

Dr. Marta Pérez, School Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-020 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MIAMI ARTS STUDIO (MAS) 6-12 @ ZELDA GLAZER VOCAL/CHORUS ACADEMY AND MUSIC DIRECTORS RYAN ELLIS AND CINDY ELLIS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Ryan and Cindy Ellis are both vocal music directors at Miami Arts Studio (MAS) 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer. Cindy Ellis is a Cuban-American vocalist and music educator. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education with jazz voice from Florida International University (FIU). As a jazz solo artist, she is frequently featured in venues throughout South Florida. Additionally, Mrs. Ellis performs around the world as an alto with The Jason Max Ferdinand Singers. Currently, Mrs. Ellis is seeking an online master's degree in Music Education from the University of Missouri.

Ryan Ellis received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Miami and his master's degree from FIU. He served as the Director of Bands at Miami Southridge Senior High School and Choral Music Director at John A. Ferguson Senior High School. His ensembles have performed throughout the United States with concerts in Washington D.C., Chicago, Atlanta, Orlando, and New York. As a professional jazz pianist, Mr. Ellis has worked extensively in the Caribbean, Florida and Hawaii. During the pandemic, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis were published as contributing authors on "Teaching with Heart," a compendium for teachers to delve deeper into the relationship between repertoire and the lives of their students, available from GIA Publications.

In just 6 years at MAS, the vocal program has sent over 140 students to represent Miami-Dade County Public Schools in the Florida All-State Choirs. To qualify for Florida's All-State Choir, students must take 3 tests each year in music reading, music theory and part singing-and only the top scores in the state participate. For the past 3 years, MAS Vocal has had the most participants of any school in Florida (over 30/year). In the Caroling Competition, MAS Vocal were the middle school grand prize winners in 2019 and 2021 and were the High school runner up in 2018 and 2019.

Their 5 choruses have earned only straight superior ratings at the annual Music Performance Assessment. All 5 choirs from MAS have consistently earned straight superior ratings from all district and state adjudicators. (It is difficult to achieve a unanimous adjudication panel. All 5 ensembles in 5 years have achieved this.)

**Replacement
B-3**

MAS Vocal ensembles have been featured in numerous venues both locally and nationally highlights include The Adrienne Arsht Center, New World Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall, and American Airlines Arena. In 2018, the Maverick Singers were featured performers in Carnegie Hall, NYC. MAS Vocal has collaborative performances with: Seraphic Fire, The Aeolians of Oakwood, Florida State University, University of Miami, University of North Florida, Florida International University, Middle Tennessee State University, and Disney's Candlelight Processional (4).

The middle school chorus were winners of the Merrick Festival Caroling Competition in 2019 and 2021. The students and alumni have performed on La Voz, Latin Grammys, Premio Lo Nuestro, The Voice, American Idol, Grand Ole Opry, and Country Music Award Red Carpet. The Mavericks Singers teamed up with the Robert Morgan Senior High School's magnet choir for an outstanding collaboration with Grammy-nominated Seraphic Fire, a world-renowned professional choir on February 28, 2022, at FIU.

Most recently, they were musical ambassadors bringing the Hispanic, American and Haitian music of Miami to several southern venues and colleges in a 6 concert, 7-day performance tour. Individually, students have earned awards from Young Arts, Downbeat Magazine (a magazine that has annual contests for high school and collegiate musicians thousands apply from around the world...one per category wins and MAS Vocal student Vania Junco won in 2018), full scholarships from Stetson, NYU, FIU, University of Miami, Temple University, and partial scholarships to several other schools.

The music performed by each MAS Vocal ensemble represents a wide variety of cultures, genres, languages, and time periods. Day by day, the MAS Vocal Magnet strengthens both musically and as a family. The goal is not to create professional musicians, but rather, kind, confident, passionate citizens who know what it is to be a part of something great, and who will reach for their full potential in any career they choose.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PEREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-020 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Miami Arts Studio (MAS) 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer Vocal/Chorus Academy and music directors Ryan Ellis and Cindy Ellis.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-020 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MIAMI ARTS STUDIO (MAS) 6-12 @ ZELDA GLAZER VOCAL
CHORAL ACADEMY AND MUSIC DIRECTORS RYAN ELLIS AND CINDY ELLIS**

Whereas, Ryan and Cindy Ellis, the very dedicated and talented vocal directors at Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer, are accomplished musicians and authors:

1. Ryan Ellis has performed in concerts throughout the US and abroad, and
2. Cindy Ellis has been presenting around the world with the Jason Fax Ferdinand Singers;
and

Whereas, there are 49 chorus/vocal programs in M-DCPS that compete in various contests in which students at MAS attain top honors and recognitions including:

1. The Music Performance Assessment—All five choirs have received “Straight Superior Ratings” from district and state adjudicators for the past five years.
2. Top All-State Participation- Determined by three tests administered each year (music reading, theory, and singing), MAS had the most participants accepted of any school in Florida for the last 3 years, and a total of 143 students in the past five years.
3. The Downbeat Award-This contest draws submissions from thousands of high school and college musicians from around the world, and MAS student, Vania Junco, won a Jazz Vocal Performance award in 2018.
4. Important performances by MAS students have included collaborations with Seraphic Fire, Aeolians of Oakwood University, Florida State University, University of Miami, University of North Florida, Florida International University, and Middle Tennessee State University

Whereas, students from the MAS Vocal Magnet have received full or significant scholarships during the past six years from distinguished universities; and

Whereas, Ryan Ellis, Cindy Ellis, and the MAS Vocal Magnet are to be commended for their outstanding work, achievements, dedication, and representation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-020 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Miami Arts Studio (MAS) 6-12@ Zelda Glazer Vocal Magnet and music directors Ryan and Cindy Ellis.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this thirteenth day of April, A.D. 2022

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary