



## **2nd week - 26 - 29 november 2013**

My second week with El Sistema France began with the children's first choir rehearsal, led by Etienne Rouller. Etienne conducted several exercises concerning phrasing contours, ensemble, but most importantly, finding one's voice. The rehearsal culminated with an infectious song he introduced, "Riant au Mistral", which the children sang with pride, both together and in canon. This first vocal repetition was a grand success and so vital for the program, as one must learn how to use the instrument they are born with before truly learning another.

During the following two days, Alcides and I led three rehearsals almost solely focused on theory, rhythm, and solfege. After two intense days of work, the children can now understand time signatures, clap complex rhythms, and fluently read treble and bass clefs (Alto clef is in the works!) The last exercise that was introduced integrated all three parts as the children read their first five measures of music, as a complete ensemble!

With the lack of instruments at the moment, however, it is hard to introduce technical aspects of playing, as a very small portion of the class can participate at one time. We are hopeful that more instruments make their way to the program so all parts of this learning process can truly be collective.

With that being said, great work is being done and the children are progressing extremely fast. I am very excited to continue where we left off next week!

**Harry Rich**