

# Very Young Composers

## A Framework for Innovative Elementary Music Education

### Foundational beliefs

- Anyone can compose music
- Everyone DOES compose music
- Age is not an obstacle

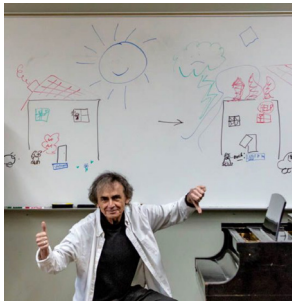
### Background

- Pioneered by Jon Deak in 1995
- Replicated in Stevens Point in 2010 by Robert Rosen
- More than 350 students in 12 years



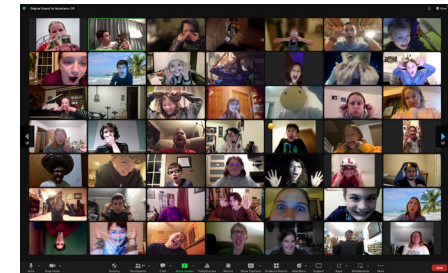
### Other components

- Instrument interviews
- Group activities
- Digital keyboards
- Writing introductions
- Dress rehearsal and concert



### The virtual environment: challenges

- Group interaction
- Connection and sound issues
- Exposure to live instruments
- MIDI sounds
- Software limitations
- Home environments



### Scribing

- The core of the VYC experience
- One-on-one work between teaching artists and young composers

### Scribing: essential components

- Patience, creativity, and flexibility
- Scribing ≠ teaching
- Every decision is left up to the young composer



### The virtual environment: advantages

- Location
- Fewer logistical challenges (reserving rooms, travel)
- Activities are recorded

The teaching artist *curates* the composer's work. What is paramount in VYC is that the child's voice is heard, unedited, "untaught," and un-judged. Only then can we hear what the child wants to say.

— Jon Deak, program founder

Robert Rosen, Executive Director  
Myles Boothroyd, Associate Director  
Alex Mueller, Associate Director



[veryyoungcomposersproject.org](http://veryyoungcomposersproject.org)