



Kelly Strayhorn Theater  
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## Press Release 03.23.2012

### SOUNDWAVES STEELBAND PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Applications are now available for SOUNDWAVES student steelband ensemble, a program of Kelly Strayhorn Theater in partnership with Union Project

#### CONTACT

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Education Director  
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SOUNDWAVES is a full-scholarship intensive steelband music program designed for talented students (ages 12–17) to develop and hone their musical skills. Ten students will be selected to participate in an intensive six-week program that culminates in a performance at Kelly Strayhorn Theater.

Beginning Wednesday, April 18, SOUNDWAVES students will participate in 17 sessions, three days a week (Tuesday through Thursday), from 4–6 pm. Selected students will be required to participate in all sessions. The six-week course will culminate in a special performance on May 30, 2012 at Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue in East Liberty.

The program is designed for students interested in a broad range of musical styles, with an interest in developing their skills. Training sessions will take place at Union Project, located at 801 North Negley Avenue in Highland Park.

World-renowned teachers will guide students as they advance their technique, gain experience in performing with an ensemble, and practice performing for an audience. This one-of-a-kind project provides young musicians a platform to expand their interests in music and a chance to make invaluable connections in the music scene in Pittsburgh and beyond.

After submitting an application, students will be asked to audition for the ensemble on April 17, 2012. If selected, tuition for the SOUNDWAVES program is free. Students are responsible for the cost of instrument rental which is \$10 per week, totaling \$60 for the six-week program. Click [HERE](#) to download the application.

#### INSTRUCTORS

##### Mat Docktor

Docktor is an international steelpan performer, having played with the award-winning “Steelheads” at the Montreux Jazz Festival, London Heritage Festival, and Jazz a’Vienna. A graduate of Central Michigan University, Docktor has been playing steelpan since the age of 13. Docktor is a noted teacher and is resident teaching artist with Kelly Strayhorn Theater.

##### Phil Solomon

Born in British Guyana, Phil Solomon steelpan builder, composer, arranger, and innovator started making musical toys from tin cans at the age of seven. Phil became interested in music as a teenager and after



hearing his first steelband decided that making, playing, arranging, and composing for steelbands would be his lifelong commitment. After moving to Pittsburgh in the 1980s, he began building instruments for ensembles across the country including several in Pittsburgh. Solomon is a pioneer and inventor of the Grooveless Tuning Method and Note Placement Systems for modern steelpan.

## APPLICATION/AUDITION PROCESS

Students of all music experience and interest levels are encouraged to apply.

Download the application [HERE](#). Return the completed application to KST by **Monday, April 2, 2012**. Prospective students are also encouraged to submit an accompanying video or audio clip that highlights either their desire to be a part of this ensemble or their musical skills.

Once the applications have been reviewed, selected students will be invited to audition. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 from 4–6 pm at Union Project, 801 North Negley Avenue in Highland Park. Students who pass the audition will begin working with the ensemble the following day, Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

Students must submit an application to be considered for an audition.

Registration is free  
Instrument rentals are \$10/week (\$60 total)

### Apply via Mail:

SOUNDWAVES  
c/o Dan Derks, Education Director  
Kelly Strayhorn Theater  
5941 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

### Apply via E-Mail:

dan@kelly-strayhorn.org

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## About Kelly Strayhorn Theater

As the last of nine theaters from the 1950s heyday of East Liberty, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater uses the arts as a catalyst for continuing community revitalization. The theater, in its 12th season, continues to play a key role in the transformation of Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood. An intimate, professionally equipped, 349-seat multiple-use performance venue, the theater demonstrates its commitment to Pittsburgh artists and audiences. The KST is a favorite venue of emerging local artists, regional artists and arts organizations who take risks and present new work. Noted Pittsburghers Gene Kelly and Billy Strayhorn, the namesakes, are among the 80 area artists honored on the theater's Gallery of Stars. The building, opened in 1919, is the former Regent Theatre, which served the East End as a movie house for eight decades.

## Union Project Mission

Union Project makes space to connect, create, and celebrate community. Since, 2001 we've repurposed our historic church building to provide an affordable, safe, and welcoming home to grassroots entrepreneurs, artists, non-profits, and people of all faiths as a catalyst for creating a more vibrant community. Positioned at the intersection of some of Pittsburgh's most racially and economically diverse urban neighborhoods, Union Project is a community hub and literal and figurative common ground for surrounding neighbors.

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