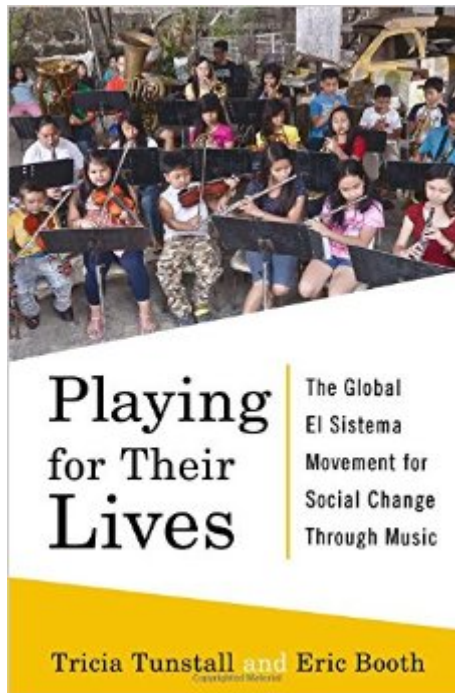


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Playing For Their Lives: The Global El Sistema Movement For Social Change Through Music



Synopsis

An eye-opening view of the unprecedented global spread of El Sistemaâintensive music education that disrupts the cycles of poverty. In some of the bleakest corners of the world, an unprecedented movement is taking root. From the favelas of Brazil to the Maori villages in New Zealand, from occupied Palestine to South Central Los Angeles, musicians with strong social consciences are founding intensive orchestra programs for children in need. In this captivating and inspiring account, authors Tricia Tunstall and Eric Booth tell the remarkable story of the international El Sistema movement. A program that started over four decades ago with a handful of music students in a parking garage in Caracas, El Sistema has evolved into one of classical musicâs most vibrant new expressions and one of the worldâs most promising social initiatives. Now with more than 700,000 students in Venezuela, El Sistemaâs central messageâthat music can be a powerful tool for social changeâhas burst borders to grow in 64 countries (and that number increases steadily) across the globe. To discover what makes this movement successful across the radically different cultures that have embraced it, the authors traveled to 25 countries, where they discovered programs thriving even in communities ravaged by poverty, violence, or political unrest. At the heart of each program is a deep commitment to inclusivity. There are no auditions or entry costs, so El Sistemaâs doors are open to any child who wants to learn musicâor simply needs a place to belong. While intensive music-making may seem an unlikely solution to intractable poverty, this book bears witness to a program that is producing tangible changes in the lives of children and their communities. The authors conclude with a compelling and practicable call to action, highlighting civic and corporate collaborations that have proven successful in communities around the world. 16 pages of illustrations

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Customer Reviews

Playing For Their Lives is a beautiful antidote to the doom and gloom of the daily news: it's about people at their best. These extraordinary real-life stories about kids around the world who are playing Tchaikovsky in ghettos and barrios, and their teachers who are unsung heroes, made me hopeful again about what humans are capable of. Not only is it a great read -- but it's also chock-full of interesting ideas about how what motivates kids and how they learn. The authors pull together an amazing amount of current thinking on these subjects and make it easily accessible. I'm not a musician or an educator. Just someone turned on by finding effective solutions to social/economic problems. And El Sistema has proven its success around the world. We need more more more! I didn't want this book to end! I'd give it my very highest recommendation.

Playing for Their Lives is an inspiring and engaging readâ "I expected the â ^inspiringâ ™ and was pleasantly surprised by the â ^engaging.â ™ It turned out to be a page-turner, with lots of great stories about the artists and programs and students. It also contains fascinating analyses about why this approach to music education has such a powerful effect on kids and the impoverished communities they grow up in. Itâ ™s remarkable how El Sistema has caught on in countries around the world. Playing for Their Lives lays out the what and the whyâ "it's a great read about a great story. An uplifting book about an important global initiative.

This is a very important book, BUT DO NOT BUY THE KINDLE EDITION--THE FORMATTING IS A DISASTER AND NEEDS TO BE COMPLETELY REDONE. This is the reason for the single star. I asked for a Sample on the Kindle edition and was sold the entire book.

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