

THE SOLOIST: HOW A MAN CAN INSPIRE THROUGH MUSIC
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Central Juvenile Hall



On August 18, 2014, Central Juvenile Hall hosted the Street Symphony, a non-profit organization whose goal is to bring musical experiences to the incarcerated and homeless population. The Street Symphony performed for the general population unit at the juvenile hall.

Because of my own passion for music, I organized the performance with Probation and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) to set up a solo performance by Vijay Gupta. A violinist, Gupta is the youngest member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and is the CEO of the Street Symphony. He is also a three-time TED Talk presenter.



At the performance, Gupta beautifully played three pieces by Bach that was well-received by the kids. There were about 40 children there to watch and listen to him play. To say the performance was well-received almost minimizes its actual impact as thank you letters and the poster of a violin surrounded by flowers, hand-drawn by one of the clients, demonstrates the magnitude of the effect it had on them.

There are future plans to continue to host the Street Symphony again at Central Juvenile Hall. It's our goal to make music and art adjunctive to the therapy provided at the Juvenile Justice System.