BRIDGE MATRIX

HIGH SCHOOL & PRE-COLLEGE ENTRY &

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

PRE-PROFESSIONAL

> YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

Psychological and Behavioral Preparation

To mentally prepare musicians of color to navigate obstacles that disproportionately affect them

CHALLENGE Are there psychological components (as opposed to socioeconomic) affecting participation in classical music at this phase?

EARLY YEARS

RESOURCE Inspiring Role Models; Encouragement from Parents and/or Adults; Entry Point into Instrumental Instruction **CHALLENGE** Ineffective and negative guidance counselors. Do musicians have access to pre-college advising that empowers rather than dissuades them?

RESOURCE Campus Visits; Scholarships; Financial Aid Consultations; Application Consultants; Summer Music Camps CHALLENGE Retention: Do young musicians have the social and organizational vocabulary needed to identify the challenges they face? Can programs like the Posse Foundation be re-purposed to our context?

RESOURCE Early Access to Career Mentorship and Planning; Summer Music Festivals

CHALLENGE Will mentors themselves have the wherewithal to offer holistic mentorship?

RESOURCE Mentor matching; Placement in Fellowship Programs; Graduate Programs **CHALLENGE** How do we ensure that musicians get the right coaching, at the right time, and properly calibrated to their unique professional situation?

RESOURCE Mentors; Fellow Musicians; Music Directors; Executive Directors; Personnel Managers; Psychologists

Technical Training

To ensure mastery of the fundamental building blocks of professional musicianship

CHALLENGE Can students outside of community-based music education programs that do not have access to music programs in their schools be systematically reached?

RESOURCE Lessons and Fundamentals
Early On; Summer Camps and Traditional
Pre-College Programs

CHALLENGE How can this be done cost efficiently? What if a student lives far away from quality instructors and mentors?

RESOURCE Audition Preparation; Virtual Learning; Summer Camps and Pre-College Programs **CHALLENGE** Can we get buy-in from all stakeholders at the institutional level? Will faculty be firm and hold musicians to the same high standards as their colleagues?

RESOURCE Professional Audition Preparation; Summer Music Festivals

CHALLENGE Is there new ground to cover here or are existing resources/ practices enough?

RESOURCE Intensive Audition
Preparation; 1-on-1 sessions; Mock
Auditions

CHALLENGE How will the learning curve of weekly performances be acclimated? Are there skills that can be developed earlier in Pipeline?

RESOURCE Mentors; Fellow Musicians; Tenured Musicians of Color; Consistent and Specific Feedback

Logistical and Financial Support

To support families and the high costs of pursuing a career as a professional classical musician

CHALLENGE Do we have good data on what it costs to provide musical training from Middle School through High School?

RESOURCE Funds for Instrument
Purchases and Private Lessons; Parent
Involvement; Talent Development Programs

CHALLENGE Could admissions teams from various schools come together and audition students at the same time?

RESOURCE Audition by Consortium; Group Trips to College Auditions; Waived College Audition Fees; Parent Support Groups **CHALLENGE** How can resources complement instead of replacing those provided by college/conservatory?

RESOURCE Instrument Support; Travel Resources; Information on Fellowship, Graduate and Training Programs **CHALLENGE** How do I balance my freelancing responsibilities and income while taking professional auditions?

RESOURCE National Alliance for Audition Support; Instrument Loans & Purchases; Resume Support

CHALLENGE What, if any, additional costs or logistical support do hired musicians of color face?

RESOURCE Mentors; Fellow Musicians; Music Directors; Psychologists

Organizational Support

To promote equity in, ensure alignment of and provide support to the organizations the musicians of color seek to participate in

CHALLENGE Given that these programs are the beginning of the pipeline, how can we support them most effectively?

RESOURCE Community Music Schools; Community-based Music Education Programs; Public/Private/Charter School Music Programs **CHALLENGE** Do college/conservatories view prospective students from an enrollment/financial aid perspective? Does tuition discounting disincentivize recruitment of these applicants?

RESOURCE Admissions Officers; Administrators; Parent Support Groups

CHALLENGE Will shared governance and tuition discounting make it difficult for institutions to be responsive to musicians of color?

RESOURCE Mentors; Faculty and Administrative Advisors

CHALLENGE Does the audition and recruitment process undermine diversity, equity and inclusion efforts?

RESOURCE Music Directors; League of American Orchestra; Orchestra Managers, Staff, and Boards; Orchestra Committees; Collective Bargaining Agreements CHALLENGE Are the review processes transparent enough? What proactive retention programs exist? Has unconscious bias been discussed at the organizational level?

RESOURCE Music Directors, Boards,
Orchestra Committee; Collective Bargaining

Talent Identification and Opportunities

Identifying, evaluating and recruiting musicians of color

CHALLENGE How do you market to/ communicate with this population? How big is it? 100k-300k students?

RESOURCE Community-based music education programs; State Music Educator Associations; Arts Schools

CHALLENGE How can we reach all of these students?

RESOURCE College Fairs; High School Music Rosters; Community-based music education programs; Sphinx Competition & Summer Performance Academy; NASM & ICCAM

CHALLENGE Retention is a challenge; How do we identify when a student is struggling? Can we intervene and support on a time horizon that is meaningful to the student?

RESOURCE Faculty, Administrators; Academic and Career Advisors

CHALLENGE Recruitment practices are minimal. Can diverse candidates be proactively sought?

RESOURCE League of American Orchestras; Colleges & Conservatories; Orchestras

CHALLENGE How can we ensure that musicians who come through the pipeline continue to help nourish it?

RESOURCE Musicians of Color (as mentors themselves)