



What People Say About Kid Pan Alley

"There is nothing more helpful to a developing human than to learn how to express feelings in sound. Kid Pan Alley is a fabulous way of bringing young people into the loop of reflective behavior, of constructive action. Power to the organizers of this remarkable initiative."

Maestro Lorin Maazel, Former Music Director, NY Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Castleton Festival

"*One Little Song Can Change the World*, and you will believe it afresh after listening to this new recording from Kid Pan Alley. The songs carry the insightful and foresightful truths of young artistic spirits, and the music is a sharp, clear, clever, beautiful embodiment of these wise-before-their-years young writers. It is often said that Kid Pan Alley inspires students—it isn't just students who come away from this work inspired." *Eric Booth, actor and author of "The Music Teaching Artist's Bible" and "The Every Day Work of Art." Former professor at Julliard, Stanford, Lincoln Center Institute, and Kennedy Center—considered the father of the teaching artist profession*

"What you are doing to instill the love of music and the arts into the lives of children is so important and heart-warming. You are making them life-long creators, listeners, and supporters and for that, I am so deeply grateful."

Maestro Pinchas Zukerman, violinist, conductor and recipient of the Presidential National Medal of Arts

"Kid Pan Alley is where creativity starts. Without this amazing program, most kids will never know the joy of writing and singing their own song."

Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell, Sweet Honey in the Rock

"Kid Pan Alley is the quintessential program for helping kids to experience their creative power, their voice, and their own self-expression. This is the kind of experience that changes lives."

Kathy Mattea, Grammy award winner

"One of the country's most distinctive arts education programs...An artistically robust operation that typically reaches thousands of kids annually with hands-on, collaborative songwriting and performing instruction and experience. It's a bit of a wonder. And the songs are amazing."

Rick Davis, Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts, George Mason University

"Eclectic and delightful, Best Friends is a joy to experience and share, highly recommended." *Midwest Book Review*

"Reisler's talents are many and his creativity, vast. Not too many people can do what he can do, bring the spirit of music and creating to new generations, opening up one of the most important doors there is. He is a national treasure."

*Robert Fritz, composer, filmmaker and author of best-selling books *Creating* and *The Path of Least Resistance**

Best Friends "is a great example of creative teamwork between children and adults."

Bookworm

"After an extremely challenging year getting students to attend programming, Piedmont Arts was lucky to get two sessions with the creators at Kid Pan Alley to work with local middle school campers. Paul, Cheryl, and Lea were able to engage with and get beautiful songs out of middle school students who were on summer break. The fact that they were able to do this virtually, despite technical difficulties on our end, is a true testament to their ability to connect with youth and help even the most reluctant or shy students tap into their creativity! They were so flexible working with us through internet and connectivity issues, and even delayed sessions because of transportation hiccups. We cannot wait to see what they are able to accomplish with our elementary students this fall, and are so grateful that they are offering this program virtually so that no matter what the pandemic throws at us, we will still be able to provide quality music education this year."

Sarah Short, Education Coordinator, Piedmont Arts, Martinsville, VA

"Once the kids become more empowered by their artistic expression, "Julie's Greenroom" powerfully demonstrates how the arts are anything but frivolous. Some of the most moving moments in the show occur when the characters are provided with heartrending documentary footage of real kids flourishing in the sort of programs that will likely get cut after the NEA is demolished... The ripple effect of all these programs is perhaps best epitomized by the **Kid Pan Alley**

songwriting project, founded by Paul Reisler to guide children in creating their own music. Watching the exuberance of the kids onscreen...and the applause received by the children after their performance served as an affirmation that their work matters and that their lives matter too.”
RogerEbert.com

“*The Talented Clementine* is a fun-filled, topsy-turvy romp through the mind and misadventures of a creative, observant, daydreaming third grader and the adults and children in her life...It elevates the heart and the soul, is filled with the joy of each of the many people who created it and bring it to life, and will have you tapping your feet throughout. Bring your parents, bring your kids, and go home together singing and smiling along with this talented cast and crew.”

DC Metro Theater Magazine

“The ten songs on *One Little Song Can Change the World* feature gorgeous lead vocals by performers such as Jevon McGlory, Lea Morris and Ysaye Barnwell that are often backed by a talented children’s chorus. Lush instrumentation accompanies the lyrics about bullying, friendship, loving yourself, and supporting others. VERDICT Important messages to be shared with children of all ages.”

