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## Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Brighton music school youth to co-create, co-perform orchestra piece

Posted by Matt Rocheleau June 27, 2012 03:19 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The Boston Landmarks Orchestra and children from an intensive elementary music school in Brighton are embarking on a year-long project to co-create an orchestra piece that they will perform together next summer.

The professional orchestra and the Conservatory Lab Charter School plan to premiere their musical work of art at the opening of the "Landmarks Festival at the Shell" in July of 2013 and then perform the piece at other venues in Boston's neighborhoods, said Harron Ellenson, executive director of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra.

The piece will be composed by Michael Gandolfi, chairman of the composition department at the New England Conservatory of Music, who will interact and work with the youngsters at the school as he begins work on the piece, she said.

"Gandolfi will demonstrate to them the creativity and sheer discipline necessary for the development of a new work of art," said a statement from the

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for the development of a new work of art," said a statement from the professional orchestra.

The piece, which has not yet been named, will be written for double orchestra: the Conservatory Lab Charter School's El Sistema-inspired Dudamel Orchestra and the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Ellenson said.

Once the piece has been completed, musicians from the Boston Landmarks Orchestra will visit the school and will work with the youngsters to "bring them up to a high level of performance," before proceeding with the planned premiere next July, the statement said.

The Mabel Louise Riley Foundation awarded the Boston Landmarks Orchestra a grant for \$50,000, which will go toward paying for the orchestra musicians to teach the school's students and toward paying for one performance, according to the orchestra director.

The Lynch Foundation has pledged to contribute \$100,000, which will be given out over the next three years and will go toward funding performances, Ellenson said.

The professional orchestra also received a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund Gandolfi's work on the project, she said.

This initiative grew out of the orchestra music director [Christopher Wilkins'](#) "20/20 Vision," which hopes that people in every Boston neighborhood will be engaged with the orchestra by 2020, according to the statement.

The orchestra, which formed in 2001 and [moved its office headquarters](#) to Brighton last spring, has held concerts – all free of charge – in and around Boston over the past decade, drawing in hundreds of thousands of people.

The orchestra will begin its free 2012 season on July 11 at 7 p.m. at the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell on the Esplanade. The shows will continue every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. through August 29, Ellenson said.

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