin
Tim & Patty Coughlin
Diane Cusmano of Stitter, Smith & Frapont
Walt Deloff & Wendy Avello Deloffe
DoCo365 3 Friends
Elevation Development Group
Helen Forsberg
Susan Frapont
Holley Custom Homes
Tom Henley
Barry & Arline Hirschfeld
Mike & Patty Isenhoff
Gary Katz
Anne & Kenneth Koepf
David & Lisa Marr
Laura & Sharon Marvin
Meyers Family Foundation
Chuck & Becky Morris

**$750 - $999**
Anonymous (5)
Arlington
American Library Association
Brooke & Brooklyn Berg
Brint Z & Bo Brunett
Pam & Patrick Hatcher
Cindy & David Golding
The Greenwood Resource
Pam & Patrick Hatcher
Melissa Hubbard
Margaret Hunt
Vance Mckinstry
Bryan Merrill
Mary & Randy Miller
Tom & Becky O’Donora
Christian Ortel
Taylor & Michael Parish
Melissa & Alex Perkins
Karen Robison & Michael Fairmon
Dave & Julie Ramer
Tricia & Becky Swenson
March & Nina Wani
Kyle Dyer & Chris West
Michelle & Tom Whittem
Wolfe Family Foundation
Cheryl Zimlich

**$250 - $499**
Anonymous (2)
Christopher Brown
John & Jenna Burnstein
Joshua Cahn
Gary Dixon
Diana Dunn
Amy Harman
Diana Hartney
Graham Henderson
Josh Keilgy
Michael Wynnemong
Mary Lou Notter
Charity Thames-Thomas-Robinson
Sharon Todd

IN-KIND
75 Management
AES Presents Rocky Mountains
Auxito Public Relations
Marketing
Lisa Alician
Libby Anschutz & Jeff Allen
Aramark
AERIA Impala
Avelda
CBS4
Clear Fork Hard Cider
Coom-Selmer
Creative Law Network
John Cusatis
Deuton
The Denver Post
Denver Public Schools Foundation
Kate Dyrer Storytelling
Peggy Dyer (CM) Project
Eastman Music Company
Focused Interaction Inc.
Global Hall BBQ
Guinilla Method Design
Guard & Grace
Holland & Knight
Steve Hostetler Photography
97.3 KBCO
Sarah Jefferson
Lau’s Italian Specialties
Mike High Spirits
Mike High United Way
MooreCo
Office of Governor of Colorado
Oskar Blues Brewery
Outfront Media
Steve Peterson - TerrainXchange
Rud Reed Imaging
Rugby National Distributing Company
Salesforce
Sign Language XL
Silver Oak Cellars
Susan & Anga Slade
Urban Farmers
The Weston Wisconsin
Wild Moon Liqueurs
Yamaha Music

Many, many thanks to the over 75 volunteers who contributed more than 2,500 hours in service to TAKE NOTE! You make Take Note the Colorado-grown community initiative that it is, and we couldn’t have operated in these founding years without your assistance.

“I went to a local store called The Parker Shoppes for about 6 hours a week from Halloween to Christmas and played & sang Christmas songs with my acoustic guitar. I collected tips... and made all of the checks to [Take Note]. In total, I raised over $300.”

— Joshua Keilgy, a high school student who selected Take Note for his International Baccalaureate project.

REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT

- Contributions: $28,948
- Sponsorships: $310,000
- In-kind: $10,500
- Total Revenue & Other Support: $49,448

EXPENSE

- Program services: $210,134
- Management & General: $29,098
- Fundraising: $33,121
- Total Expenses: $272,353

Fiscal year 2017 - 2018

Colorado Music Coalition also Take Note Colorado received an unmodified opinion by independent accountants, Taylor, Ruth and Company PLLC for the year ended June 30, 2018. The complete independent accountants report on financial statements is available upon request.

Music has always been an important part of my life and I am so proud that The Denver Post Community Foundation selected Take Note Colorado as our grant recipient this year. Their mission...is remarkable and will help change countless young lives in the years to come.

