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Thursday concert at Statehouse to showcase young IPS musicians, products of Bright House Networks-VH1 Save The Music partnership

INDIANAPOLIS (Wednesday, March 18, 2009) – Eight Indianapolis Public School schools 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.

March is "Music in our Schools Month" throughout the nation and to celebrate both this year's VH1 Save The Music Foundation contribution that will help restore education programs in IPS elementary schools and the specially designated month, Bright House Networks and VH1 Save The Music Foundation will host a special concert Thursday at the Indiana Statehouse.

The hour-long concert begins at noon Thursday in the statehouse's North Atrium. Scheduled to attend and speak during the event are executives from Bright House Networks and IPS Superintendent Dr. Eugene White.

An elementary band consisting of nearly 60 young musicians captured by the Bright House Networks-VH1 Save The Music partnership will perform during the concert. The Broad Ripple High School Wind Ensemble will also perform.

The eight IPS schools that will receive funds from the Bright House Networks-VH1 Save The Music partnership to create music education programs in their schools in 2009 include"

- School No. 59
- George W. Julian School No. 57
- Theodore Potter School No. 74
- James A. Garfield School No. 31
- Minnie Hartmann School No. 78
- George Buck School No. 94 band
- Charles Warren Fairbanks School No. 105
- T.C. Steele School No. 98

Since 1973, the National Association for Music Education has designated March as "Music in our Schools Month" throughout the nation.

"This concert is a highlight for us each year as it is a visual and musical reminder of everything that young musicians and their instructors have accomplished throughout the year and a substantive reminder of the progressive partnership between Bright House Networks and VH1 Save The Music Foundation that has made a significant difference in the IPS school system for hundreds of children," 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."

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, all of the 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 \$1.13 million worth of new musical instruments to restore instrumental music education programs at IPS elementary schools.

“We are excited to continue our collaboration with the Indianapolis Public Schools and Bright House,” said Paul Cothran, executive director and vice president, VH1 Save The Music Foundation. “Together we are investing in America’s future, building towards the day when every student in Indianapolis Public Schools has access to benefits of instrumental music study and ensuring the next generation of innovators and creative thinkers.”

Celebrating its 12th 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, \$43 million worth of new musical instruments has been donated to 1,600 public schools in 100 U.S. cities, touching the lives of more than 1.2 million children.

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