



## **El Sistema Case Study Questions**

### San Diego Arts Education Learning Exchange

#### **Purpose & Description**

We believe that El Sistema inspired programs have the potential to be change agents for their communities and schools, just as they are for children and families. The majority of El Sistema inspired programs across the U.S. meet on school campuses. Their connection to in-school music programs varies. Quite often, the vision for connecting the two is undefined or under developed.

The five questions below are intended to help programs begin exploring their potential to make systemic change within schools. A select group of completed Case Studies will be used during the San Diego County Arts Education Learning Exchange as workshop content facilitated by Eric Booth.

Please answer the three questions below by March 7, 2016 and send them to:  
Annette Fritzsche at [afritzsche@sdys.org](mailto:afritzsche@sdys.org)

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Program Name: Fortissimo

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1. and 2. Use a metaphor to depict the current relationship between your El Sistema inspired program and school site or district partner? In no more than two sentences, please describe how this metaphor represents your program/school relationship.

The best way to describe Fortissimo metaphorically--is to say we would be the jewel in the crown. The crown being the school and support faculty, administration. We are the added beauty and brilliance in an existing great frame.

3. Have you sought to use your El Sistema inspired program to influence equitable availability of in-school music? If yes, how? If no, why not?

We have used Fortissimo to influence in school program at Joli Ann in the following way---we have performed for the entire school as an opening act, to their in school program at Christmas time. This demonstrated to all,

where classroom music can come to fruition. I believe it pointed the way forward. Shows a place for those students who wanted more music, as an option.

#### 4. What opportunities exist for your program to have a systemic influence on the availability of in-school music?

Joli Ann has an in school music program paid for by the Museum For Making Music. Consequently, the students who join Fortissimo have already had some music notation, singing, and rhythm. We can see those benefits in our musicians. They are not starting from ground zero. In our case we can speak of the benefits of their 1/2 hour a week music classes.

#### 5. What obstacles interfere with your program influencing the availability of in-school music?

The only impediments I see are the need and willingness to do more collaborating between in school and after school music programs . We are making progress this year. We can do more and can do better. We want to be better known by all at JAL, more integrated into the school culture rather than simply a separate after school program.