

# OPUSNOTES



SPRING 2017

THE  
MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS  
FOUNDATION

## Yamaha – Yes!



Yamaha's 2016 holiday campaign in support of music education resulted in the donation of 200 keyboards to schools throughout the country. Dale Jr. High in Anaheim CA received 22 keyboards.

*"I just wanted to thank you again for the care you showed for the kids at Dale Jr. HS. The keyboards you and Yamaha provided will not only spark a desire for music, but will honestly save many kids who may have disengaged from education. When they take part in quality music programs, they thrive and find their voice. But I know I am preaching to the choir, of course! I want you to know it is people like you who make life a joy for others."* Dennis Cole, Director of Humanities, Orange County Department of Education



Music teachers Monique Brusca and Joseph Nemchik added 25 keyboards for students at Christopher Columbus MS in Canoga Park CA.



Lead Hill Schools AR music teacher Phyllis Brixey: *"I am excited how quickly they are progressing. A big part of their success is the fact that they can sit down and play on a quality instrument. Thank you!"*



Joyful bandmates at Dunbar High in Fort Worth TX. Many thanks to Fidelity Investments.

*"Parents who were able to see the reaction of the donation have become more involved in the band program. Also, the administration is fully behind the band after the response to the donation. They understand the seriousness of what is being taught and the impact of having the necessary instruments."* Fondren M.S., Houston TX.

# THE SMILES ARE FOR YOU

## The Journey of Joe's Violin

Who could imagine that the simple act of donating a 70-year-old violin to a local instrument drive would result in a short film and an Academy Award nomination? We congratulate filmmaker Kahane Cooperman for recognizing the power of music through telling the story of Joe and Brianna, and how music and an act of kindness brought them together. You can watch the short documentary here: [video.newyorker.com/watch/the-new-yorker-shorts-joe-s-violin](https://video.newyorker.com/watch/the-new-yorker-shorts-joe-s-violin).



Brianna Perez and Joe Feingold

## An Award of Note



MHOF President and CEO Felice Mancini happily accepts the national Arts Education Award from Americans for the Arts in a gala ceremony in New York City - an honor that caps off a 20-year history of service to music education. Recipient of Joe's violin, Brianna Perez introduced Felice at the event. The real thanks go to our donors who make it all possible. The kids thank you. Onward!



Happy Palo Verde Elementary students in Casa Grande AZ. *"Our students are very excited to get started learning to play. Thanks so much for donating instruments to our students!"* Cathy Moore, 5th grade band director.

*"Being in band helped me learn the balance between individual achievement and being part of something bigger; part of a team. Those middle and high school experiences in band have really influenced just about everything I've done since."*

John Lilly, partner at Greylock Partners in Silicon Valley



MS 324 Patria Mirabal, Washington Heights NY.

# MUSIC MAKERS GIVE BACK

*“We are musicians and artists, as are so many of our friends, and we think often of the important work MHOFF does. What better way to celebrate this than to give the same gift we gladly received to the creators of tomorrow.” Jason Calloway, donor.*

*“Joining my high school band 43 years ago transformed my life, and I’m still at it – in fact I just got home from an orchestra rehearsal. I’m so pleased to help other children have the opportunity to participate in the magic of music.”*  
Jeff Soulen, donor.

*“Because music made me who I am, and I want to pass that on to kids who might not get the chance to be exposed to it.” Felicia Day, donor.*



*“With the all craziness that comes with the holidays, it’s easy to forget how lucky we are to pursue the things that make us happy. On behalf of the Rittenbros, we wanted to take a minute to express our appreciation for the role music had in all three of our lives and making us the people we are today. It’s enabled us to meet some of our best friends, travel to places we otherwise would not have had the opportunity to go, kept us out of trouble (for the most part), and most importantly, it’s given us a passion conducive to teaching the core principals critical to the formative years of middle school and high school - like discipline, teamwork, and being a part of something bigger than yourself.” Blake, Grant and Logan Rittenberg*



*“A mitzvah project is a service project a Jewish teenager does when they turn 13 and becomes an adult member of their congregation. It is about performing tikkun olam, Hebrew for ‘acts of kindness to repair the world.’ I love playing the violin and believe the act of playing music and listening to it lifts people’s spirits and helps them enjoy themselves. I am lucky that I own my own violin. I can pick it up any time and experience the joy of creating art, and the feeling of accomplishment when I have mastered a piece, or put a smile on the face of someone listening. Studying how to play music has also helped me make new friends and learn about other subjects, like history and math, but in a fun way. Violins are expensive and I know that a lot of kids cannot afford their own. I decided to ask people I invited to my bat mitzvah to make donations as their gift to me.” Maya G., Los Angeles*



Port Chester NY is lucky to have a venue with owners who support local classroom music. Port Chester MS in Rye Brook received a beautiful new bassoon, courtesy of the Capitol Theatre.

# PLAYING IT FORWARD - WITH GUSTO!

The month of March was celebrated in a BIG way. Not only did we observe Music in Our Schools Month – we had an instrument drive with partner KUSC, Southern California's premiere classical public radio station. Listeners from Santa Barbara to San Diego ventured out to a dozen designated drop sites, instruments in hand, to help keep music alive for hundreds of students in local schools. Many thanks to Nick Rail Music, Bertrand's Music, Orange County School of the Arts, McCabe's Guitar Shop, and Jones Coffee Roasters. We're very grateful to the Meyer Levy Foundation for matching donations to our repair fund – and the many people who responded by contributing to the fund.



Bertrand's Pedersen's Band and Orchestra's team Wendy Stackhouse, John Pedersen & Abby Lyons load instruments.



Carnegie MS in Carson CA was the first school to use many of the 500+ donated instruments.

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*"I am so glad that my guitar will be making music in the hands of a young musician. Music and art saved me when I was young. We have so much to do to keep children growing and flowering." Vincent*

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Volunteer Dylan B. checking in an electric guitar.



Volunteer Liza Sheketoff accepts two instruments from Susan Winston.



Bob Razegh parts with his mandolin and Michael Pines with his keyboard. Thanks to all of the wonderful donors whose instruments will be in eager hands very soon!

Didn't hear about the drive? You can donate your instruments any time – just visit our website or call us. Play your part!

4370 Tujunga Avenue, Suite 330, Studio City CA 91604  
818.762.4328 • [info@mhopus.org](mailto:info@mhopus.org) • [www.mhopus.org](http://www.mhopus.org)

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