

Happening in Houston

MHOF's commitment to Houston public schools, with generous support from CMA Foundation, continues in amazing ways. As part of the CMA Songwriter Series, country artists Maddie & Tae talked about songwriting and answered questions from delighted music students at Waltrip High School, where MHOF first donated instruments in 2010. As an added surprise, NASA astronaut, local hero and trombone player/singer Clay Anderson greeted Waltrip students with his own music story. He shared that music was playing regularly while he looked out the space shuttle window.

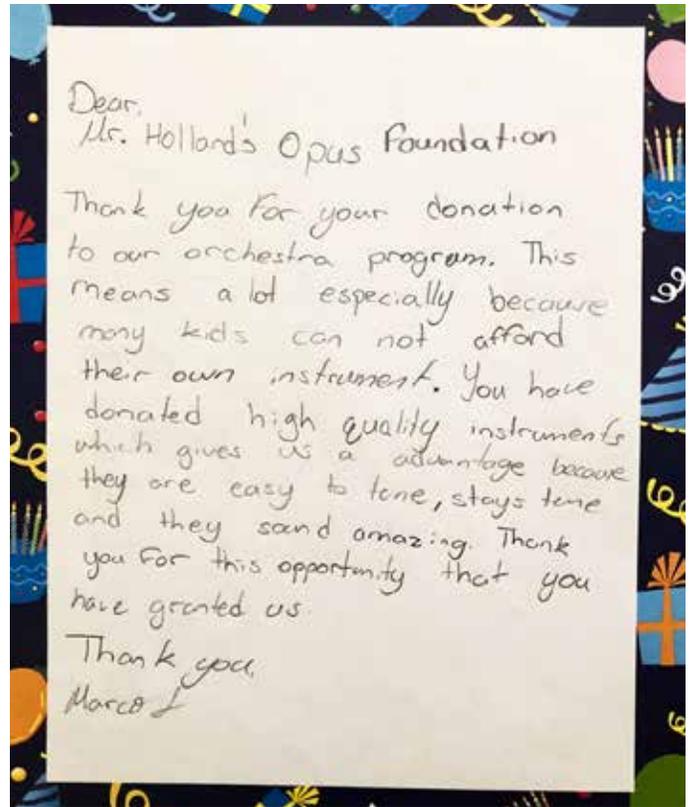
Over the years, MHOF has put instruments into 56 Houston schools and is now working closely with the Houston Independent School District to ensure that their schools can offer access to music education and quality instruments to as many students as possible throughout their entire K-12 experience.



Waltrip music students surround Maddie & Tae and their band after their Q&A.



Waltrip band director Jesse Espinosa, MHOF's Tricia Steel, Astronaut Anderson, CMA's Tiffany Kerns.



"Sometimes thank you isn't enough. When I pause to think about it, receiving this grant for new instruments will mean generations of students will have the opportunity to learn and participate in band whereas otherwise they couldn't. The opportunity for more kids here at Billy Reagan K-8 Educational Center to experience the fun of performing in front of small and large crowds alike. The opportunity for me as a band director to not only teach band but also life lessons that extend further than the band room such as dedication, discipline, and character. So when myself and the Billy Reagan community says 'Thank You', we truly mean it in every sense of the word." Band director, Marcus Wilmore, Houston



WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE



Teresa Ruvalcaba graduated from San Fernando Middle School in 2009, one year before MHOF donated instruments to the school. But she got to play a donated violin when she was in the Mariachi Master Apprentice Program that rehearsed at the school. She was thrilled that she could play a new instrument that stayed in tune and sounded so beautiful. Teresa went on to San Fernando High School (a recent MHOF grantee), excelling at mariachi and continuing her musical journey, continuing to play in UCLA's Mariachi de Uclatlán. Teresa is now a member of the MHOF staff, truly playing it forward.

