

School music is alive across the country, with new instruments being delivered in force. Students and teachers have shown their resilience and are ready to play!



Beginning violinist tests out her new instrument at Longfellow Elementary in Houston TX.



Huntington Park HS marching band of Huntington Park CA at their first football game of the season. MHOFF donated their instruments in 2018.



“Thanks to The Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation, we have more than enough instruments for all our students interested in band so they don’t have to consider finances when participating in our class. Without the support, many of our students would be unable to afford the rental fee - especially in these unprecedented financial times. Thank you for believing in our school and our students.”

RACHEL THOMPSON, BAND DIRECTOR

Discovery Intermediate, Kissimmee FL



Students at Gregory-Lincoln Education Center Performing and Visual Arts Houston TX learning new safety protocols and how to care for their instruments.

“We all know the healing power of music, and the pandemic has illustrated the importance to keep music education alive for all.”

MARSHALL JONES, BAND TEACHER

Smith River School, Smith River CA



Pacoima Middle School orchestra in Pacoima CA going strong since their instrument donation in 2017.



SHARING RESOURCES

THE VOLUNTEER STATE GETS MEDSS!

Music (and Arts) Education District Support Services



Every school district in the great state of Tennessee will soon have all the data they need to take action for all students to have full access to music and arts education. Through a groundbreaking initiative called State of the Arts, all 147 public school districts will receive a detailed analysis of what is happening on every school campus, and where improvements can be made to address inequities and gaps in instruction that affect students. Project partners, Country Music Association Foundation, The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, and the Tennessee Department of Education, hope to deliver on the promise: quality arts education available to all children in public schools.

TEACHER TIME



It's rare when band and orchestra teachers from different public schools gather to learn and not to teach. When 58 teachers did just that in October at the Houston Independent School District Learning Center, they learned tips and skills to make classroom repairs to the instruments their students use day after day. Taught by Eastman Music Company's excellent tech staff, not only will teachers hone their repair chops, but MHOF is donating a custom repair kit they can take back to their classrooms.

PARTNER ON THE BAY



What a perfect instrument to start learning music on - the ukulele! That's why we donated 500 of them to 4th and 5th-grade beginning music students in San Francisco Unified schools. With assistance from Guitars in the Classroom, their volunteers tuned and prepared each instrument so they were ready to go when kids opened the cases for the first time. Program Director Tricia Williams presented to the SF Board of Education recently, encouraging them to hire new music teachers and adjust schedules to give more kids access to music education. MHOF is thrilled to be part of major impact in the Bay Area!



"This is exciting and it is possible because of you and your generosity, not just in funds/instruments, but in taking the time to build partnerships, connect people, and listen to our needs/challenges. Thank you so much!"

RON MACHADO, SUPERVISOR, PERFORMING ARTS,
San Francisco Unified School District

"Music will always be essential to me. It all started in elementary school. I had a great music teacher. That's the age we're the biggest sponges of information. It's important that music is part of that information."

RAZZ SUTTON,
MHOF Donor



MUSIC MAKERS GIVE BACK

FATHERS AND SONS



Dweezil Zappa and Wolfgang Van Halen have more in common than famous rock icon fathers. They also both care about music education and kids being able to play music in school. Proceeds from Wolfgang's recording of "Distance" and Dweezil's podcast, "Runnin' With The Dweezil" give more kids a chance to learn music, and maybe one day, have their own moment of glory playing music.

WELL PLAYED!



One of the most coveted drum kits played by the legendary drummer, Alex Van Halen, was auctioned off over the summer. His custom designed Ludwig drum kit, stage played on over 100 shows of Van Halen's 1980 "Invasion Tour", will make history once again as the first and only drum kit of the rock icon ever to come to auction. "This kit from the 1980 Van Halen Invasion World Tour spent 5 years on display at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland," said Alex Van Halen. "It's the only one like it in the world and I'm happy that 100% of the selling price will be going to charity."

TTB BACK AT IT



For Tedeschi Trucks Band fans, their annual concert at Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado is a pilgrimage - not to be missed. For the last several years, the band, along with AEG Rocky Mountains has donated a portion of their ticket sales to support music education, allowing MHOFF to reach even more kids. Through thick and thin, TTB is there, and we're forever grateful.

MUST SEE TV



Twice in the same week, MHOFF awarded teachers made hearts swell as their fine work was showcased on two popular TV shows. America's Got Talent host Terry Crews visited Gompers Middle School in Los Angeles, surprising students and honoring their teacher with enough new instruments to start a string program at the school. Auditorium curtains opened for the first time since the pandemic started, revealing the impressive display. And... music teacher Erick Quintanilla thanked MHOFF for donating over 100 instruments to his music program at LA's Hollenbeck Middle School on The Kelly Clarkson Show. Watch both heartwarming segments here: linktr.ee/mhopus

DONOR VOICES

“I am a retired Instrumental Music Director. I worked in the Garden Grove Unified School District for 35 years teaching Instrumental music to grades 4-8. Keeping working instruments in the hands of the kids was one of the most challenging parts of my job. Since retiring in 2009 I run my own private studio and perform frequently. Thank you for all the help you are giving to keep music education alive.”

LORENA SIKORSKI

“I became familiar with MHOF after listening to an interview with Wolfgang Van Halen. He mentioned that the proceeds from his song, Distance, would be donated to MHOF because it was a cause important to his father, Eddie Van Halen. Being a fan of EVH and another music icon, Prince, who was also very gracious in giving his time and resources back to schools, I decided it was a nice way to help keep their memories alive and support a cause that was important to them.”

MICHAEL CONSTANTINE

“All my own kids had the opportunity to play instruments and sing in choirs throughout their school days. Every child should have this opportunity!”

JILL DURKIN

“This gift is in memory of a special family friend who was also a piano teacher. As a family full of musicians, it was always so special to share our love for music whenever we got to spend time together.”

BREE GUERRA

“This donation is in honor of Brett Baker, former musician and school band director. Brett was committed to his students and infused his teaching with his deep knowledge of and passion for music. He passed away in March of 2018. He would have loved the mission of Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation.”

ALISSA LERMAN

“My donation is in honor of my high school choir teacher, Hope Matthews, who died recently. When she was my teacher she taught at Bitburg American High School in Germany. She touched the lives of so many US military kids through band and choir. She made everyone feel welcome in her classes, no matter their talent or experience level and met each student where they were at.”

KATIE JUNKER



Reach out this holiday season with a card that 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/holiday-cards/

**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 110, Studio City, CA 91604
818.762.4328 • support@mhopus.org • www.mhopus.org

Special thanks to BMI for designing and printing this newsletter.