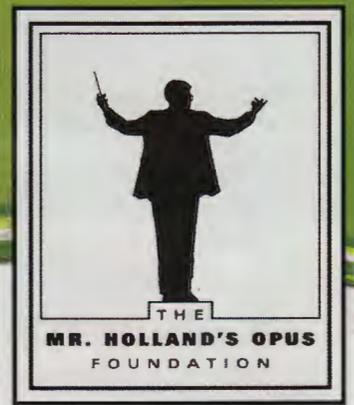


OPUSNOTES

SPRING 2015



Stand for Music Education



Our partners at StubHub Foundation have renewed their support, with a glorious goal to put \$1,000,000 worth of new instruments into classrooms across the country over the next year. First stop, South by Southwest, the annual showcase of music, film and tech in Austin TX, where William B. Travis High School Rebels marched in a pop-up parade through the streets of Austin. Their band received 11 marching drums, courtesy of StubHub and Dr. Martens. Another Austin school, Bedichek MS also received 56 instruments for their string program.



"I want to thank you for donating the bass clarinet to the Bolivar Middle School Band. This is a special gift to me because I have an important audition coming up. The old bass clarinet was holding me behind a lot. I was afraid that I'll be held back so much, it'll ruin the rest of my last year in middle school. This new bass clarinet will help me do way better in the UTM Honor Band audition and will give me a better chance of advancing later in my band career. Thank you so much for choosing my school for this great opportunity! You've changed this whole band program! Thank you so much!!"

*Zykeria B., student Bolivar Middle School,
Bolivar TN*



Bolivar students with new instruments – Zykeria is second from left.

JOSE'S JOURNEY

or How I Met a Rock Legend Through Music

In June 2014, Jose Cortes, a proud guitar player in Vince Womack's Jazz Band, graduated from Foshay Learning Academy in South Los Angeles. His best memories in school were being in band: *"I remember that every time we had a performance, every single one of the band members gave their very best. There were times when we played for just a handful of people and other times we played for hundreds of people. No matter how many people we performed for, everyone played with such passion that it was contagious. Being able to play beside such great musicians that I did not only consider classmates, but family. Those are the best memories I had and will hold and cherish them for the rest of my life."*

MHOFF donated instruments to Mr. Womack's music program over the years and invited his jazz quartet to play at a small event at board member Robert Cort's home. Eddie and Janie Van Halen were invited to attend. Eddie donated 75 guitars that went to 7 LA area schools and Jose was lucky enough to get one to play. Eddie was excited to see a student play one. *"When Mr. Womack asked me to be part of the four people that would be performing, he never mentioned that Eddie Van Halen would be there. I understand why he would not tell me. If he told me he was going to be there I probably would have had a nervous attack before even arriving at the location. When I met him, I was in complete shock. I never imagined that I would get the privilege to talk to him and perform a few steps away from him."*

Being able to play beside such great musicians that I did not only consider classmates, but family. Those are the best memories I had and will hold and cherish them for the rest of my life."

Eddie was so inspired after the event, he offered to come to Foshay to surprise the music class and talk to the kids about music: *"I was very happy when he came in the classroom and as soon as he saw me, he recognized me and called me by my name. His origins as a musician inspired us all to be the best we could ever be to obtain our goals. At the end, not only did I get to talk to him, but he himself taught me a guitar lesson from one of my favorite songs: 'Ain't Talkin' 'bout Love'. That was one of the greatest experiences I ever had."*



Eddie Van Halen, Jose, and Vince Womack

Now a freshman at Cal State University Northridge, Jose doesn't have much time to play music, but every now and then picks up his guitar: *"I try to stay connected with music as much as I can. I cannot let that passion fade away. Being in the music program meant a great deal for me. Being in the jazz band was a good way to deal with stress from school and it also helped me develop skills that could be applied outside the band room. For instance being part of the means you have to be patient, be perseverant, communicate, and be able to listen. All those things not only apply to other classes but to our daily lives in general. I feel thankful for being part of the band because although I only joined during my senior year of high school, I got to experience many things with many fantastic people."*

Jose hopes to become a physical therapist for athletes and is studying Kinesiology. It was a privilege to know him and to hear him play. Jose - you are a rock star!



Students at Besteiro Middle School in Brownsville TX are very grateful for their instruments, and for the support of the Hatfield Family Fund for making it possible.



Soon these ladies will be big enough to play the new bass that was donated to Bronx Global Learning Institute for Girls, Bronx NY.

"Our mission is to eliminate generational poverty in Dinuba, California through education. I believe that music education opens doors to our students that would otherwise be closed. Our school had only 7 instruments to loan to students. Due to the economic status of the majority of families in our community, purchasing or renting an instrument is not feasible. This gift of 38 instruments allows our students to participate in music education without the burden of cost. You have helped us to expose more children to music, positive activities, belonging to a team, confidence building, peer recognition, and a sense of accomplishment. I cannot thank you enough for helping me to help our students for years to come. This gift will be life-changing for our Kennedy Eagles."

Ms. CYNTHIA JAMES, PRINCIPAL



A Great Match

Our generous friends at the Meyer Levy Charitable Foundation, a private family foundation that supports an array of important causes globally, have provided a matching grant this year to fund our work. They will match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000 – that means \$10,000 can fund a bunch of new instruments for kids to play! Please consider a donation towards this fund by checking the box on the envelope when you send your donation check or donate online. Thank you!

DONOR LOVE

Donors make it all happen. They share our desire to give all kids an opportunity to play music in school. It is an honor to know them.

"I have played music for most of my life and began my love for it in an elementary school music program. Music performance is something that helps bring people together, forges new friendships and can provide a lifetime of challenges, growth and fulfillment. We must have strong, readily available music programs for our youth." Chris E.

"My wife and I were both involved with music through school and it was one of the biggest building blocks in our lives. We are ensuring that music is a part of our children's lives and we hope to make it a part of other children's lives as well." Scott & Rebecca P.

"I first donated to Mr. Holland's Opus to honor my father who was a band director for many years. I am a college music professor; my life was immeasurably blessed by my involvement in band, choir and orchestra as a student and I am fortunate that now my profession is to perform and to teach music." Carolyn B.



Dr. Lewis Mingori, retired professor of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering at UCLA stopped in to donate his trumpet, which will be delivered to a school by the end of this school year!



Jonathan Noga holds his great-grandfather's violin purchased in Germany in 1900 and handed down and played by his brother. *"Sadly, my brother passed away two years ago to cancer and I have the illustrious honor to send it off to hopefully a well deserving youth who will play it with pride and enjoy the gift that is music."*

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