



## Our Promise

The photos we share in this newsletter are from happier times. Everything has changed, and we know that students, teachers, and parents are struggling with daily life and finding needed structure and meaning to get through this crisis. Music is part of that. MHOFF is listening and responding, supporting efforts to keep music relevant and strong while anticipating the changes that will happen when kids go back to school. Know that we will be there through the expected and unexpected, offering vital services and support with your help. Thank you and be safe. The MHOFF Team - Tricia, Natalia, Felice, Hannah, Teresa and Celia



## From the Front Lines

*"Keep supporting the teachers! We are on the front line doing what we do best! Thanks for all of your continued support!"* Edward Downs, Camden Academy Charter, Camden SC

*"Thank you for reaching out to us! We are so appreciative of all that you do to support music in school! An online instrument repair workshop would be very helpful to us--if it included guitars, electric guitars and electric keyboards! Our district has 2 repair technicians - but they only repair orchestra and band instruments. Thank you!!"* Robb Janov, Jefferson MS, Albuquerque NM

Washington D.C. public schools will receive 200 Casio mini keyboards for students to play when they get back to school. *"This is so exciting, thank you! We are so honored that the foundation believes in the work we do, and willing to invest in the future of that work. Thank you again for being a great thought partner, supporter and member of the music education collective impact."* Mary Lambert, Director of Arts, District of Columbia Public Schools.

## Staying in Tune



While students and teachers learn and work from home, we continue to offer them tools and learning experiences. Not being in the classroom doesn't mean an end to learning and experiencing camaraderie and connection. Previously scheduled as an in-person training, Atlanta Public Schools instrument repair workshop facilitated by Bill Smith Music quickly went online when the district closed all schools. Teachers who attended will receive a custom tool kit to repair instruments right in their classrooms, courtesy of The Molly Blank Fund of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, and part of Music Education District Support Services - MEDSS® with Atlanta Public Schools.

## A Sense of Belonging

Heights High School in Houston TX will receive 16 new instruments courtesy of CMA Foundation. Principal Wendy Hampton, reflects on what being in band meant to her: *"I was a band member from grades 6 - 12 many years ago. Many of my fondest high school memories are the ones created at football games, band contests, and trips. I created lifelong friendships and gained experiences that I would not have if not involved in the band program. I also learned the value of teamwork, self sacrifice, and gained a self confidence I did not have prior to. I want to provide as many students as possible the opportunity to experience what the band program has to offer. This is not just about students learning music, developing a passion, or a lifelong hobby. This is where many students find belonging."*

## Kofi

Last year, good friends and music education champions, Tedeschi Trucks Band established the Kofi Burbridge Music Matters Fund to pay tribute to their dear friend and keyboardist and raised over \$100,000 to put instruments into more schools.



*"Kofi will live on in our hearts forever and we're thrilled that his legacy continues to be written through your generous support for music education."* Tedeschi Trucks Band

A new documentary honoring Kofi's life and musicianship, *Lest We Forget: Kofi Burbridge* will debut on May 1. Please watch this wonderful tribute at [LestWeForgetMusicians.com](http://LestWeForgetMusicians.com).

## Prince

The Prince Estate raffled a trip of a lifetime for fans of the legendary music icon to support a school music program in his hometown - Minneapolis. Edison High School music teacher Lesley Earles was thrilled to hear her school is the recipient of 14 new instruments: *"This grant means so much for our music program. For the past 5 years, our music program has grown from one ensemble of 16 students to 7 performing ensembles with our Concert Band being 61. Receiving these instruments will mean we can get more students into our program, support more students in their musical opportunities and give joy to so many students. Words cannot describe how thankful we are to the Prince Estate and The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation for the support of our program."*

## Joe's Violin

Now being played by Angelina, who will bring her energy and talent to Joe's violin, the instrument keeps breathing life into the music program at Bronx Global Learning Institute for Girls (BGLIG). Watch the story unfold at [JoesViolin.com](http://JoesViolin.com).



*"Angelina is a wonderful student and thoughtful musician. We chose her at the end of the last school year and I taught her since she was in Kindergarten. She's now entering her 8th grade year. She has always been a mature, kind-hearted, and considerate student. Angelina is always attentive and respectful in all classroom settings. She is constantly striving to improve in terms of her violin playing and enjoys playing in an orchestral setting with her friends."* Dr. Kokoe Tanaka-Suwan, former BGLIG music director, Bronx NY



Sadly, Joe Feingold, whose storied violin is featured above, passed away on April 15, a victim of Covid-19. A Holocaust survivor and New York City architect known

to many as one of the two subjects of *Joe's Violin*, the Academy Award-nominated 2017 documentary about the bond between an elderly Polish Jew and a young girl from the South Bronx that was forged by a violin, died at the age of 97. We will be forever grateful that MHOFF became part of his story when he dropped off his violin at Lincoln Center during our instrument drive in 2014. His fingers were stiff and he could no longer play, but he wanted a child to play it to keep the music alive.

# MUSIC MAKERS GIVE BACK

## Return to Atlanta



Fulton County Schools welcomed singer/songwriter/record producer - and former student, Blanco Brown, to present a stage full of new instruments to Westlake High School band, courtesy of StubHub Foundation. He then entertained them with a "Git Up" dance challenge.



Donor, Bradley Cohen:

*"I am a professional musician that started in public school. If there were no playable instruments I would have never learned. Every kid deserves a chance to play an instrument like I got."*

## Big Game in Miami



Ludacris joined StubHub to surprise Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High with new instruments and Super Bowl tickets for music teacher Mr. Segura!

## Welcoming New Sounds



Thanks to the NAMM Foundation, Lincoln HS in Los Angeles CA doubled their instrument inventory - which includes their first ever bassoon and keyboards for a new piano keyboard class.





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## Quality Counts

*"The quality of the instruments we received last year has improved our tone and pride in our ensemble! The new instruments ignited a newfound passion for music. Those new instruments gave them tools to improve and hear how amazing they are. The instruments they used to play kept losing springs and tuning slides kept getting jammed. This donation made a HUGE impact on our students and we can't thank you enough!"* Manuel Young, Director of Bands, Phillip Burton HS, San Francisco CA

## Did you Know...

Many of our donors contribute through their Donor-Advised Fund? If you have one, you can even make a monthly recurring gift that will help sustain our work now and in the future.

Your donation has impacted our music program incredibly, and allowed us to both improve and develop so much. Thank you for the donation, it's so greatly appreciated by every ensemble.

Before the donation we were accustomed to sharing instruments between students. But with the new grant we were finally able to solve that problem and boost the confidence of our students.

Northview High School students, Ranae and Destiny, in Covina CA - grateful.

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!

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Special thanks to BMI for producing this newsletter.