"My grandfather instilled music in me at the very young age of 9. When he passed at 97, I knew I wanted to carry on his tradition and play the violin. Receiving an instrument from The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation helped curate my love for traditional Mexican folk music, which allowed me to connect not only with my grandfather, but with my heritage as well. That's the beauty of music. No matter where you come from, what language you speak, music will always connect people together. Music itself is a universal language that has led me to pursue higher education and has shaped me into the person I am today. Working at The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation makes me feel connected with students who are also hungry and passionate about music. Being able to help put an instrument in a child's hand is my way of giving back to communities like mine, that lack accessibility to the resources needed to maintain music education as a core subject in school. Much like my community, music is diverse and everyone deserves an opportunity to experience playing an instrument."



Leo Ruiz (left), playing sax, was a student in Vince Womack's stellar jazz band at Foshay Learning Center in south LA. He graduated in 2016 and is now attending Pasadena City College pursuing a Music Industry degree with hopes to transfer to USC or UCLA.

"I watch the young people become better teammates. I watch weakness turn into strength. I watch kids who were not necessarily very responsible become responsible kids not only at school, but also at home. Playing music permeates every aspect of living - enhances your understanding of history - music exposes different aspects of science and math. A lot of the best moments of my life have involved some way or another me holding that instrument, me going somewhere to play it, me coming back from playing, having that instrument."



Grateful students at Chester Park Elementary in Chester SC with instruments awarded to their string program. Fortunately for them, their school was untouched by Hurricane Florence, but MHOF will be there for affected Carolina schools if needed with our Music Rising fund.

Presenting MEDSS® - Music Education District Support Services

When you put in 22 years assisting schools in more than 700 school districts across the country, you gain a deep understanding and a keen knowledge of the issues and challenges they face in delivering quality music to students. We've put this valuable insight to its best effect through MEDSS, a menu of services available to school districts committed to music education for all students.

Launched in the Houston Independent School District in 2017 and supported by many generous donors, MEDSS is also active in Nashville, Atlanta, Aiken SC, Los Angeles, New York City and San Diego. For details visit our website.



Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks visited his alma mater Englewood High in Jacksonville FL, where he made a large donation of instruments possible over the summer.

“THANK YOU for making this possible for the students of Englewood High School. Our music programs will benefit for years to come. Mr. Reed has committed himself to making the band and guitar programs special, meaningful and worthwhile for our students ... those highest performing students, those struggling students and ALL the many students in-between. The generosity of this grant will allow the programs to continue to grow and flourish and will place beautiful instruments in the hands of students who may never know their ability to make music otherwise.”

Sara Bravo, Principal, Englewood High School

TuneUp!

All music teachers deal with imperfect or damaged instruments that need a quick fix in their classroom. Which is why so many show up for MHOF's growingly popular TuneUp repair workshop. Most recently held in Houston TX and Aiken SC, technicians from Nick Rail Music, Music & Arts, and Pecknell Music donated their skills to help music teachers make repairs right in their classroom. MHOF expects that this will be a popular offering!

“It was the BEST repair workshop! Thank you so much for all the materials.”

“This by far I think is the most practical workshop. The facilitator has a thorough knowledge of his craft.”



Glendale High School's way-cool drumline features marching drums (front) courtesy of instrument donor Larry Bernstein.

PLAY IT AGAIN

As fast as generous donors bring their happily-used instruments to our office...



...local music teachers come and get them. MHOF is happy to be the middle man.



Instrument donors Adriana Colon, Lesley Fera-Mochel

Composer and jazz band director Mike Hyziak from Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet, Clemente Sanchez-Guzman - Lincoln High School, Amy Rangel - Glendale High School

Sending holiday cards? Great! Here's one that gives even more than a greeting – sending it gives the gift of music to a child. To order your cards and put instruments into eager hands, call 818-762-4328 or order online at www.mhopus.org.



A cash contribution today will change a life forever. Please give the gift of music by donating online or using the enclosed envelope. On behalf of so many, thank you SO much!

4370 Tujunga Avenue, Suite 330, Studio City CA 91604
818.762.4328 • info@mhopus.org • www.mhopus.org

Special thanks to BMI for designing and printing this newsletter.