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## PHOTO RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS (Monday, June 1, 2009) – More than 850 first- and second-year music students from more than 46 IPS schools performed renowned instrumental classics and showcased their musical talents recently at the Bright House Networks-VH1 Save The Music Celebration Concert at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

[ [Download image 1](#), a high-resolution image from the event ]

**Caption:** Indianapolis Public Schools superintendent Dr. Eugene White (second from left) joins Bright House Networks and VH1 Save the Music Foundation representatives in awarding eight IPS elementary schools \$240,000 to share and begin music education programs for the 2009-10 school year recently at the annual Bright House Networks-VH1 Save the Music Foundation Celebration Concert at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. More than 850 elementary musicians performed during the concert. (Photo courtesy Bright House Networks).

[ [Download image 2](#), a high-resolution image from the event ]

**Caption:** More than 850 Indianapolis Public School elementary musicians performed recently at the annual Bright House Networks-VH1 Save the Music Foundation Celebration Concert at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. Eight IPS elementary schools received a combined \$240,000 from Bright House Networks and VH1 Save The Music Foundation to begin music education programs for the 2009-10 school year.

[ [Download image 3](#), a high-resolution image from the event ]

**Caption:** One of more than 850 Indianapolis Public School elementary musicians performs during the recent Bright House Networks-VH1 Save The Music Foundation Celebration Concert at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. This year's financial award of \$240,000 by Bright House Networks and VH1 Save The Music Foundation will enable eight IPS elementary schools to start music education programs for the 2009-10 school year.

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.

This year, eight IPS schools received funds from the Bright House Networks-VH1 Save The Music partnership to create music education programs in their schools in 2008-09, including:

- 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

“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.”

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 this year, 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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