harnessing the power of music for growth, fulfillment, and a better world
We bring Great American Music to young people in communities where creative arts education is just way too scarce.

Brain research has demonstrated the remarkable power of music to affect our basic moods and attitudes. The science is clear, and yet the musical arts aren’t being harnessed as they could be in our neediest communities. At a time when public schools have cut music and art to the bone, Kindred Spirits (KS) has generated fresh community resources to enhance musical growth opportunities for people of all abilities and backgrounds. KS exists to help compose a future for our country’s youngest citizens to learn through musical experience. Since our founding in 1994 by veteran Jazz artists Anne Phillips and Bob Kindred, KS has emerged as a widely respected resource for musical community-building. Drawing from the Jazz world and the Great American Songbook, KS has cultivated rewarding relationships among professional musicians, schools and neighborhood organizations. Together, we’re realizing music’s potential to nourish and empower families, schools, and communities to continue learning from their cultural heritage.

KS Children’s Jazz Choirs benefit young people as they sing the masterworks of the Jazz greats during intensive, short-term workshops. Youngsters are accompanied by accomplished musicians in spirited rehearsals and performances that dazzle community audiences and leave children more confident in their abilities to master complexity, not just in song, but in reading and writing, too.

KS Individual Sessions support veteran musicians who struggle with spoken language expression and as well as losses in memory, vocal range and tonal expression following an injury or illness. We also offer one-on-one vocal coaching to augment the strengths of highly musical individuals with life-long neuro-developmental and physical challenges.

The Jazz Nativity is our critically acclaimed performance work featuring world class musicians, dancers, and developing artists. The work gives narrative song story-telling another fresh role: celebrating the Christmas musical tradition through contemporary Jazz and spiritual verse.
There exists a very wide musical space in the human mind, body and spirit where the obstacles and barriers of illness and injury somehow have less force, and where our physical challenges and psychological losses lose some of their gravity. “Through singing, and faith, we can reach there,” says Anne Phillips. Among music’s greatest strengths is its equalizing power, a God-given power that unites human spirits of all backgrounds, abilities, cultures, religions, and identities. It is this unifying musical force that defines the work of Kindred Spirits. “We are here because we love music and believe in its great power to help all people keep our hopes strong -- and spirits alive.”