



Pasadena Independent School District Named a Best Community for Musical Kids

-Nationwide Survey Finds School Districts Committed to Music Education as a Conduit for Success in School and in Life-

Carlsbad, Calif. (February 27, 2007)— For the eighth year in a row, a survey conducted by a partnership of leading music and educational organizations has identified the “Best 100 Communities for Music Education in America,” and the 2007 list includes Pasadena Independent School District for its unwavering commitment to school-based music programs. The survey was sponsored by the NAMM Foundation and its American Music Conference (AMC) division that work to promote the benefits of active participation in music and music education. The roster of schools is listed below.

According to the results of the ‘Best 100’ survey, repeat recipients of this prestigious distinction cite increased enrollment in and funding for school music programs. While music education has been linked to higher SAT scores, math grades and future success in life, the survey also found that many students hailing from a ‘Best 100’ community have continued their musical pursuits professionally as educators, or playing for renowned symphonies, opera houses, orchestras and on Broadway. Several former students have even become acclaimed recording artists, including Outkast, Bob Seeger, Iggy Pop, Tanya Tucker and Isaac Hayes.

Thousands of teachers, school and district administrators, school board members, parents and community leaders, representing communities in all 50 states, participated in the Web-based survey. The 2007 roster includes school districts from 31 states that are committed to quality music education programs and providing access to music education. The districts were measured across a variety of program support, curricular and programmatic criteria. Because the criteria in the survey are measured proportionally, large communities and small ones are able to participate on an equal footing.

“Arts are designated as core subjects within the federal No Child Left Behind Act, and the districts that participated in the ‘Best 100’ survey, and those who are being recognized here today, know that music education is connected to success in school and in life,” said Mary Luehrsen, Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations for NAMM. “The results of this year’s survey found that music programs receive support from many parts of a community—teachers, administrators, boards of education and community members, including local business owners. Parents, however, are the strongest force in assuring that young people have access to music as part of a complete education.” Luehrsen encourages parents who are committed to music and arts education for their children to become active locally by supporting efforts to be sure that all children have equal access. Support for community-based advocacy is available at www.supportmusic.com.

Participants in the survey answered detailed questions about funding, enrollment, student-teacher ratios, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, private music lesson participation, and other factors in their communities' music education program. The responses were verified with district officials, and the sponsoring organizations reviewed the data.

According to Kara Ireland D'Ambrosio, a music teacher at four-time designee Woodside School District in Calif., the distinction led to increased funding for the music program and built greater recognition of the program within the community. Woodside's music students are often asked to perform at community events and celebrations.

Other districts have reported that becoming a 'Best 100 Community' has helped to: foster additional partnerships with local businesses and colleges; energize teachers to make further enhancements to the programs; and raise community and school pride.

In leading the annual survey, AMC is joined by a partnership of leading organizations in the fields of music and education: The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation (www.mhopus.org); The Metropolitan Opera Guild (www.operaed.org); Music for All (www.musicforall.org); Music Teachers National Association (www.mtna.org); NAMM, the International Music Products Association (www.namm.org); National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts (www.nationalguild.org); National School Boards Association (www.nsba.org); Yamaha Corporation of America (www.yamaha.com) and VH1 Save The Music Foundation (www.vh1savethemusic.com). The survey was conducted by Perseus Development Corp. of Braintree, Mass.

For more information about the nationwide music education survey and the organizations that sponsored it, call Jodi Burack, 914-798-7132/jburack@giles.com.

The complete "Best 100 Communities for Music Education" roster is listed by state.

