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## **8 IPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO SHARE \$240,000 FROM VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION, BRIGHT HOUSE NETWORKS, TO CREATE NEW MUSIC PROGRAMS**

**'LEAVE NO STRINGS BEHIND' CONCERT TUESDAY AT STATEHOUSE; IPS SUPERINTENDENT DR. EUGENE WHITE TO SPEAK**

INDIANAPOLIS (Thursday, March 13, 2008) – Eight Indianapolis Public School elementaries have been chosen to share an award of \$240,000 worth of new musical instruments from Bright House Networks and VH1 Save The Music Foundation to jumpstart new music education programs.

Bright House Networks and VH1 Save The Music Foundation continue to support music education throughout Indianapolis Public Schools with this latest donation to:

1. Edgar H. Evans No. 11, 3202 East 42nd Street
2. Frederick Douglass, No. 19, 2020 Dawson St.
3. Arlington Woods No. 99, 5801 E. 30th Ave.
4. James Russell Lowell No. 51, 3426 Roosevelt Ave
5. Coleman Academy for Boys No. 509, Coleman Academy for Girls No. 511, 1740 E. 30th Ave.
6. William Penn No. 49, 1720 W. Wilkins
7. Wendell Phillips No. 63, 1163 N. Belmont
8. Jonathan Jennings No. 109, 6150 Gateway Dr.

Since 1973, MENC, the National Association for Music Education, has designated March as “Music in our Schools Month” throughout the nation. To celebrate the designation and the financial support of music education programs from Bright House Networks and VH1 Save The Music Foundation, a special concert showcasing the talents of young IPS musicians will be held Tuesday (March 18) in the North Atrium at the Indiana Statehouse.

Tuesday’s “Leave No Strings Behind” concert will begin at noon and will feature elementary string performers from IPS Nos. 11, 19, 51, 84 and 99. Also performing will be elementary musicians and vocalists from the Colman Academy for Boys and Girls and Broad Ripple High School Orchestra under the direction of Leslie Bartolowits.

“Each year with the concert, we celebrate the hard work and talents of youth participating in the new and growing music education programs within IPS and the dedication and commitment of the teachers who

are charged with broadening students' experience and developing their musical abilities," said Buz Nesbit, president of Bright House Networks Indiana. "Bright House Networks believes it is extremely important to create, sustain and enhance music education in our schools and for children to develop and pursue their musical interests."

The theme for Tuesday's concert focuses attention on IPS's commitment to balance the restoration of its instrumental programs by the addition and expansion of its string programs, said Linda Poulter, music coordinator for Indianapolis Public Schools. "The concert will showcase our wonderful elementary school band and string students who have benefited from the creation of new music education programs at their school thanks to Bright House Networks and VH1 Save The Music," she said.

In 2000, when the first grants from this initiative were made to Indianapolis public schools, only 10 IPS elementary schools had instrumental music education programs. Today, including the eight new schools supported by the Bright House Networks/VH1 Save the Music Foundation partnership, 44 of the 58 elementary schools within IPS have programs in place.

With this latest financial contribution to IPS, Bright House Networks and VH1 Save The Music Foundation have awarded \$1 million worth of new musical instruments to restore instrumental music education programs at IPS elementary.

"VH1 Save The Music Foundation is dedicated to supporting the development of youth within the Indianapolis Public Schools district by helping the district create new music education programs, enhancing existing ones and providing the musical instruments for student use," said Paul E. Cothran, Executive Director and Vice President of VH1 Save The Music Foundation. "We are proud to continue our partnership with Bright House Networks."

Celebrating its 11th anniversary this year, the Emmy and Peabody Award-winning VH1 Save The Music Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of education in America's public schools by restoring music education programs in cities across the U.S. and raising awareness of the importance of music participation for our nation's youth.

Since its inception in 1997, VH1 Save The Music Foundation has worked toward the goal of restoring instrumental music programs in our nation's public elementary and middle schools. To date, \$40 million worth of new musical instruments has been donated to 1,500 public schools in 100 U.S. cities, touching the lives of more than 1 million children.

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#### **ABOUT BRIGHT HOUSE NETWORKS**

In Indiana, Bright House Networks is one of central Indiana's leading providers of digital video, including Video On Demand, Subscription Video On Demand; digital phone; and high-speed data services. Managed by Advance / Newhouse Communications, Bright House Networks is a privately held company that has served the Indianapolis community for 25 years. Bright House Networks has more than 450 Indiana employees and provides services to more than 120,000 customers in Indianapolis, Carmel, Zionsville, Avon, Pittsboro, Lizton, Fortville, Marion, Gas City and Jonesboro. For more, visit [www.indiana.mybriighthouse.com](http://www.indiana.mybriighthouse.com).

Nationally, Bright House Networks is the nation's sixth-largest MSO with 2.4 million customers in large markets including Indianapolis; Bakersfield, Calif.; Birmingham, Ala.; Detroit; and Orlando and Tampa Bay, Fla., along with several other smaller systems in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Exceptional customer service is the company's cornerstone of its business and top priority across all operating units. Bright House Networks' local customer service centers are available 24 hours a day seven days per week, including holidays. Public affairs, social responsibility and community involvement continue as major initiatives for Bright House Networks as an ongoing commitment to the families and communities the company serves, including long-term commitments to education and to what matters in the lives of Bright House Networks communities.

#### **ABOUT VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION**

The VH1 Save The Music Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring instrumental music education programs in America's public schools, and raising awareness about the importance of music as part of each child's

complete education. Now a decade strong, it is our renewed commitment to donate one hundred million dollars worth of new musical instruments to ensure that even a greater number of students receive a comprehensive music education over the next 10 years.

The national partner organizations of VH1 Save The Music include the American Association of School Administrators, the American Music Conference, America's Promise-The Alliance for Youth, ASCAP Foundation, Chief State School Officers Association, MENC-The National Association for Music Education, NAMM-International Music Products Association, National School Boards Association and the U.S. Department of Education. VH1 Save The Music Foundations 2008 Platinum sponsors: jetBlue Airways and LG Mobile Phones. 2008 Gold sponsors: Bakers and got2b. 2008 Silver sponsors: John Varvatos, Listerene Whitening, Houlihan's Restaurants Inc., Star 98.7, Suzuki. 2008 Patron sponsors: Grey Goose Vodka, Verizon Wireless, Warner Bros. Pictures. 2008 Supporting sponsors: Snow Queen Vodka. For more information on the VH1 Save The Music Foundation, visit [http://www.vh1.com/partners/save\\_the\\_music](http://www.vh1.com/partners/save_the_music) <[http://www.vh1.com/partners/save\\_the\\_music/](http://www.vh1.com/partners/save_the_music/).