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## Kerwin Young Speaks with Philly Youth Musicians at POP Virtual Summer Program

*Friday, July 17, 2020, Philadelphia, PA/Online:* Kerwin Young, classical music composer, teacher, and former producer-member of the groundbreaking hip hop group Public Enemy, will take part in a public conversation hosted by Play On Philly (POP) on Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. During *Beyond POP: A Conversation with Kerwin Young*, Mr. Young will discuss his career in the music industry, spanning from hip-hop producer to classical composer, and will broaden our perspective on the ways music can influence our lives. He will also answer questions from students currently enrolled in the POP Virtual Summer program who are interested in musical career pathways. *Beyond POP: A Conversation with Kerwin Young* will be hosted online and is free and open to the public by [registering at Bigmarker](#).

Play On Philly has partnered with Kerwin Young as part of their innovative online summer camp, POP Virtual Summer, which has been adapted and enhanced from their annual in-person camp in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to the community conversation, Mr. Young is working with 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students over the course of the 4-week camp to help them compose a musical piece that will be debuted during the camp's closing performance, POP Summer Showcase: Lifting Our Voice on Friday, August 7th.

"Working with the students for only two days in July has been enjoyable and enriching. They're each highly intellectual in thought, speech, and action. It's an honor sharing ideas with them and finding common solutions toward a final product. It's an uplifting experience sharing with our youth and the staff to create something memorable.", says Kerwin Young, "Success in any field is generally the result of a collaborative effort. True success has no room for selfishness. For me, music making (composing and producing) is in large a collaborative effort. I grew up in an era of singing groups, bands, and rap groups. Being part of a team; something greater than oneself was the thing. Though there are projects one may engage in alone, it takes a team effort to refine and promote the final product. While social distancing aims to further us apart, our virtual collaboration will counteract this to create a global sister & brotherhood."

POP Program Director Jessica Zweig led the swift transition of POP's intensive, daily after-school music education program and summer camp, which has inspired creative, community-informed approaches to staying engaged with students and has opened doors to new opportunities in partnerships through online music instruction. "Summer camp is a time for taking-risks, growing as a musician and a person and building a strong community; Virtual Summer is no different. This summer POP musicians are finding their voices through the process of forming creative musical ideas and developing them into strong compositions about who we are as a community. We may be physically apart, but we're making music together."

**What:** Beyond POP: A Conversation with Kerwin Young

**When:** Friday, July 17, 2020  
5:00-6:00 pm ET

**Where:** [www.bigmarker.com/play-on-philly/Beyond-POP-A-Conversation-with-Kerwin-Young](http://www.bigmarker.com/play-on-philly/Beyond-POP-A-Conversation-with-Kerwin-Young)

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**About Play On Philly:** Play On Philly (POP) provides high-quality music education to students, who would typically lack access, as a vehicle for life skills and academic achievement. We provide 2 hours of music instruction and ensemble practice every day after school. Students range from Kindergarten to 12th grade and are loaned an orchestral instrument at no cost. POP programming has proven results: our students score ten points higher on standardized tests and have improved behavior and study skills. We cultivate musical excellence, lifelong skills, and confidence. Learn more about POP at our new website: [www.playonphilly.org](http://www.playonphilly.org).

**About Kerwin Young:** Kerwin Young is a prolific international concert & media composer, and recording producer; whose music has served as social commentary the world over since 1989. A member-producer of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted Public Enemy, Kerwin Young is a multi-platinum, Grammy winning composer/producer of popular music in multiple genres; including film, television, and video games. His works have been performed by Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, University City Symphony, Inscape Chamber Orchestra, Music From China, Del Sol String Quartet, Tesla Quartet, ROCO, and other well-known ensembles. Kerwin studied music composition at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance with Chen Yi, Zhou Long, and Jazz Messenger legend, Bobby Watson. Since 2019, Kerwin has served as Performing Rights Associate with Next Level, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Meridian International Center. Internationally, Kerwin is a traveling scholar, lecturing on music composition and production across multiple genres, and entrepreneurship. For more information on Kerwin visit [www.kerwinyoung.com](http://www.kerwinyoung.com)