

HAIG BARRETT SUPPORTS BRINGING CHILDREN MUSICAL EDUCATION



As the lights USC's Bovard Auditorium dim and the audiences' attention turn towards the stage, Haig Armaghian, CEO of Haig Barrett, Inc. and Master of Ceremonies of the 7th Annual Open Academy Youth Orchestra Winter Concert, walks out to center stage.

Despite having a busy schedule juggling the constant demands of running his company and spending time with his wife and almost 2 year old daughter, Haig is also determined to make the time to support non-profit organizations he cares deeply about. And he wouldn't have it any other way!

“I am honored to be here to support these students. They have put in so much time and effort into this performance and deserve to be recognized for their dedication. These types of charities are so important to our community. I love music so watching them perform tonight is truly spectacular.”

— Haig Armaghian

Haig serves on the Board for The Open Academy, a 501 (C)3 non-profit arts academy providing music and art program for students in K-12 from

underserved communities. Since joining last year, Haig has made a significant impact on Open Academy in his short tenure thus far. Not only did he volunteer to serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the both the 2014 Summer and Winter Concerts, he also facilitates the planning sessions for the Board, and is a tireless advocate for the cause.

Open Academy was founded by Dr. Rhea Kim, Chief Research Officer of Haig Barrett, in 2009 with a vision of creating a 'school without walls' where students can study and create art, music, literature, theater and dance.

And the Youth Orchestra is one of the signature programs within Open Academy. The Youth Orchestra is composed of new and more seasoned musicians from elementary through high school. After graduating, a number of students from the Youth Orchestra have entered respected musical





programs at leading universities, including Harvard University and The Juilliard School.

One of the reasons why Haig has a strong affinity for the Youth Orchestra stems from his own childhood experience as a member of a youth orchestra, where he played French horn (*Ask him and he just might play a few notes for you.*) Although he loved playing the French horn, it wasn't his only foray into music. His musical talents encompassed the piano and jazz percussion. He could almost be a one-man orchestra all by himself!

But you still might be wondering, how his musical talents make him a great Master of Ceremony. Well, in short, it doesn't. His humor, keen wit, and natural ability to connect with people, and his love for youth orchestras won him the job. And good thing he captivated the audience the last two times he's been on stage or he may have to worry about securing next year's Master of Ceremony spot.