School Library Journal

“One of the true treasures that we have in Rappahannock is Kid Pan Alley. The program which was created by our local pied piper, Paul Reisler, promotes community awareness of the arts while creating opportunities for children to explore their creativity through songwriting in a school setting. The enormous success of this program deserves the support of all public minded citizens and patrons of the arts.” *Col. John Bourgeois, Director Emeritus, United States Marine Band, “The President’s Own*

“One Little Song is a bracing and essentially buoyant collection of 10 songs about respect — respect for others, for one’s environment, one’s community and oneself — written with a surprisingly sophisticated worldview by children working with Kid Pan Alley (KPA) songwriters over the past several years.”

Piedmont Lifestyle Magazine

“There is something truly inspiring about the new Kid Pan Alley CD. In fact, the album is inspiring in two ways. Kids will be inspired by the album’s ten songs, which hold uplifting, positive messages about the virtues of friendship, diversity, and having a dream, as well as not being mean or a bully. The CD also inspires young listeners to express their creativity because the songs are all co-written by elementary school students. Admirable and empowering, the CD aims to live up to its title: One Little Song Can Change the World.”

NAPPA Journal on announcing KPA won their Gold Award

“But in addition to the amazing guest stars, each episode of Julie’s Greenroom includes a clip featuring a real-life organization that brings the arts to kids, including **Kid Pan Alley**, Story Pirates, and Harlem School of the Arts.”

Broadway World

“As an elementary school educator, I’m a big fan of anybody or anything that creates opportunities for children to create and write in a collaborative setting. And as a music journalist, I’m an even a bigger fan of Paul Reisler, and Kid Pan Alley’s freshest product, “I Used to Know the Names of All the Stars.” There’s not a weak link in this chain of 18 splendid kid-penned tunes but I’m particularly smitten by the lovely “Who Said Love” and the wise guy humor of “My Dog Did My Homework.”

Bill Craig, Richmond Times-Dispatch

“This is the kind of music kids should be hearing.”

Tristan LeJeune, The Daily Progress

“We are always looking for innovative ways to make the works of art in the collection feel more relevant. Kid Pan Alley’s *The Music Of Art* program does just that. The songwriting process around these works opens up a world of visual literacy, curiosity, creativity, collaboration and confidence for the students, helping them develop personal and meaningful connections with the works and with each other. The results are pure magic”

Sarah Durkee, Vice President Of Public Education, Corcoran Gallery of Art

“Magnificent; honest, transformational lyrics with groove that pulls out all the stops. Kid Pan Alley’s latest group of songs written with elementary school students makes us know our future is in good hands. With the Kid Pan Alley experience in their pockets, these children know to the core how to express ideas, how to collaborate, and best of all, that they are creators of awesome songs.”

Art of the Song Creativity Radio

“WHERE HAVE YOU PEOPLE BEEN ALL MY LIFE???” I got the CD "Tidal Wave of Song," and it made my day. It also made my review in Metrokids Magazine. Frankly, I was despairing of finding anything good to write about this

month and was reaching back to some of last year's favorites (Grammy-nominated). I put your CD in the player, and my only problem is what to play first on Kids Corner. I love this CD. It is quite amazing.”

Kathy O'Connell, WXPN-FM, Philadelphia

“The Kid Pan Alley project is a great concept, to be sure. But the end result is even more impressive. Kids' music that is exactly that: Music for-and by-kids. The songs are written with a charming honesty and whimsy that only children can create...Unquestionably the most original kids' CD I've heard all year.”

Kenny Curtis, XM Satellite Radio

“Tidal Wave of Song is a veritable tsunami of homegrown music from Rappahannock County, VA. Wide-ranging, surprising and fun. But my favorite thing about the CD is that it is one of the most community-based projects I've ever heard. From start to finish it sings a song that could and should be lifted in every neighborhood, county and country: "This is who we are!" I love it!”

John McCutcheon, Grammy nominee

“From the first notes you are hooked by the joy that went into this project. It's an album as ageless as the community that has created it, and that rings true with just one listen...Music that can be enjoyed by the entire family.”

MetroKids Magazine, Philadelphia, PA

“Feel-good songs, bluesy songs, funny songs and silly songs, big-hearted, I-know-how-you-feel songs: This beautifully produced CD is an all-inclusive celebration of creativity, shared experiences and new horizons.”

