

"Unchained Melody" is a film that I created in Spring 2003 to bring all artists in our school, the Bronx High School of Science, together. After learning that budget cuts could ensue, I felt that it would be beneficial to hear the thoughts of the students active in music and art programs in the school. Sure enough, after some meaningful interviews, I realized how important the arts are in our lives and I was proud to be a Bronx Science Musician. Unfortunately, we did lose some arts classes due to the budget cuts, but the fiscal crisis hasn't discouraged the determined, hardworking and loving arts students and teachers at our school from learning and teaching.

Shari Hochberg

Member, Media Activism Club

Bronx Science Musician

"Finding your soapbox: Social action through protest" is the end product of my search for my soapbox, the outlet for my perspective. I started the Media Activism Club at my school, the Bronx High School of Science, in September 2002. My goal in starting the club was to create a place where students could learn about the media and how and why it gets our attention as a society. Members would then use their knowledge of mainstream and independent media sources to create their own media, portraying their unique perspectives about important issues in their lives. We had just begun to conceptualize our documentary projects when the threat of war with Iraq captured my attention, and the attention of many of my peers. While I took great interest in educating myself about the politics behind the war, I found it more fascinating to observe the many ways people responded to the political issue at hand. I observed people standing on very different "soap boxes" – using different outlets to voice their opinions about the war. I traveled to Washington DC with a Jewish teen youth group and became a lobbyist. I watched my fellow students walk out of their fourth period classes to congregate in Union Square for a youth march. I went to the United Nations on February the 15th and witnessed thousands of people express their opinions in a peaceful march. As a film creator, I documented each "soap box", each means of taking social action and ultimately created my film about the February 15th protests. I captured what it was like to be at the protest by interviewing participants and taking footage. Making this video taught me about finding my soap box. It showed me how to express myself using video and taught me about the power of the media. Through learning about the way other people express them selves, I learned how to express myself.

Sara Vogel

President, Media Activism Club

Bronx High School of Science