



**MOSAIC YOUTH THEATRE OF DETROIT**, founded by Rick Sperling in 1992, was born out of a need to fill the gaps in arts education in metro Detroit schools while providing an artistic home for young actors, singers, and stage technicians. Serving only 25 young artists without any budget or home in its inaugural year, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is now recognized as a highly regarded cultural treasure for the city of Detroit and southeast Michigan.

### **MOSAIC MISSION**

Mosaic's mission is to empower young people to maximize their potential through professional performing arts training and the creation of first rate theatrical and musical art.

### **MOSAIC VISION**

By definition, a mosaic is an array of different pieces joined together to create a work of art. Accordingly, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is founded on the richness of difference. Our young artists come from over 50 city and suburban schools, and a variety of social, economic, racial, cultural and religious backgrounds. Through our professional performing arts program, these young artists blend their ideas and talents and achieve excellence in their theatrical and musical performances.

### **MOSAIC "MODEL" FOR SUCCESS**

Named *Best-Managed Nonprofit* by *Crain's Detroit Business* in 2006, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is an internationally acclaimed youth development program that concentrates on helping young artists excel on stage and in life. A national model for arts education and youth development, Mosaic provides accessible theatre and vocal music training for metropolitan Detroit area youth, ages 6-18, reaching over 1,000 young artists per year.

Mosaic seeks to empower young people with the tools necessary to create positive changes in their lives and communities by helping them to develop patterns of cooperation, disciplined work habits and effective problem-solving skills through the creation of high-quality, professional-level performances of theatre and music. By highlighting the immense talent of young Detroiters, Mosaic helps to create positive peer role models and young people who can view a more positive future for themselves and for their community.

The impact of the Mosaic Model on the lives of metro Detroit youth goes far beyond the stage. **In an urban area where the dropout rates are at staggering levels, 95% of the young artists who participate in Mosaic's Youth Ensemble graduate from high school and go on to college, many with scholarships.**

### **MOSAIC FIRST STAGE**

Mosaic First Stage programs provide entry level theatrical and vocal music training to youth, ages 6-18, at multiple locations throughout Metro Detroit. Mosaic First Stage locations include YouthVille Detroit, The Osborn Art Center on Detroit's East side, the WCCCD Summer Institute, Teatro Mosaico (bilingual theatre) at COMPAS in Southwest Detroit, the Detroit-Grosse Pointe Summer Institute, and Mosaic Summer Camps for 6-10 year olds held at U Prep High School. For many of these young people, Mosaic's First Stage programs offer the first-ever opportunity to receive theatre and vocal music training of any kind.

### **MOSAIC MAIN STAGE**

Mosaic Main Stage consists of Mosaic Youth Ensemble and Intermediate Training Program (ITP). Serving as Mosaic's core program, Mosaic Youth Ensemble provides nine months of intensive education and training in acting, vocal music, and technical theatre at no cost to young artist participants. Each year, approximately 100 young artists (ages 11-18) are chosen for Mosaic's Youth Ensemble by audition and interview. Ensemble members work with professional actors, writers, musicians, and designers. Rehearsing after school and on weekends, these young artists are involved in every element of production, including writing plays, composing music, and designing sets. Throughout the year, Mosaic Youth Ensemble tours original performances to schools by way of Mosaic's Metro Tour. Additionally, Mosaic Youth Ensemble presents public performances at the Detroit Film Theatre inside the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Max M. Fisher Music Center.

In order to better serve the talented young artists who are not quite ready for Mosaic Youth Ensemble, Mosaic's Intermediate Training Program (ITP) provides mid-level theatrical and musical training to approximately 65 deserving young artists each year, chosen by audition and interview.

### **MOSAIC NEXT STAGE**

The final phase of Mosaic's performing arts training is Mosaic Next Stage. This company is comprised of the more experienced members of Mosaic Youth Ensemble. As members of Mosaic Next Stage, young artists receive a stipend for their performances, thus beginning the "next stage" in their development as theatre and music professionals. Mosaic Next Stage has been commissioned to create and perform original pieces by the Detroit Zoo, The Detroit Institute of Arts and The Skillman Foundation.