

Donors Promise to Help Juilliard Youth Program

By DANIEL J. WAKIN

Word that the Juilliard School had lost financing for a prized musical training program for black and Latino children has brought forth numerous offers of help, including a major pledge from the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation of Los Angeles, school and foundation officials said on Friday.

Juilliard's president, Joseph W. Polisi, said he was sending out information to foundations and individual donors who had inquired about helping the Music Advancement Program, which accepts about 50 children a year. It offers instrumental lessons, ear training and theory classes on Saturdays, mostly at no cost. The course lasts two years.

Juilliard quietly sent out word in recent weeks that it would not be having auditions next month for an incoming class but that this year's crop of first-year students could come back next year to finish. After that, the program would continue only if financing could be found, Juilliard said. The school said it could not finance the program on its own because of broadly imposed budget cuts.

The decision disappointed dozens of children, including a contingent of violin students at the Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary elementary school in East Harlem who had been studying all year for the auditions.

After an article about the suspension in The New York Times on Wednesday, Mr. Polisi said, many offers to help came in, including an inquiry from the foun-

dation of Eli Broad, a billionaire philanthropist who is a major donor in the worlds of education, the arts, medicine and science. A foundation spokeswoman, Erica S. Lepping, said Mr. Broad had pledged \$425,000 over four years, which she said was enough for the program "to become sustainable for the foreseeable future." Mr. Broad "believes strongly that poor and minority students should get the same access to arts education," Ms. Lepping said.

Mr. Polisi said he would seek pledges to keep the program go-

Music classes for minority children may get a new life.

ing for three to four years. A year costs roughly \$450,000.

"I did tell everybody that I'm not going to accept a dime until I'm sure I have a million and a half in place," he said. "I can't restart a program and then close it down again." He said he was hopeful the entire sum could be raised.

"We're enormously grateful of course," Mr. Polisi said of the Broad pledge. He added that he was waiting to see the results of the other inquiries. "I'm hopeful that if all of these inquiries turn into pledges, we'll be able to ensure the life of the program for at least four more years."



KIRSTEN LUCE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Students at Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School in East Harlem have been working to audition for Saturday classes at Juilliard.