— Amy & Carol Bayer, Co-founders Portlight Real Estate Group

Music to you...
MESA COUNTY VALLEY D51 SCHOOL DISTRICT
GRAND JUNCTION, CO

Located on the Western Slope at the confluence of the Gunnison River into the Colorado, amidst the magnificent canyon and red rock landscape of Colorado National Monument, Mesa County Valley D51 School District (D51) is the largest district of the Western Slope. With boundaries up to the Utah border and down to Palisade, famously known as the home of Colorado peaches, D51 is a relatively impoverished district with just under half of its students eligible for free and reduced lunch. One of the few districts in the state that has a dedicated music supervisor, D51 has a relatively robust music program and is home to the Colorado West Marching Band Festival held annually in the fall. As with all of the districts that Take Note has worked with, D51’s music programs are still not reaching a vast majority of its students, particularly those who can’t afford to rent an instrument to participate.

Take Note donated over 30 new string instruments to add to the district’s inventory so that more students can borrow an instrument of their own and won’t have to share while participating in band and orchestra.

Twenty-three district teachers were also trained in modern band by Take Note partner Little Kids Rock, serving 4,338 students. In May 2019, Colorado Mesa University served as the host to Grand Junction’s first modern band JamFest. One hundred and ten students and their teachers, from D51, Aurora, Denver, Fort Collins and Greeley, participated, jamming together on stage to a packed house.

ROARING FORK RE-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO

Home to world-class ski resorts, Roaring Fork Valley is located on the Western Slope, defined by the Roaring Fork River and its tributaries, Crystal River and Fryingpan River. Roaring Fork school district serves residents of Glenwood Springs, Carbondale and Basalt, bedroom communities for day workers in Aspen and Snowmass. As such, the school district serves a majority of minority students, with close to half of the students also eligible for free and reduced lunch. Some of the district’s 13 schools have abundant resources for music, while others are lacking.

Take Note took a collective impact partnership approach to its work in Roaring Fork, piloting how collaborative hubs could be established in communities to help fulfill Take Note’s mission. Aspen Community Foundation jumped on early, convening some of their local grantees who serve the school district and the student population. Take Note was able to share our vision and learn about the work being done—and work that still needed to be done—in the Valley. Take Note was then invited to host a silent auction as part of the 2017 three-day music festival, Jazz Aspen Snowmass (JAS) Labor Day Experience. Funds raised supported a free youth Beat Lab workshop series, ran by JAS In-Schools at the Basalt and Glenwood Springs Libraries, during summer 2018.

Take Note donated over 40 new instruments to the district to supplement their instrument inventory to allow more kids to participate. In addition, chorale classrooms received classroom sets of chorale literature and a piano tuning. Eleven teachers were trained in modern band, serving 2,040 students.

Source: Colorado Department of Education, Schoolyear 2018-19

45
# of K-12 schools

21,245
number of students

49%
of students eligible for free & reduced lunch

30%
of students are minorities

Source: Colorado Department of Education, Schoolyear 2018-19

13
# of K-12 schools

5,455
number of students

43%
of students eligible for free & reduced lunch

58%
of students are minorities

Source: Colorado Department of Education, Schoolyear 2018-19

17% difference in student test scores in Math and English when comparing schools with robust and no music education.

— Journal for Research in Music Education, June 2007
ARTIST AMBASSADORS

TAKE NOTE ARTIST AMBASSADORS ARE ESTABLISHED MUSICIANS WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF MUSIC AND IN TAKE NOTE’S VISION TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO INSTRUMENTS AND INSTRUCTION TO COLORADO’S STUDENTS.

Take Note has had the good fortune to engage many talented musicians—supporting our efforts through benefit concerts, school visits, community engagement and other awareness- and fund-raising activities.

ISAAC & ANNA SLADE
Take Note’s co-founder, Isaac Slade, of The Fray, has been a “boots on the ground” leader, visiting schools across the state, speaking with educators and kids and performing both for and with students. Performing amazing duets, Anna graciously joined husband, Isaac, on stage at numerous events, from Take Note. The Concert to Sing It To Me Santa.

NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHT SWEATs
Under the management of Take Note board member Chris Tetzeli’s company, 7S Management, Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats (NRNS) have stood at the helm of our Artists Ambassadors, headlining Take Note. The Concert, jumping on stage with Preservation Hall Jazz Band in a benefit concert for Take Note and spreading awareness about our mission.

