



MannaMail connects people in the MPI community through bimonthly stories and updates - east, west, north, and south. See the mission act.



## DISPATCH

*Cultural exchange is a key component of Manna Project's vision. Not only do we foster exchange between our volunteers and the members of the communities with whom we work, but we also seek opportunities to engage our volunteers and program participants in the larger global community around them. Recently, MPI Nicaragua's Adult English class had a great opportunity to experience a new culture: the world of jazz music! Read on as Nicaragua Program Director Katie Hathaway relates the story of the class' trip to the Nicaraguan International Jazz Festival:*

On March 3rd, the Advanced English class took a field trip to the Ruben Dario National Theater to see two jazz bands - one Nicaraguan and one Spanish - open the Nicaraguan International Jazz Festival, 2011. As one of the teachers of the Advanced class and a former jazz musician myself, this event was an exciting change from the usual classes in El Farito. In preparation for the concert, and to relate the event back to learning English, we had a class devoted to musical vocabulary. After the concert, we asked the students to write short paragraphs about their experience. Here is what one of our students, Henry, had to say about the concert:

"I enjoyed every moment of the jazz concert because I like jazz and I admire the skill to play this kind of music. Also, the face of the bassist made me laugh. For example, when he was doing the solo he opened his mouth. I couldn't stop laughing... Also, I felt nice because it was the first time that I visited the National Theater: such a beautiful, fancy place!"

Other students' comments expressed similar feelings. They appreciated the opportunity to listen to jazz, given that it is not very prevalent in Nicaragua. Above all, the most significant part of this event for most of the students was being in the National Theater. Almost all of the students had never entered the theater before, much less attended an event. For me, it was an honor to take a group of motivated and intelligent Nicaraguan young adults to experience a place that their country is proud of - their National Theater, named after one of Nicaragua's national heroes, Ruben Dario. I hope we can incorporate more cultural activities like this into the class in the future.

*Read more about the cultural activities going on in Nicaragua via the [Daily Life Blog](#).*

**And some important news: MannaMail will be going on a brief hiatus--but don't worry! We'll be back very soon with an exciting new format and some amazing new stories from every corner of the MPI community!**

## ACT

**Open** the door to new cultural experiences for our community members by giving to MPI today. Donations can be made via Razoo.

**Dive** into the best summer of your life. [Apply to be an MPI Summer Volunteer now!](#) Our next deadline is March 28, 2011.

## DATES

**TODAY, March 28th:** Second round deadline for [Summer Volunteer applications](#).

[www.mannaproject.org](http://www.mannaproject.org)



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