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Thursday evening 'Celebration Concert' to showcase musical talents of more than 850 IPS elementary school students

INDIANAPOLIS (Wednesday, May 6, 2009) – Thanks to the strong partnership between Bright House Networks and the national VH1 Save The Music Foundation that began in 2000, all Indianapolis Public Elementary Schools now either have music education programs in place or will begin new ones in the 2009-10 school year.

To celebrate that accomplishment and award \$240,000 to the final eight schools, Bright House Networks and the VH1 Save The Music Foundation with supporting sponsor Chase will host a special communitywide concert Thursday evening.

More than 850 first- and second-year music students from more than 46 IPS schools will come together to perform renowned instrumental classics and showcase their musical talents at 7 p.m. in the Champion's Pavilion at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.

Guest conductors for the evening will be band director Kelly Hershey and orchestra director Leslie Bartolowits, both at Broad Ripple High School. Speakers during the concert will include representatives from the IPS administration, Bright House Networks and VH1 Save The Music Foundation.

"We at Bright House Networks believe it is critically important to help keep music alive in our schools and for youth at early ages and beyond to have the opportunity to express and challenge themselves with music," said Buz Nesbit, president of Bright House Networks Indiana. "When we first started this campaign with VH1 Save The Music Foundation, music programs were virtually non-existent in the elementary schools and suffering in the higher grades because of budgetary constraints and the high cost of musical instruments. Today, these schools have dedicated and talented teachers leading vibrant musical exploration instruction and equipped with free instruments for their students."

The eight IPS schools that have received funds from the Bright House Networks-VH1 Save The Music partnership to create music education programs in their schools in 2008-09 include:

- Merle Sidener Gifter Academy 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

In 2000, when the first grants from this initiative were made to Indianapolis public schools, only 7 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 but 6 of the elementary schools within IPS have instrumental programs in place.

As IPS plans to close six elementary schools in the 2009-10 school year, the music programs from those schools will be transferred to the six remaining elementary schools that do not 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.

Celebrating 12 years, 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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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 indiana.mybrighthouse.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.

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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. Since 1997, VH1 Save The Music has provided \$43 million worth of new musical instruments, donated to more than 1,600 public schools in more than 100 cities around the country, impacting the lives of more than 1.2 million public school students.

Many of America's greatest thinkers, innovators and leaders all have one thing in common: Before they made history, they learned how to play a musical instrument. For 12 years strong, VH1 Save The Music has provided the necessary resources to foster the next generation of music makers and creative minds through music education in our public schools. In October, Beyoncé, Jamie Foxx, Chris Webber, Gavin DeGraw, NE-YO, Johnny Rzeznik, Natasha Bedingfield, The Fray, Tamia, 3 Doors Down and Venus Williams have agreed to serve as the Foundation's inaugural Class of Ambassadors – each committed to being the Foundation's most powerful advocates by raising funds and proclaiming the importance of music to a child's education and the urgent need to invest in the next generation of leaders. For more information or to join the movement to provide a comprehensive music education to a greater number of students, visit www.vh1savethemusic.com to "First Make Music, Then Make History."