



THE
MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS
FOUNDATION

OPUS NOTES

SPRING 2022

Remembering Gabe



Gabe with the love of his life, Carol, at a MHOF event in Manhattan in 2008.

It is with profound sadness that we share that founding member and inspiration for The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, Gabriel Kosakoff passed away in March at age 95.

Celebration for a Cause



Jim Irsay Collection celebrated Jack Kerouac's 100 birthday, along with showcasing his amazing collection of guitars and memorabilia, while supporting music education with a donation of \$25,000. Thank you, Jim!

A Musical Journey Begins



A donation of 60 instruments to four Atlanta elementary schools is launching the musical journey of over 100 students! These schools were selected from our MEDSS (Music Education District Support Services®) survey results of Atlanta Public Schools, where we found band offered at a middle school and high school, but not the neighboring elementary schools. Now these young students will be able to experience the joys of making music through their entire K-12 education.

"A HUGE shout-out to The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation for providing our new elementary band programs with amazing new wind instruments! Our fourth graders are very excited to start their band journey!"

Mr. Alden Smith, Music Teacher, Cascade Elementary, Peyton Forest Elementary, West Manor Elementary, Miles Elementary - Atlanta GA



Beecher Hills Elementary music teacher, Mr. Stephen Jackson, shared his students are hard at work learning to play their new instruments. MHOF donated 27 instruments to the school.

"Fine arts programs provide an essential sanctuary for our students and inspire them to take ownership of their creativity. I know that our scholars will greatly benefit from this donation. Thank you for recognizing the program at Beecher Hills Elementary and for your support of Atlanta Public Schools."

Dr. Lisa N Herring, Superintendent, Atlanta Public Schools

Staying in Tune

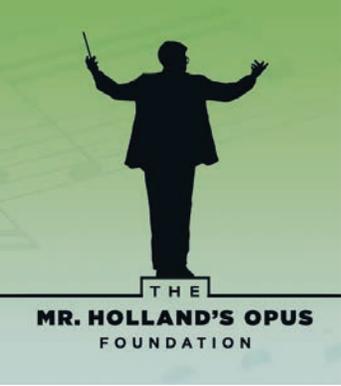
In January, MHOF hosted a virtual Instrument Repair Workshop for 79 music teachers in San Francisco Unified schools. Each teacher will receive a custom tool kit, using the skills they learned from Monty Clark, regional rep for Music & Arts.

"As a music teacher with over 15 years of teaching experience, I thought the instrument repair workshop had really useful tips in the maintenance and troubleshooting of our wind and string instruments. The kits will prove to be helpful in the instrument upkeep and adjustments that we face as music teachers on a daily basis and will also be a great addition to our toolbox! Thank you for all the excellent resources as well as the connections to expert repair technicians! Jay, Monty, and Jason rock! We hope we can do this more often and in person!"

Ariane Cortes, Mariachi Coordinator, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco CA

"Because in 7th grade an orchestra teacher brought me into the school group to learn how to play the bass viol, and 70 years later I'm still at it."

Reinette S.,
donor



Eddie's Lasting Gift

Eddie Van Halen left us all in 2020, but his relationship with MHOF will live on for a very long time. Eddie made a transformative bequest that will insure a long and bright future for our work to keep music alive and strong in our nation's public schools. We are humbled and deeply grateful to Eddie and his family for believing so strongly in what we do.

"Music kept me off the streets and out of trouble and gave me something that was mine that no one could take away from me. Music education and families are dealing with the economic times, and I wanted to help them. If I can help a kid discover a liking, or even a passion for music in their life, then that's a wonderful thing. Music has provided a good life for me and hopefully it can help make life better for others with this donation."



Eddie at Foshay Learning Center in Los Angeles in 2012.



The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation keeps music alive in our schools by providing vital support services to school districts, and new musical instruments to underfunded music programs nationwide, giving under-represented youth access to the many benefits of music education, leading them to success in school, and inspiring creativity and expression through playing music.

A cash contribution today will change a life forever. Please give the gift of music by donating online at mhopus.org/donate or use the enclosed envelope.

On behalf of so many, thank you SO much!

Kentucky Love

Chris Stapleton grew up in Kentucky and supports his home state whenever he can. He and his wife Morgane also support MHOF and their most recent donation will help transform school music programs in the Bluegrass State. A Concert for Kentucky, held on April 23 raised over \$1 million for the Stapleton's Outlaw State of Kind Hometown Fund, and \$250,000 was donated to MHOF. This means lots of new, beautiful instruments are going to be played by hundreds of grateful students in the upcoming school year!



Chris Stapleton returned to Johnson Central High School in Paintsville KY to donate 27 new instruments in 2016.

Legacies in Action

Tom Battista's love of music lives on through students at Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts in Providence RI where 52 students no longer have to share instruments.

Bobby Horowitz's loved ones answered the call to remember their dear friend and put 55 new instruments into the hands of deserving students at two DeKalb County GA schools. Deputy Superintendent Melissa Harris, was thrilled:

"DeKalb County School District values its partners, and we are thankful for your support. Your generosity is a testament to your values and commitment to the students in our district. Organizations such as yours truly make a difference in the lives of scholars, and we're incredibly grateful! We make a difference together."



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