

The Latest and Greatest!

Welcome to the family!

On January 26, 2016 at 11:45pm, the Sparrow Music family grew by one. Executive Director Ferdinand Medina and his wife Cindy welcomed their first child, Eliana Isabelle Medina, into the world. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 inches long. Congratulations to Ferdinand, Cindy, and baby Eliana!

Share the Love: Christmas Shoebox

Many thanks to all who participated in our annual Christmas Shoebox drive. This year, over 120 shoeboxes were distributed to deserving children living in and around Payatas. This special occasion presented an invaluable opportunity for us to minister to the children and families who benefited from the drive this year.

Share the Love: Christmas Recital

Over Christmas, all 48 of our students enjoyed an opportunity to showcase their musical skills in a special Christmas recital at the learning center. Each student performed solo pieces, and few students even formed their own ensembles and performed together!

Mural Painting with U!Happy Events

The walls of the Sparrow Music Learning are alive with color and energy thanks to two life-size murals! On two occasions, Happy Events, a nonprofit located in the Philippines has facilitated face painting and large-scale mural painting activities at the center for our students. More and more, our center is emerging as a music and arts hub in the community. Through key partnerships with organizations like Happy Events, our team is empowered to reach deeper into the community, spreading the positive influence and encouragement of God's love.

SparrowMusic.org Website Launch

Sparrow Music has reached a milestone! On January 19, 2016, we launched www.sparrowmusic.org as the official beacon and gateway to all things Sparrow. On the site, you will find information about all of our exciting ministries, upcoming events, and a blog lending personal insight to a wide variety of topics. The website also offers a way for people to give online through PayPal. We excitedly welcome you to visit the website and, more importantly, share the website with a friend!

Mark Your Calendars

April 2, 2016
Spring Trivia Night!

May 7, 2016
Golf Tournament

You Shop. Amazon Gives!

Amazon donates 0.5% of the your eligible AmazonSmile purchase to Sparrow Music. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same price, and same service.

How to sign up:

1. Got to www.smile.amazon.com
2. Search for Sparrow Music
3. Select Sparrow Music
4. Shop away like normal!



The Downbeat

Why We Support Sparrow Music

Interview with Nancy Lynn and Ron Appleby

Around when did you first hear about Sparrow Music?

Nancy Lynn: Probably before (Sparrow) was even founded, I guess. I was out to lunch with family and we started talking about a mission trip that some people from (Alum Rock Christian Church) did to the Philippines. I asked around until it was explained to me that there would be this music school in the Philippines.

What was your initial reaction upon learning exactly what Sparrow Music was?

Nancy Lynn: Oh, I was really excited. I like the idea that I know you personally, and I know that it's real, your hearts are in it—that gets me excited. It reminds me of another ministry one of my former staff members founded. Again, I was excited because I knew him, I knew his heart, and that he loved the Lord. We support Compassion International, and it's wonderful, but (Sparrow) is special because it's personal. It's fulfilling, it's an answer to prayer because I want to help others in need, and this is an avenue, and open door to do that. I'm involved. And I really like the music part of it, it's enticing to me.

Ron: I liked that there didn't seem to be much of a bureaucracy about it. The money was going to buy instruments, and the kids were going to be at the school. There was a lot of direct relationship between where the money is coming in and where the money is going. Like I said, no bureaucracy that sucks up everything you give to it. Then there was the spiritual aspect and the children. I thought it was a great ministry to be a part of.

Our Mission

Sparrow Music, Inc. was founded by individuals who share a common bond: a passion for music, a compassion and love for under privileged and impoverished children and an even greater love for God. This love for God has manifested into a burden for missions and a strong desire to share God's love and His Word with the children and youth living in the most repressed areas. It is our vision to bring the hope of the Gospel to these children, and at the same time, to create future musicians and worshipers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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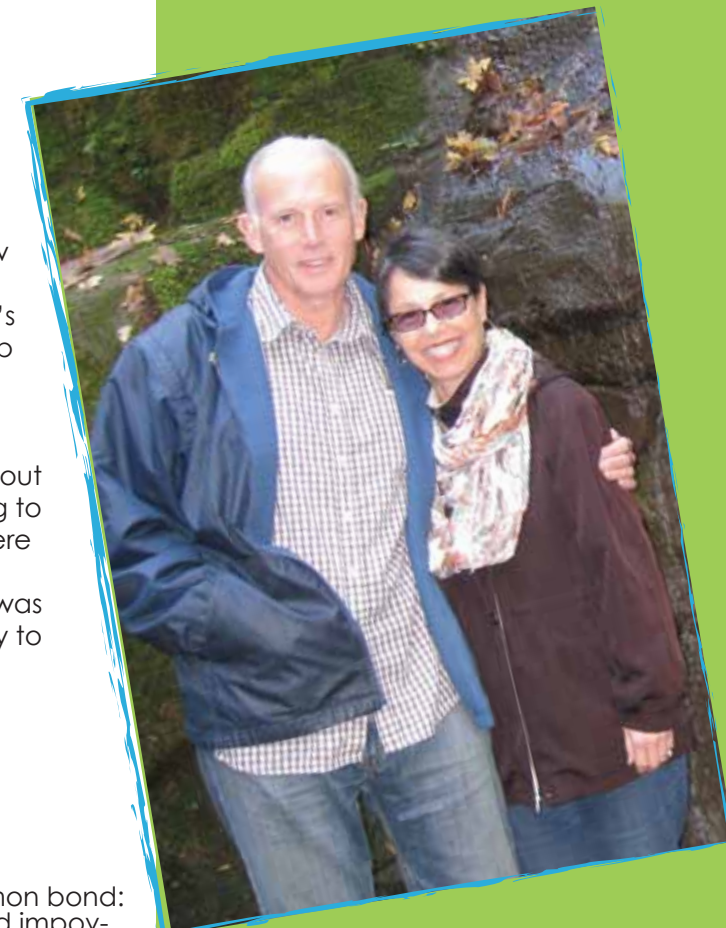
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Share the Love: Sparrow Music Students Share Gospel



