



## **2014-2015 WITNESS Evaluation Highlights**

### **Students demonstrate progress in meeting Minnesota education standards**

- Nearly 80% of artists felt that teachers remained in the classroom and were engaged in the workshop, which is a moderating factor for this program goal
- 91% of artists felt that all or most of the students were engaged during the artist workshops.

"The WITNESS program is important for my students, because it expands their understanding of and appreciation for different cultures. The WITNESS program is important for educators, because it provides us with excellent curriculum resources which can be used in conjunction with the concert and with other educational units not directly connected to the concert. The WITNESS program is important to my community, because it helps foster cultural awareness and acceptance, which is very needed in the world today." 2014-2015 WITNESS School Program Partner Teacher

"It is extremely important to keep the arts as part of the core curriculum offered to our students. It is also important to have our students of color identify with educators who look like them. The WITNESS School Program helps us meet these needs for our students!" 2014-2015 WITNESS School Program Partner Teacher

### **Students demonstrate increased tolerance and understanding of diversity**

- Nearly 80% of artists felt that teachers remained in the classroom and were engaged in the workshop, which is a moderating factor for this program goal
- 91% of artists felt that all or most of the students were engaged during the artist workshops.
- 85% of artists felt that all or most students increased their understanding of tolerance and diversity.

"Participating in the WITNESS program is a fantastic experience for our students. Not only do they broaden their understanding of African American culture, but they get a chance to attend a wonderful concert at Orchestra Hall and work with exceptional Artists-in-Residence. Most of my students would never get the chance to have these experiences without participating in the WITNESS School Program." 2014-2015 WITNESS School Program Partner Teacher

### **Students build self-esteem through positive role models**

- 91% of artists felt that all or most of the students were engaged during the artist workshops.
- 96% of teachers felt that the artist was a positive role model for their students.

“It is a great opportunity to expose inner city youth to a part of the arts community that most have never participated in.” 2014-2015 WITNESS School Program Partner Teacher

“A beautiful, artistically-satisfying venue, two incredible choral groups along with speakers and choir made up of audience members' peers, all addressing a highly relevant topic: this is edifying stuff.” 2014-2015 WITNESS School Program Partner Teacher

“After I introduced myself to the students, I asked that we go around the circle and they each give their name and something they know about MLK. The first boy right next to me was “shy” and other students stated that he was - he didn't even want to give his name out loud. By the end of the workshop, he volunteered and read one of the principles of non-violence aloud to the class. A complete turnaround!” 2014-2015 WITNESS School Program Partner Teaching Artist

### **Students demonstrate awareness of African American contributions to the arts**

- 77% of artists felt that all or most students showed an increased level of knowledge of the contributions of African Americans to our shared American cultural heritage.
- Prior to the artist workshops, 34% of teachers rated their students' level of knowledge of African American culture to our shared American cultural heritage as **excellent**. After the artists workshops, that figure rose to 85%.

“VocalEssence provides the students with wonderful opportunity to learn about influential people and the difference they have made in our world. By incorporating song, dance, music and history all together, allows students of various academic abilities a chance to connect and learn.” 2014-2015 WITNESS School Program Partner Teacher

“This is a program that's vitally important to both urban and rural schools in helping us all become aware of and celebrate the rich African American culture in our state and in our country.” 2014-2015 WITNESS School Program Partner Teacher

### **Students demonstrate understanding of the program theme**

- 89% of artists felt that all or most students were introduced to the artists, the WITNESS School Program and/or the WITNESS theme **before** the first workshop.

- 97% of artists felt that all or most students showed an increased level of knowledge or excitement for the WITNESS theme **after** the artist workshops.
- 94% of teachers strongly agreed that the artist workshops highlighted the WITNESS program theme of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., nonviolent resistance and the music of Sounds of Blackness, and that they effectively provided students with new enthusiasm for the subject.

“Everything was tied in very well from the lessons in the Teacher Resource Guide to the Teaching Artists to the concert. The classroom teachers were thankful for the opportunity to expand on their lessons in social studies and reading, and I was grateful for an opportunity (in music class) to expose the students to how music relates to history and culture. Thanks to the WITNESS curriculum, our spring performance has developed a theme based upon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights' movement.” 2014-2015 WITNESS School Program Partner Teacher

### **2014-2015 Facts and Figures**

- 5,292 students (grades K and 2-12) from 49 schools (18 urban, 24 suburban and 7 rural) from the Twin Cities metro area participated in the WITNESS School Program.
- 24 of all public WITNESS Partner Schools have more than 50% of students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch.
- Nearly half of schools who participated in the WITNESS School Program, report a more than 50% nonwhite student body.
- Almost half of students from participating in the WITNESS School Program are nonwhite.
- 82% of teachers used the WITNESS Teacher Resource Guide in their classroom and 91% rated it as very effective in helping the to prepare students for the artist workshops.
- 88% of teachers rated the overall experience of the Young People's Concert as “excellent.”
- 71% of teachers reported that their students attend the WITNESS Young People's Concert annually.
- The top two reasons why teachers decide to bring their students to the WITNESS Young People's Concert are the Concert Theme (i.e. Martin Luther King, Jr., Gullah, Marian Anderson, Duke Ellington, etc.) and the Celebration of African American culture.
- 92% of teachers rated the overall WITNESS School Program experience as excellent.