



**INVITATION TO AN INTERACTIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCE HOSTED BY TWO RENOWNED PERFORMERS IN
THE CREATIVE ARTS; ORGANISED BY JUILLIARD FOR THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF BEIJING SANLITUN**

Dear parents,

We are very excited to have secured, in collaboration with Juilliard, two phenomenal visiting artists to come into BSB Sanlitun on Thursday this week to work with some of our children in the Creative Arts. In addition they have agreed to provide an interactive musical theatre performance for our parents, children and their families.

Children in Year 2 to Year 6 will be participating in a workshop this Thursday 12th January. Our esteemed guests, Abby Gerdts and Dr Benal Tanrısever Şimşek will be delighting children with a workshop in music and/or theatre.

In the early evening all parents, children and their families are invited to come to an INTERACTIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCE designed to provide a taste of what the children have been experiencing in school and to engage and inspire families in the creative arts. Why not come along and enjoy the theatrics?

Where: Primary Campus Hall - The British School of Beijing, Sanlitun

When: Thursday 12th January

Time: 17:30 (we anticipate it will be around 45 minutes – 1 hour in length)

Who: Open to parents, children and families. NB children must be accompanied by an adult.

Price: Free

Entry: To attend please just make your way to the Primary Hall on Thursday

We hope to see you at the interactive performance on Thursday 12th January.

Best wishes,

Christine Armstrong
Deputy Headteacher

Dr. Benal Tanrısever Şimşek began her musical education with Prof. Ferdi Statzer at the İstanbul Conservatory. She received a scholarship to continue her work at The Juilliard School, under the supervision of Joseph Raieff. As a pianist she has performed in recitals and played as a soloist with orchestras in numerous halls around the world, including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, Berlin Philharmonic, Stuttgart Lieder Halle, Beethoven Haus in Bonn. She has performed as a soloist with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, New York Symphony Orchestra, Sibelius Symphony Orchestra, the Presidential Symphony Orchestra, İstanbul, İzmir, Çukurova State Symphony Orchestras, Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, Eskişehir Symphony Orchestra and Akbank Chamber Orchestra. Alongside this Benal has also touched the lives of children through conducting workshops, doing an educational television series and working in community out-reach programs. Following the 19 years she spent in New York, Berlin and Copenhagen, she returned to Turkey and shared her experiences with students at Bilkent University. She came to realize that in order to create a lasting impact in music education; it was a necessity to start working with children from a very early stage. Upon receiving her pedagogical training at Juilliard, one of the most respected schools in the field, she founded BT Müzikeyi in 1997.

Abby Gerdts is an actress, writer, and teaching artist from New York City. She is a co-founder and former Program Director of Artists Striving to End Poverty (ASTEP), a nonprofit organization that provides arts education and empowerment programs for under-served youth around the world. Through her work at ASTEP, Abby trained and collaborated with hundreds of artists, creating programming for communities with little access to the arts. Abby is an arts education and applied theater consultant currently working on projects with the US ARMY's Civil Affairs branch, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Bard College, and UNHCR. Since 1999, Abby has helped to cultivate arts programs, performances, and training programs for students of all ages in the United States, India, South Africa, the Dominican Republic, Turkey, China, and Ecuador.