Parents' Choice Magazine

“The Nashville Kid Pan Alley CD has not left my car CD player since I first received it. Kids of all ages love it. The songwriting of the school children along with adult songwriters is so incredibly disarming.”

Amy Grant, Grammy award winner

“When it comes to music for kids, Nashville couldn't produce better songwriters than, well . . . kids. Simply put, no one can capture the essence of Christmas in Tennessee, the fulfillment of curling up in front of your favorite cartoons or the pleasantly pungent aroma of stinky socks quite like a child can.”

The Tennessean, Nashville, TN

“Paul Reisler has tapped into the creative powers of kids, inspiring and empowering them, and lighting a new fire in the artists that get the privilege of working with them.”

Lari White, Grammy nominee

“A stunning example of what can happen when children are given the opportunity to create without boundaries, and professionals are given the chance to remember what that felt like. The sheer joy and the profound wisdom of simplicity are evident on every track and the recording and musicianship are stellar.”

Performing Songwriter

“It is I who should thank YOU, for bringing Kid Pan Alley and your mission to our community. Without a doubt, you have transformed the lives of the students you touched. Someday, we will hear about them in tributes. I am sure that Roger told you about the little boy who told a social worker that he did not want to miss school that day because it was the day of the field trip and the Steppin' Out concert. The child was in the middle of testifying in a molestation case involving him and his brother. Imagine that, for a brief few hours, he could forget his troubles and pain, immersed in our/your music.”

Pam Lee, President, Stockton Symphony

“Although writing a song sounds tricky, Reisler and his team have gotten it down to a science.” *Washington Post*

“Picasso said, ‘Every child is an artist. The problem is to remain one once they grow up.’ These 65,000 kids I've written songs with over the past 20 years have helped and inspired me to remain an artist. Or perhaps like Peter Pan, I never grew up. In any case, though I'll never be able to get these earworms out of my head, I can't think of anything better than these songs to wake me up in the middle of the night.”

Paul Reisler, Kid Pan Alley Founder

“I think it helps because it makes people more confident of who they are and who they are going to grow up to be and who they really are.” “It was awesome.” “We get to express our feelings.” “Everytime you get lost, just follow your heart.” “We love it.”

Quotes from kids

What Teachers, Parents and Administrators Say About Kid Pan Alley

“Kid Pan Alley is a truly unique project and one, which honestly offers magic in the real world. The workshops create an environment, in which children learn while creating and, in the end, are empowered by the experience. The songs that grow out of this sharing are fresh and downright good. As Manager of Statewide Programs and Exhibitions at the VMFA, I work with every community to bring the arts to each citizen of Virginia. Kid Pan Alley is one of the most community focused I have ever seen.”

Jeffrey Allison, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

“Throughout the song writing process, the students are taken on a journey of discovery that ignites their imaginations and ability to create. The experience of working with professional musicians that help turn their ideas into works of art is truly remarkable. I have witnessed students who might have difficulty connecting to the world around them, find their voice and learn how to use it. I was particularly touched as one student created a beautiful and complex melody line. This student has not shown this type of ability in the past, and this self-discovery has produced a better level of engagement in the weeks afterward. It is also a joy for me to be able to join and help the students and find that I become lost in the magic of the process myself. “

Heidi Johnson-Taylor, Music Teacher, Patrick Henry School for Sciences & Art, Richmond, VA

“This was one of the most amazing and valuable residencies that I’ve ever had the privilege to be a part of. I loved the way that the songwriters honored each and every idea that was put forward by the children and then helped to gently guide them to the final product.”

Hilary Sales, Music Teacher, Union Elementary School, Montpelier, VT

“Children learn to the core when they are engaged in meaningful work that is relevant to their life experiences and honors their ideas. 'Stand Up and Be Heard: One Little Song Can Change the World' draws children into the important work of exploring and expressing who they are and what they want to see in their world. The assembly beautifully supports a school's character development curriculum, building on universal concepts in the words of children themselves. Children deserve to be heard; this assembly helps us listen more closely.”

ElizaBeth McCay, PhD, Principal, Jackson-Via Elementary, Charlottesville, VA

“As I watched the songs develop over the course of the week I was amazed at the array of extension activities that stem from your program. For example, we could incorporate poetry, chorus, music/songwriting, recording, performing arts, videography, and content related topics to the mix. Thank you so much for working with our students and showing them that they have the imagination, creativity, mental capacity, and courage to write and perform their own compositions.”

