

Quartet Learning

Beginning last November and continuing throughout the school year, the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra in Pennsylvania has been partnering with the Harrisburg School District to bring the Dalí Quartet to students at SciTech High School. This isn't a supplementary orchestra program: it's the only high-school string program within the 10,000-student school district. Nine beginning students have been receiving instruction from the Dalí, an all-Latino string quartet based in Philadelphia, in five in-depth sessions; the idea is that by working with the same group of professional musicians for one year, the students will continue to develop musically and build a relationship with their mentors. 93 percent of the students in the school district live at or below poverty level; one of the project's primary goals is boosting academic achievement.



Music teacher Christine Robbins (left) and her Harrisburg SciTech H.S. students work with members of the Dalí Quartet, stationed around the room behind and next to students.



Harrisburg student violinists Cristina Owen (left) and Jada Hargrove, with Romulo Benavides, first violinist of the Dalí Quartet.