

STRINGS IN ACTION: EMPOWERING OTHERS THROUGH THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF MUSIC

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EVERY TUESDAY, A GROUP OF YOUNG STUDENT MUSICIANS FROM JAKARTA INTERCULTURAL SCHOOL (JIS) COMES TOGETHER AFTER SCHOOL TO DESIGN LESSON PLANS, ORGANIZE INSTRUMENTS, AND PLAY MUSIC TOGETHER—WE ARE THE STRINGS IN ACTION CLUB. COMPRISED OF MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, STRINGS IN ACTION IS A SERVICE CLUB DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF UNDERPRIVILEGED INDONESIAN CHILDREN BY SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF MUSIC.

Our mission is to promote musical education through the formation and development of student string orchestras around Jakarta. We will be working with students from Sekolah Musika, a local school about forty minutes away from JIS. Our team will provide them with all the instruments, and teach them how to play stringed instruments, including the violin, viola, cello and double bass. This project will give local children an opportunity to access artistic training, develop their creativity, and enjoy a more complete education through strings training.

I have been playing the cello since the fourth grade, so naturally music is a big part of my

life. For me, playing the cello is more than just an extracurricular activity. It's a way for me to express myself, relax, and live in the moment. Strings in Action is a meaningful club to me because I can give back to the community while doing something I love. As someone who has reaped the benefits of music, I am glad to be able to volunteer and donate my abilities, a piece of myself, to share the wonders of playing a stringed instrument with others.

The club hasn't officially begun teaching, but last month, on September 29th, the Strings in Action team held an introductory concert at Sekolah Musika. There, we played "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe"

theme songs. Based on the thunderous applause and enthusiastic response, I knew the students loved it.

As I watched the students clap after our performance, I felt a bond forming between us already. I'd never been to Sekolah Musika until the day of the concert and the students there had never seen any of us. Yet, despite our different backgrounds and identities, we bonded immediately over music, linked by our fundamental human emotions. Music truly is a universal medium of communication, unhindered by language and cultural barriers. We hope to start teaching by November, and I can't wait for all the shared connections and relationships we'll build over music.

