



**Colt Gill**

*Superintendent, Bethel School District*

I would like to offer today’s students the experiences and opportunities I enjoyed in Oregon’s public schools in the ’70s and ’80s. I believe that if Eugeneans and Oregonians really understood that we are not supporting our children the way we were supported by our elders (voters and taxpayers) back then, they would come to the rescue so we could accomplish these four critical fixes to our schools:

1. Improve class size. We have the second highest class sizes in the country.
2. Increase instructional time. We [in Oregon] have one of the shortest school years in the country.
3. Meet rigorous standards in reading, writing and math but also provide a rounded education in the arts, music, humanities, financial literacy, social sciences, technology and career pathways.
4. Provide equity in access and support, meaning all students have access to all the programs schools have to offer, and some students are provided with the additional time and support they need to be successful.



**Jim Torrey**

*Chair, Eugene 4J School Board*

In building a child’s educational foundation, the ability to read is the single most important element. The quote I’ve heard most often is, “A student learns to read from K\ kindergarten through third grade and reads to learn from that point on.” I would advocate for dedicated funding, by the Oregon Legislature, for early literacy. The Eugene 4J School District needs to put additional resources and staff support into our early reading efforts.

**Eugene Education Foundation Board of Directors**

Each school year, Eugene Education Foundation receives grant proposals from 4J educators for the enrichment of students. Requests this year reach almost \$300,000. So far, EEF gifts can fund \$100,000. Our dream of community support for public education would be that, for the very first time, every request could be funded so no grant is left behind.

Grants give books to eager readers, transport homeless students to school daily, provide refurbished musical instruments to young musicians and bring artists in residence to schools to ignite creativity.

We dream of a Eugene which fully supports these important programs for students!

**What do you dream of for Eugene’s music scene?**



**Pius Cheung**

*Marimba artist, composer, UO associate professor of percussion*

I wish there was a bar or restaurant downtown that presents classical and experimental contemporary music concerts, much like Le Poisson Rouge in New York. The impressions and current etiquettes of going to “classical” music concerts are too stuffy. Why can’t we enjoy a nice beverage and food while we enjoy some Mozart or Steve Reich? Given some pieces might not work as well in this setting, with careful programming, this would be a great way to expose people to art music in a relaxed environment where they can really enjoy the music rather than wonder, “Am I supposed to clap now?”

As a percussionist, I dream of a city block where things are made primarily with percussion instruments — marimba bars as floor tiles, timpanis as chairs and trash cans as, well, trash cans, because I enjoy playing on trash cans quite a bit.



**Halie Loren**

*Singer and songwriter*

One of my biggest dreams for this community is for there to be more outlets for Eugene’s vast community of musicians, singers, songwriters and music fans to be able to experience the true “listening room” environment in which to create or absorb live music.

Eugene, like most cities around the country, has seen a lot of music venues fold up in the past decade and hasn’t yet witnessed an equal number of new spaces emerge in that same time period. ... I would love to see this trend change drastically, and I know I am far from alone in this desire. It has been amazing to watch local music club (and true “listening room” space) The Jazz Station grow and become such a celebrated member of our music scene, finding its

niche and reaching audiences thirsty for the experience of listening to jazz in its many forms in an intimate concert environment. The venue has also created a gallery space for local visual artists, using its walls to celebrate paintings, drawings, photography and other artistic creations.

Let’s create those kinds of spaces for the multitude of other music styles represented by our city’s eclectic musical community and watch how Eugene blossoms even more into the performing arts destination that we all know it can (and should) be!

On a more whimsical note, I would love to see some “public pianos” placed in some of our outdoor public spaces. I’ll admit, it’s not an idea that I can claim as my own (I first saw this concept realized in Seattle this summer, and enjoyed a few blissful moments of playing a beautifully painted piano on the ferry docks beneath the full moon), but it is one that I think could be so fitting for this arts-loving community, and would create more opportunities for “random acts of music” around our fair city.



**Danail Rachev**

*Music director and conductor, Eugene Symphony*

I believe that music heals and enriches the human soul, and I dream that our music will truly reach and engage people of every age throughout our wonderful city.

In my youth, I attended a school concert in Bulgaria and immediately fell in love with classical music. I’m proud that we continue to involve more schools in our youth concerts at the Hult Center, but I dream that absolutely every child — no matter what school they attend — can see a concert. Exposure in childhood can spark a lifelong passion for music.

I also dream of performing in nursing homes, hospitals or prisons for people who otherwise don’t have the opportunity to listen to music, for whom music could be a powerful remedy. We would also welcome the opportunity to play in unexpected places like gastropubs, wineries and civic spaces — meeting people where they are to ignite their passion for music in new ways.



**Landon Wordswell**

*Hip-hop artist*

I hope to see different cultures celebrated in Eugene more often and taken more seriously. A child with a great sense of