

MUSIC

Parkland Students Made a Trumpet From Bullet Casings for Musicians to Play at Shows

'Instrument of Hope' hits America's main stage



By [David Gianatasio](#) on Apr 26 2019 - 7:45am

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Harnessing the power of music to engage and spark conversation, a group representing Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students forged a trumpet from bullet casings. Now, they're sending it on a nationwide tour to keep the gun-control issue on America's main stage.

So far, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Keyon Harrold, Glen Friedman and Amos Lee have played the "**Instrument of Hope**" at their shows, as have Panic at the Disco and the Revivalists, two bands with songs about gun violence.



Publicis worked on the project for ShineMSD, a group created by Parkland families to use arts to promote healing. In the poignant and pointed project video below, you'll hear Harrold, a Grammy-winning jazz artist, use the trumpet to perform "America the Beautiful."

Making of the Instrument of Hope (776)

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The trumpet uses 100 spent AR-15 casings—the same number of rounds fired during the February 2018 mass shooting in Parkland, Fla. Instrument designer Josh Landress donated his time and labor, and fabrication costs totaled just \$2,000.

"Looking to honor the memory of those lost to gun violence and make a lasting statement against it, the 'Instrument Of Hope' was the perfect project," says Joe Garrity, president of ShineMSD. The nonprofit raises funds and provides mental-health programs for Parkland victims and families. Seventeen people lost their lives in the shooting, while 17 others were wounded.

Last year, Garrity's daughter Sawyer and her classmate Andre Peña both survived the bloodbath, put the tragedy into perspective by writing and singing the piano ballad "Shine," a call for unity and change.



The song received considerable attention following its performance during a CNN Town Hall telecast, inspiring Garrity and Peña to explore other ways of using music to engage the public's attention. Publicis consulted with the pair on the trumpet project, and the students used social media to invite artists across the musical spectrum to participate. More acts are expected to blow the horn on stage in the near future.

power of art and music. Their message lined up perfectly with our execution."

McKay views the instrument as "a symbol to rally together, a call for action, to charge into battle for a just cause. There is a lot of symbolism built into the selection of instrument. We're trying to reach young people who can effect change. But causes are not always top of mind. When horrific events happen, people take to social platforms and express outrage, but that quickly fades. And people just go back to their normal lives. We created this in an attempt to keep the conversation around gun violence alive."



What's more, he believes the "Instrument of Hope" will have more staying power than a 30-second PSA or online push.

"We made a physical tool that is used to create different sounds and songs, but always carries the same message," McKay says. "We used the musicians as our medium. A medium that reaches millions of people and costs almost nothing. We were able to put our message in front of the right people, without interrupting their time or experience."

Indeed, the aural focus seems apt, given the horrifying sound of gunshots. Here, we have a complete transformation—the bullets acquired a new form,

CREDITS

Client: ShineMSD

Campaign Title: Instrument of Hope

Agency: Publicis New York

Chief Creative Officer: Andy Bird

Executive Creative Director: Matt McKay

Creative Directors: Justin Via, Daniel Massih, Josh Horn

Associate Creative Director: Fabio Ozorio

Copywriter: Chris Wilson

Art Director: Eduardo "Dudu" Gomes

Creative Director of Design: Patrik Bolecek

Designer: Halli Rosin, Elizabeth Kenney, Spencer Chan

Strategy Director: Emily Canan

Production:

Music Producer: Rachel Rauch

Executive Producer, Production: Lauren Schneidmuller

Program Management:

Director, Program Management: Anna Fung

Senior Program Manager: Ron Jensen

Program Manager: James G. Jensen

Website Development:

Senior Business Logistics Manager: Rich Clendenen

Platform Developer: Don Wang

Project Coordinator: Melanie Orsag

Director of Technology: Carlos Batista

Quality Assurance Analyst: Nidhi Murthy

Interactive Developer: Don Bui

Experience Designer: Shannon Andeel

Account Supervisor: Ayesha Khara

Photographers: John Tyler Donathan, Tiago Chediak

Videographers: Dexter Brierley, Joe Fusco, Tom Van Scoyoc, David

Dougherty

Editorial /Production Company: Nice Pixels

Editor: Marc Lagana, Kevin Curran

Post Production Director: Elisa Gougoux

Producer: Kathryn Lemke, Maria Marmol

Audio Record & Mix: Nice Pixels

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David Gianatasio

@DaveGian

David Gianatasio is senior editor at Clio Awards.

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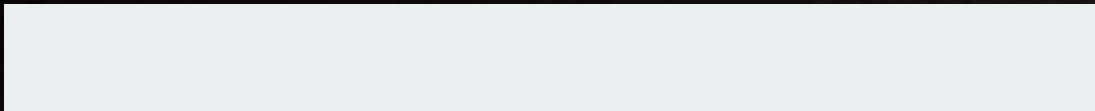
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