



The greatest gift is a portion of thyself.
~Ralph Waldo Emerson



Winter Workshop 2011

December brings one of Rooftop's favorite traditions, Winter Workshop. For three days on each campus, students gather in small groups to hand craft a gift for someone special. Over the course of six days, about 400 handmade gifts are made, more than 200 volunteer hours are logged, and nearly 1000 cookies are served!



Photos in this article by
Bernadette Gabrielli

Winter Workshop is a meaningful and joyful experience for our children. Through the selfless act of creating for others, they learn the importance of generosity. Through the empowering act of making a gift on their own, they also learn that the most treasured gifts come not from a store, but from one's own heart and hands.

Winter Workshop also celebrates the generosity of Rooftop's community, who offer their time, energy and creativity to the success of the event. We are very grateful to our teachers and parent volunteers, and to those who donate the cookies and juice. Together, we make Winter Workshop a memorable experience for Rooftop's kids.

ROOFTOP HONORS THE SYMPHONY'S 100th ANNIVERSARY

Rooftop families gathered on the evening of Monday November 28th to decorate a 16 foot holiday tree at Davies Symphony Hall with 580 ornaments created by our students. Rooftop is honored to traditionally be the only public school invited to decorate a tree at the Deck the Hall event. It is our 20th year of participation.



This year's ornament design honors the Symphony's Centennial Anniversary and celebrates their dedication to the civic life of the San Francisco community. Each student designed two recycled CDs, expressing what music means in their own lives and in the life of their community. The CDs interlock together, symbolically showing the way that individuals and communities interact and reflect on each other.

Our tree will help to bring holiday cheer to thousands of concert goers during December. If you would like to see the tree, information on the Holiday Concert Series is available at www.sfsymphony.org. Davies Symphony Hall is also open to the public for free guided tours on Mondays from 10am - 2pm.

ART PROGRAM ASSEMBLIES ENTERTAIN & INSPIRE ROOFTOP STUDENTS

November was a busy month for assemblies with a variety of artists visiting Rooftop. On November 4th, students in grades K-8 were treated to a special screening of the animated film, **"El Salon Mexico"** complete with a visit from the filmmaker, **Tamarind King**. Based on composer Aaron Copland's score by the same title, the film tells the story of a young boy, his donkey and a rooster who run away from their farm to the Dia de los Muertos festival in the village nearby.

Ms. King, currently a Senior at Stanford, co-created the film with retired filmmaker Paul Glickman when she was in high school. She shared with the students images from her process of designing the look of the film. She enthusiastically answered dozens of questions from the students. To the delight of the kids, she also did a drawing demonstration of her charming characters. We are grateful to the San Francisco Film Society for arranging this experience for our students.



Photo by Keith Zwolfer, SF Film Society

Our partnership with the San Francisco Opera also provided two different performances at Rooftop last month. The first was a performance by the **Opera's Adler Fellows**, an apprentice program that trains the rising stars of the opera world. Students in classes participating in the Opera program enjoyed excerpts

from Handel's *Xerxes*, as performed by **Soprano Nadine Sierra** and **Countertenor Ryan Belongie** and accompanied by **Pianist Daryl Cooper**.



The **San Francisco Boys' Chorus** also visited Rooftop, with two assemblies for our K-4 students. The boys shared some of their singing exercises and discussed their commitments to practices and performances. The boys treated us to several beautiful songs from their repertoire. Rooftop students were inspired by seeing members of their peer group so committed to pursuing their interest in music and developing their talents.



ROOFTOP ART CALENDAR Upcoming Events

Weds. 12/14 - After-School Chorus Performance
6:00 pm - Burnett MPR Led by Victor Cervantes, the singers will perform their Fall repertoire

Fri. 12/16 - After-School Chorus School-day Performance for Grades K-5. 9:15 am

COMING SOON! Marcus Shelby Residency Culminating Event and North Star Project

As Marcus' **"Green & Blues: Birth of the Cool"** Residency comes to a close, students will be treated to in-school performances in Dec. and January by Marcus and guest jazz musicians.

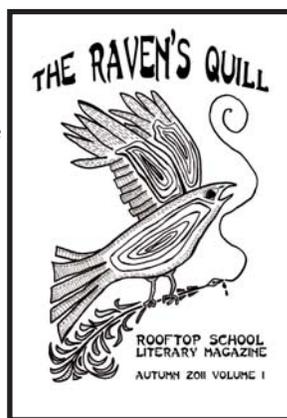
Many students in grades 6-8 are participating in the **North Star Project**. They are writing, directing, producing and performing a collaborative performing arts work. Stay tuned to the Wednesday bulletin for the announcement of their performance date in 2012.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 19th Annual Rooftop Children's Art Show and Auction will be held on Saturday, March 3.

HAVE YOU READ THE RAVEN'S QUILL?

Rooftop is proud to announce the first edition launch of its new student literary journal, **The Raven's Quill**. The magazine will be published three times a year, with Fall, Winter and Spring Editions. Selections in the Fall edition are based on the theme, "Peace." Copies are available for borrowing from the Rooftop libraries, or you can read the edition online at: <http://tinyurl.com/8x2kdu7>



THE CITY IS THE CAMPUS - Make your family's life "Art-Full"

Enjoy Free & Low-Cost Family-Friendly Arts Events in San Francisco!

Winter Break is a great time to enjoy the many opportunities that life in the City brings to our families!

SFKids.org has compiled an extensive list of San Francisco Holiday Family Fun, complete with performances, arts & crafts, library events, museum offerings and more!

Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/7czj4so>