T H. Renteria, Ph.D., Education Director, Volcano School for Arts & Sciences, Volcano, HI

“Seeing and hearing the songs written and preformed by our students brought staff and parents –literally- to tears as they witnessed the heart-felt expression of their inner beliefs. This experience can be a challenging act for some children however through acceptance, and encouragement Kid Pan Alley successfully incorporated all students in the progression of the creative song writing process. All student ideas were valued and encouraged...Every school in the country should have a KPA residency. We hope to continue our relationship with Paul and Donnie/KPA for years to come so that all students eventually participate in the song writing process and find their true song.”

Owen Bradley, Principal, Union Elementary School, Union, VT

"One boy in my class jumped in feet first and was incredible. He often has difficulty expressing himself but this opened up a new path for him."

Kathy Dowd, Jackson-Via Elementary, Charlottesville, VA

“It has been a couple of weeks since I attended the Jouett concert but I am still thrilled with the performance. It was evident on the faces and in the voices of those children that the experience changed their lives. It was fascinating to watch the process as it unfolded and to witness the final concert. You are able to give “voice” to children’s thoughts and feelings which is quite an accomplishment!! It is my hope that Kid Pan Alley can return to Louisa County to enrich our students.”

Dr. Deborah D. Pettit, Superintendent, Louisa County Public Schools

“You inspired me in ways that will change my teaching for years to come. I am going to incorporate a writing unit in the spring each year and have a showcase at the end of the year. Perhaps even do some CDs as a fundraiser.”

Hilary Parks, Whitsett Elementary, Nashville, TN

“I was hesitant at first about taking class time for a project that didn’t cover the SOLs; however, they addressed poetry writing SOLs for fourth grade. They really did well teaching figurative language such as similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia and alliteration. Rhyme scheme and poetry patterns were also present in their teachings. I really appreciate this workshop and I know my students did. Their final product was awesome.”

Sandra Clement, Blue Ridge Elementary, Ararat, VA

“I was surprised at some of the children who generally remain very quiet during regular music class time, eagerly and uncharacteristically bringing forth their comments and ideas. Suggestions were not hard to come by and it was a joy to watch the children’s ideas unfold before my eyes.”

Evelyn Oyster, Wakefield Country Day School, Flint Hill, VA

“Kid Pan Alley was one of the best experiences that our students have ever had at our school!...This experience will have direct and residual effects for years to come for the students that participated. The students are inspired to take a greater interest in the arts. The students are encouraged to do better academically in school.”

Tom Caton, Principal, Elkin Elementary School, Elkin, NC

"The wonderful Kid Pan Alley Program ignites children's creativity at a level that encourages them to use skills, talents and imagination in a new dimension - in other words, awesome!"

Brenda Phillips, Principal, Cary Elementary, Richmond, VA

“The confidence levels just soared as they realized that they really could create something meaningful themselves.”

Ramona Kahle, Woolwine Elementary School, Woolwine, VA

“Thank you for the remarkable work you did putting together the whole Kid Pan Alley effort in Albemarle. My daughters both performed last Saturday at The Paramount and it was a thrilling, confidence building, memorable evening for them. Especially for my special needs child, who has a hard time with crowds, this was a barrier breaking evening for her.”

Cale Elementary School Parent, Charlottesville, VA

“Ever since I worked with Kid Pan Alley, I learned that things can be difficult, but to keep on going to new doors or levels, get a job and live a wonderful life. Thanks for giving me the courage to keep on going.” *3rd grade student*

“When I first thought of Kid Pan Alley, I didn’t even want to participate, but as I started thinking about it, I thought I would be interested in songwriting. So in the future, I am going to continue to try and be a music teacher....Thank you. I enjoyed you making a difference in my life.” *5th Grade Students, Forestdale Elementary School, Fairfax County, VA*

“I have had the privilege of seeing Kid Pan Alley (KPA) grow from an initial experiment with elementary school students here in Rappahannock County into a national program that has been a gift to thousands of students across the country. Watching Paul work with a group of young people is a delight: the students are thoroughly engaged as they draw on their own life experiences and their own sense of humor to create both lyrics and melody. Singing their own creations along with first class musicians at the community concert which is the end of every KPA residency is a thrill for the students and an equally wonderful evening for the community, not only sharing some great music but also celebrating the creative capacity of the young people involved.”

*Sallie Morgan, Director, Community Support
Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services Board and Area Agency on Aging*