District	City	ST
Homewood City Schools	Homewood	AL
Lafayette School District	Lafayette	CA
Woodside School District	Woodside	CA
Academy District 20	Colorado Springs	CO
Bethel Public Schools	Bethel	CT
Cheshire Public Schools	Cheshire	CT
Torrington Public Schools	Torrington	CT
School District Of Hillsborough County	Tampa	FL
Cobb County School District	Marietta	GA
Fulton County Schools	Atlanta	GA
MSD Lawrence Township	Indianapolis	IN
Jefferson-Scranton Community School District	Jefferson	IA
Andover Public Schools	Andover	KS
Paducah Public Schools	Paducah	KY
Baltimore County Public Schools	Towson	MD
Wicomico County School District	Salisbury	MD
Ann Arbor Public Schools	Ann Arbor	MI
Clarkston Community Schools	Clarkston	MI
Jenison Public Schools	Jenison	MI
Kentwood Public Schools	Kentwood	MI

Midland Public Schools	Midland	MI
Troy School District	Troy	MI
Waterford School District	Waterford	MI
Eden Prairie Schools	Eden Prairie	MN
Independent School District #833	Cottage Grove	MN
Robbinsdale Area Schools	New Hope	MN
Gulfport School District	Gulfport	MS
Oxford City School District	Oxford	MS
Osage County R-II Schools	Linn	MO
Missoula County Public Schools	Missoula	MT
Fargo Public Schools	Fargo	ND
Flemington Raritan Regional School District	Flemington	NJ
Roxbury Township School District	Succasunna	NJ
South Brunswick Public Schools	Monmouth Junction	NJ
Amherst Central School District	Amherst	NY
Arlington Central School District	Poughkeepsie	NY
Clarence Central School District	Clarence	NY
Clarkstown Central School District	New City	NY
Copiague Unified School District	Copiague	NY
East Ramapo Central School District	Spring Valley	NY
Fayetteville-Manlius Central School District	Manlius	NY
Greece Central School District	North Greece	NY
Herricks Union Free School District No. 9	New Hyde Park	NY
Jericho Union Free School District	Jericho	NY
Johnson City Central School District	Johnson City	NY
Le Roy Central School District	Le Roy	NY
Monroe-Woodbury Central School District	Central Valley	NY
New Hartford Central Schools	New Hartford	NY
Pennsbury School District	Penfield	NY
Pittsford Central Schools	Pittsford	NY
Rush-Henrietta Central School District	Henrietta	NY
West Genesee Central School District	Camillus	NY
West Irondequoit Central School District	Rochester	NY
Whitesboro Central School District	Yorkville	NY
Monticello Central School District	Monticello	NY
Port Jefferson School District	Port Jefferson	NY
Millard Public Schools	Omaha	NE
Clark County School District	Las Vegas	NV
Bay Village City School District	Bay Village	OH
Berea City School District	Berea	OH
Canfield Local School District	Canfield	OH
Cuyahoga Heights Local	Cuyahoga Heights	OH
Manchester Local Schools	Manchester	OH
Olmsted Falls City Schools	Olmsted Falls	OH
Perrysburg Exempted Village School District	Perrysburg	OH
Altus Public Schools	Altus	OK
Cumberland Valley School District	Mechanicsburg	PA
Quaker Valley	Sewickley	PA
Springfield School District	Springfield	PA
State College Area	State College	PA

Williamsport Area School District	Williamsport	PA
Derry Township School District	Hershey	PA
Mount Lebanon School District	Pittsburgh	PA
York County School District #3	Rock Hill	SC
Memphis City Schools	Memphis City	TN
Union City School System	Union City	TN
Arlington Independent School district	Arlington	TX
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD	Carrollton	TX
Denton Independent School District	Denton	TX
Georgetown Independent School District	Georgetown	TX
Hidalgo Independent School District	Hidalgo	TX
Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District	Bedford	TX
Katy Independent School District	Katy	TX
Klein Independent School District	Spring	TX
Lewisville Independent School District	Flower Mound	TX
Pasadena Independent School District	Pasadena	TX
Pearland Independent School District	Pearland	TX
Plano Independent School District	Plano	TX
Bristol Virginia City Schools	Bristol	VA
Chesapeake City Public Schools	Chesapeake	VA
Chesterfield County Public Schools	Chesterfield	VA
Henrico County Public Schools	Richmond	VA
Manassas City Public Schools	Manassas	VA
Newport News Public Schools	Newport News	VA
Roanoke County Public Schools	Roanoke	VA
Wetzel County Schools	New Martinsville	WV
Edmonds School District	Lynnwood	WA
Olympia School District # 111	Olympia	WA
Hortonville Area School District	Hortonville	WI
School District of Kohler	Kohler	WI