

DMH CONNECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2017

Me2/ORCHESTRA HEADQUARTERS OPEN AT THE FULLER

The DMH Metro Boston Area welcomed [Me2/Orchestra, Inc.](#) to their new headquarters in the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center in August. Me2/ ("me, too") is the only classical music organization in the country that brings people together under the theme of mental health. Founded with one orchestra in Burlington, VT in 2011, the organization launched an additional orchestra in Boston in 2014. Now the co-founders, Ronald Braunstein and Caroline Whiddon, are happy to call Boston their home, both personally and professionally.

To an observer, Me2/Orchestra looks like any other community orchestra. The primary difference is that they openly acknowledge the fact that everyone in the room has different needs and the musicians are there to support each other. Approximately half of the musicians are living with a mental health diagnosis, while the other musicians join to show their support for the orchestra's stigma-erasing mission. They perform in traditional concert venues as well as hospitals, mental health centers, and correctional facilities.

"We are excited to be located in the midst of this vibrant city. The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health has shown tremendous enthusiasm for Me2/'s work. We couldn't be more thrilled to have their support and look forward to continued collaboration through future programming," said Caroline Whiddon, Me2/'s Executive Director.

Me2/Orchestra rehearses on Mondays from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at [Bethel AME Church](#) in Jamaica Plain. The rehearsals begin September 18. The orchestra rehearses from September through May of each year. New members are accepted at various points throughout the season. If you are interested in joining the orchestra, please email: info@me2orchestra.org or call 802-238-8369. You can also learn more about Me2/ by visiting their website: www.me2orchestra.org.



Photo: Me2 Rehearsal at the Lindemann Mental Health Center last spring.