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Sousa Foundation Announces 2008 Sudler Shield Recipients

The John Philip Sousa Foundation has announced the recipients of the 2008 Sudler Shield. This award was implemented to "establish and support international standards of excellence in musical performance, marching execution, choreography and show design for high school, youth or international marching bands," and "to identify, recognize, and honor outstanding high school, youth and international marching bands who are at a world class level of excellence."

The 2008 Sudler Shield was awarded to: Broken Arrow High School Band, Broken Arrow, Okla., directed by Darrin Davis and Scott Tomlinson; Coppell High School Band, Coppell, Texas, directed by Scott Mason; the Musica Grato High School Band, Jusan Junior High School in Himi, Toyama-Ken, Japan, directed by Fumiko Hirose; and the Tarpon Springs High School Band of the Leadership and Music Conservatory, Tarpon Springs, Florida, directed by Kevin Ford.

All honorees will receive a silver shield mounted on a wooden plaque for the organization, a miniature plaque for the director, a diploma of honor for the director, and an honor certificate for each member of the band.

To learn more about the Sudler Shield, visit www.sousafoundation.org.

NAMM Foundation Awards Music Learning Programs

NAMM has announced the 31 recipients of the NAMM Foundation's 2009-2010 grants program, allocating \$848,807 in funding to support community music-making programs, scientific research on the effects of making music, and music programs for seniors, college students and school-aged children. The Foundation reaffirmed it will offer scholarships for the study of music education and business in the year ahead.

The new grants, while only a small portion of NAMM's overall annual multimillion-dollar-reinvestment into the music products industry, serve an important function by enabling worthy organizations to operate programs designed to increase interest and participation in making music, as well as helping leading universities better understand the outcomes of making music for people of all ages. This important music-brain research continues to help the industry strengthen its marketing messages for why more people should play music. NAMM Foundation Program Grants support innovative community-based music learning programs for people of all ages and abilities.

The Percussive Arts Society is one recipient of the NAMM Foundation Program Grants, specifically for the program Recreational Drumming: Celebrating Health and Wellness. This world-wide, two-week event celebrates the health benefits of recreational drumming. The grant will provide financial support to build awareness of the enjoyment and health benefits of recreational drumming programs. The Percussive Arts Society will recruit and coordinate experienced recreational drum facilitators to produce innovative community based music learning programs for people of all ages and abilities later this summer. Facilitators will then lead programs in diverse settings such as hospitals, schools, and community centers to share the health benefits of providing fun, recreational or educational percussion activities. Local chapters of the Percussive Arts Society will build awareness of the events at the local level.

To learn more, visit www.nammfoundation.org or www.pas.org.

Marine Band High School Musicians Concerto Competition

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band, in conjunction with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and The National Association for Music Education (MENC), has announced its annual concerto competition for high school musicians. High school performers of woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments may apply.

Applicants must select one of the works listed for their instrument in the application packet and submit an audio recording of their performance of that selection accompanied by piano, band, or orchestra. A complete list of guidelines is included in the application packet. Applications must be postmarked by Nov. 14, 2009.

Finalists will be selected, notified by Jan. 1, 2010, and invited to Washington, D.C., to compete in a final round that will be open to the public. The

winner(s) will be invited to perform their solo selection in concert with the Marine Band in the Washington, D.C. area, during the 2010 concert season and will receive a cash prize of \$2,500.

For complete details about the competition, call the Marine Band Public Affairs Office at (202) 433-5809.

Celebrities Rally with Kids to Promote Music

NAMM concluded its annual National Wanna Play Music Week after a monumental period of music making that drew the participation of stars, such as Kevin Bacon and Yoko Ono. With the goal to build awareness of the proven benefits of playing musical instruments for people of all ages, NAMM executed the week-long series of events to encourage the music maker in every American.

The Bacon Brothers, Yoko Ono and the "Jimmy Kimmel Live" House Band kicked off the week with "Music Monday," a five-year tradition started by the Canadian-based Coalition for Music Education that encourages musicians, music organizations, school bands and music lovers everywhere to play music at the same time to demonstrate the galvanizing power of making music. During NAMM's second year participating in "Music Monday," more 2,000 schools and organizations rallied across North America to simultaneously play music together with celebrity musicians participating in the effort on both coasts.

In New York, The Bacon Brothers, featuring actor Kevin Bacon and his brother, award-winning film and TV composer Michael Bacon, helped to launch National Wanna Play Music Week in the U.S., and appeared nationally on "Fox & Friends," on behalf of NAMM. On Music Monday, The Bacon Brothers performed before a crowd of students at the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, promoting music in schools, along with Yoko Ono and the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus.

In Los Angeles, late-night talk show "Jimmy Kimmel Live" lent the talents of its house band, Cleto & the Cletones, toward the effort of making music. Bandleader Cleto Escobedo III and lead guitarist Toshi Yanagi performed music with a band class at Nightingale Middle School in Los Angeles. Students were later treated to a private jam session with Cleto & the Cletones, visiting the set of "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and hanging out with the entire band and Jimmy Kimmel himself.

According to the recent "2009 Public Attitudes Toward Music" Gallup survey, 85 percent of Americans wish they could play music. In response to that desire, NAMM created several user-friendly services and tools aimed to help anyone begin to play music. With the goal of educating consumers on the benefits of playing music and empowering them to easily find quality music instructors, NAMM has recently unveiled a music lesson locator, a hotline, a film contest, and other resources.

For more information, visit www.wannaplaymusic.com.

NY Philharmonic's Summertime Classics

On June 30th, the New York Philharmonic will kick off its Summertime Classics concert series. This year, conductor Bramwell Tovey will host and conduct four programs and present facts and personal insights about the music during the performances. This year's featured artists are Vladimir Feltsman (piano), Marc-Andre Hamelin (piano), Simone Dinnerstein (piano), and Denyce Graves (mezzo-soprano). Four different programs will be taking place over a one week period.

To learn more about Summertime Classics, including programs, featured performers, and tickets, visit www.nyphil.org.