This past Christmas, Sparrow Music students had the opportunity to give first.

"Masaya pong magbigay ng walang hinihintay na kapalit," 11-year-old piano student James Binas said. (There's more happiness in giving when you're not expecting anything back in return.)

With guitars, spiritual booklets, goodie bags and Bibles in hand, Sparrow students, staff and volunteers from local churches participated in our "Share the Love" community outreach. Fifteen teams consisting of three students and an adult volunteer disbursed into the Payatas neighborhood filled with energy and excitement of putting their faith into action by sharing the Gospel with over 100 families through Word and song. Each team visited the homes of children who were recipients of our Christmas shoebox ministry and families of sparrow music students. If assigned families were not available, teams were instructed to visit other homes in the vicinity.

Groups began with a Christmas serenade, followed by an introduction and the presentation of the Gospel by Sparrow students. They were bold and confident as they shared their salvation with their mostly adult audience. Some people were lead to tears as they listened to the kids tell them how much God loves them.

"They saw the importance of giving and sharing specially their salvation," Sparrow Music staffer Jirah De la Cruz said. "I saw their excitement of sharing Jesus' love to other people even though they do it for the first time."

Adult volunteers facilitated questions and spiritual conversations with the families using the four spiritual laws booklet. Family members were then asked if they would be interested in a relationship with God and have Bible studies in their homes or at the center. A prayer for the family would end each visit.

The outreach resulted in 73 individuals receiving Jesus Christ, 58 indicated interest in attending Bible studies and discipleship trainings with local partner churches, and 60 children expressed desire to fellowship and have Bible studies with Sparrow Music students. At present time, already 14 of the 60 children are doing just that.

Executive Director Ferdinand Medina conducted training in the weeks leading to the outreach event, preparing participants spiritually while giving them practical lessons on how to share the Gospel.

"I saw the excitement and passion from our children and volunteers," Ferdinand stated. "We went out of our comfort zone to reach out to our neighborhood for Jesus. We made the community know that the greatest gift is salvation through Christ. Material gifts, money and other things don't last forever. My staff and I saw the Christmas season as a great opportunity to teach our students to share love to our neighbors as God commanded us to love them."



Guitar Pedagogy Recital

Last November, three Sparrow Music students were featured performers as part of a guitar pedagogy recital at the University of Philippines, Diliman (UP). Thanks to all the Sparrow students and families who came out in support as the entire learning center took a group field trip to attend!

The recital was part a college course requirement for Fred Saclot, a guitar major at UP. Fred took three Sparrow guitar students of varying ability levels under his wing for this eight week assignment. The classes were supplemental to the daily instruction they already receive.

Fred has volunteered to stay onboard as a guitar instructor with Sparrow for this semester! Welcome to the Sparrow Music family, Fred!



Urban Farming in Dayatas

A newly-formed partnership with Ateneo De Manila University (ADMU) has lead to exciting learning opportunities and activities on urban farming for our students. In December, ADMU connected a group of international foreign exchange student volunteers from Hong Kong, Norway, India, Mexico, and Singapore with Sparrow Music. They are members of AEISIC, an international not-for-profit organization that provides young people with leadership development and cross-cultural global internship and volunteer exchange experiences across the globe.

The volunteers showed our kids ways they can grow plants and crops using limited growing space. They also taught about hygiene, nutrition, shared healthy and eating habits, and facilitated group activities and recreational games.

Two members of the team were kind enough to share their reflections of their experience with us.

"Working with the kids from Sparrow Music has been absolutely delightful. A learning experience I'll never forget, interacting with and getting to know all these amazingly talented kids. We visited them regularly to teach them about nutrition and urban farming, but it was kind of like they were teaching us, too! They were so happy and full of light, not to mention exuberant and keen to learn. What I loved about them was how they were so content with whatever little they had; and their openness to embrace strangers. My experience with Sparrow Music is one that I'll always cherish."

- Radhika Sheth

"Getting to know everyone at Sparrow Music was a blessing in my life. Interacting and playing with the students gave me the opportunity to give, love, and share unconditionally. Apart from teaching, witnessing the students' and volunteers' passion in music and unselfishly serving God was also a learning experience for me."

-Christina Hong

