



EMBARGOED/CONFIDENTIAL

**MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS FOUNDATION, LOWREY
WILL MAKE SURPRISE 25K INSTRUMENT
DONATION TO FARNSLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

***Louisville Business' Central Music and Kroger United to Bridge
Musical Gap For Lowrey Based 'Kids Need Music' Program***

LAGRANGE PARK, IL – The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation (MHOF), a non-profit organization that supports music education programs in schools nationwide, will surprise students at the Farnsley Middle School in Louisville, KY with the donation of \$25,000 worth of instruments to the school's music program. Farnsley Middle School serves 1,100 6th through 8th grade students in the Louisville area.

The donation was generated by funds raised through Lowrey (www.lowrey.com), a manufacturer of recreational music making instruments and programs for active adults. In March of 2008, Lowrey's national music organization, L.I.F.E. (Lowrey Is Fun and Easy) established the 'Kids Need Music' program designed to bridge the gap between musical generations.

LIFE Members nationwide, mostly retirees, held dozens of auctions, bake-sales and sold orange wristbands to help raise funds so that younger musicians would have the same opportunities to know the joy and accomplishment of making music. The organization chose The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation as the recipient of their fundraising efforts. The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation (www.mhopus.org), founded in 1996, provides grants in the form of new and refurbished instrument donations to underserved K-12 schools, community and after-school programs as well as individual students who are financially limited and unable to afford an instrument.

Louisville local businesses, Central Music Company, a Lowrey retailer and sponsor of L.I.F.E., partnered with Kroger (Westport Road) one of grocery retailer Kroger's (NYSE: KR) stores (www.kroger.com) to help 'bridge businesses' and raise funds for the effort. Central Music and Kroger Westport Road will participate in the surprise donation. A range of instruments will be given to the school.

“Music programs in schools nationwide are increasingly being cut or scaled-back due to budget cuts and shifting academic priorities,” said Felice Mancini, Executive Director of The Mr.Holland’s Opus Foundation. “Music education is more important than ever to help kids both academically and socially. The idea isn't to create more musicians, but more complete, fulfilled human beings. We want to keep music alive in schools and communities and to support the schools that recognize the value of music for all children.”

The surprise donation event will take place:

School: Farnsley Middle School
3400 Lees Lane
Louisville, KY

Date: May 26th, Tuesday

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

About The Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation:

The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation donates new and refurbished musical instruments to underserved schools, community music programs and individual students nationwide, in an effort to give youngsters the many benefits of music education, help them to be better students and inspire creativity and expression through playing music. More than 500,000 students across the country have benefited and thousands of instruments have been donated to 869 school and community music programs across the country, in addition to helping 112 schools affected by Hurricane Katrina. More information can be found at www.mhopus.org.

About Lowrey

Lowrey Organ Company is a division of Kawai Musical Instruments Mfg. Co., Ltd. Lowrey is a leader in the recreational music making industry, with music making innovations dating back to 1918 by founder Frederick C. Lowrey. Lowrey's patented recreational music making classes emphasize the joy and camaraderie that joining a group creates. Lowrey classes focus on enjoyable, accessible, and personally fulfilling group music classes rather than musical performance and musical competition. For more information on Lowrey, please visit www.lowrey.com.

About The Kroger Co.

Kroger, one of the nation’s largest retail grocery chains, employs more than 326,000 associates who serve customers in 2,481 supermarkets and multi-department stores in 31 states. Kroger operates stores under two dozen local banner names including, Kroger, Ralphs, Fred Meyer, Food 4 Less, Fry’s, King Soopers, Smith’s, Dillons, QFC and City Market. In addition, Kroger associates serve customers in 771 convenience stores, 385 fine jewelry stores and 781 supermarket fuel centers the Company operates. Kroger also operates 40 food processing plants in the U.S. Headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, Kroger focuses its charitable efforts on supporting hunger relief, health and wellness initiatives, and local schools and grassroots organizations in the communities it serves. For more information about the Company, please visit www.kroger.com.

About Central Music

Central Music offers a complete line of keyboard instruments and recreational music making classes designed for active adults. Central Music prides itself on giving back to the Louisville community through musical instruments and music education. For more information on Central Music, please contact store owner, Alan Cronin, Jr at 502-896-2009.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT FRANK WEST,
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