TRACKSUIT WEDDING
Opening each December show, and always with some very special guests, Denver’s own Tracksuit Wedding founded and co-produces Sing It To Me Santa, now Take Note’s signature event. Tracksuit Wedding performed at Take Note. The Concert and engages regularly in activities and concerts in support of Take Note.

BIG HEAD T ODD & THE MONSTERS
Another 7S Management artist, Big Head Todd & the Monsters (BHTM) also performed at the 2017 launch concert. BHTM headlined the first On Tap with KBCO concert at Breckenridge Brewery benefiting Take Note, have made special appearances at Sing It To Me Santa and have raised public awareness about Take Note.

YO YO MA
World-famous cellist, Yo Yo Ma, launched his Bach Project and Day of Action in Denver. With Red Rocks the host of the first of his 36 solo concert series held on six continents, Yo Yo Ma partnered with the Office of the Governor, Take Note and other metro area organizations to explore and celebrate the ways that culture makes us stronger, as individuals, as communities, as a society and as a planet (https://bach.yo-yo.com/about/). Students from El Sistema Colorado and Hamilton Middle School’s Modern Band were not only able to engage with Yo Yo Ma himself, but they also performed with him. What an incredible opportunity for all involved!

BILL & JULIAN NERSHI / STRING CHEESE INCIDENT
Also artists from our launch concert, String Cheese Incident’s Bill Nershi, and his wife, Julian, have served as Take Note Artist Ambassadors, from performing together at Sing It To Me Santa to donating signed band merchandise.

Through the advocacy of the Nershis, String Cheese Incident selected Take Note as co-beneficiary of the proceeds from a drawing for an original piece of artwork, “Colorado Bluebird Sky” by Josh Harrier, signed by all members of the band. String Cheese Incident promoted the drawing and Take Note throughout their 2017 three-date Red Rocks shows, on their website and on their social media channels.

LITTLE STEVEN
Little Steven and The Disciples of Soul’s 2018 Teacher Solidarity Tour made a stop in Denver with Steven Van Zandt making a side-stop to visit and talk with high school students at Denver Public Schools’ CEC Middle College. Van Zandt is the founder of TeachRock, a nonprofit that creates and provides free online educational materials and lesson plans for teachers and students everywhere, connecting the history of popular music to classroom work across the disciplines. The Teacher Solidarity Tour provided metro area teachers a free, credit professional development course—along with a complimentary ticket to the concert!

OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW
Old Crow Medicine Show partnered with Take Note and our presenting sponsor Porchlight Real Estate Group on A Take Note Event. Helping us to raise $145,000, the band provided discounted tickets for and during-concert promotion of Take Note at their August 2018 Red Rocks show.

MICHAEL FRANTI & SPEARHEAD
At their June 2019 Red Rocks concert, Michael Franti & Spearhead helped raise funds for Take Note through a VIP pre-concert party. One hundred and twenty-five Take Note guests experienced an intimate pre-concert dinner event with Michael Franti and bandmates, J Bowman and Carl Young. Guests had the opportunity to meet the band members and were serenaded to a short musical set in the scenic backyard of the Trading Post at Red Rocks before heading to the Amphitheatre for the full show.
Term-limited Hickenlooper, stepped out of office in January 2019, passing the state’s reins over to Governor Jared Polis. Governor Polis graciously welcomed and honored Hickenlooper’s initiative by appointing Rob Ryan to the Take Note board in February 2019 and inviting Take Note Colorado to be part of his Blue Sneaker Ball Inauguration Celebration. Music students from Salida del Sol in Greeley and Lesher Middle School in Fort Collins performed and Take Note’s video played for over 3,000 guests.

In June 2019, co-founders, John Hickenlooper and Isaac Slade, officially stepped down from their co-chair roles. Supporters of the vision, both will remain honorary chairs of and advisors to Take Note Colorado. Slade asked Wesley Schultz from The Lumineers to serve as his successor. Take Note is thrilled that Schultz agreed and will take on the role of Take Note Colorado Music Chair in August 2019.

With a new administration in state office, Take Note Colorado’s board made the decision to merge its operations starting in July 2019 with another initiative founded by Hickenlooper, the Biennial of the Americas. The Take Note Colorado board is looking forward to continuing to provide access to musical instruments and instruction to Colorado’s K-12 students!