

For Immediate Release

Contact: Steve Honig
The Honig Company, LLC
818-986-4300
press@honigcompany.com

9th ANNUAL MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS FOUNDATION AWARD
PRESENTED AT CARNEGIE HALL

Wynton Marsalis to present award
to five music teachers on March 11

NEW YORK, January 10, 2011 – The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports music education in public schools across the country, will present its ninth annual music-teacher awards at Carnegie Hall in New York on March 11. Five music teachers were selected from across the country and, in addition to the honor, will each receive \$10,000. The award recognizes music teachers who best emulate the personal characteristics and dedication of "Mr. Holland," portrayed by Richard Dreyfuss in the hit 1995 movie.

Mr. Marsalis, an internationally acclaimed musician and educator and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center will hand out the prestigious award for the foundation during a concert featuring the songs of Judy Garland performed by the New York Pops, conducted by Steven Reineke. The award is funded by Guitar Center which has been the sole sponsor since the inception of the award in 2003.

This year's awards will mark the 15th anniversary of the foundation, founded by composer Michael Kamen who passed away in 2003. "Michael would be very proud to see his legacy continued through our work," said Felice Mancini, executive director of The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation and daughter of legendary composer Henry Mancini. "During the past 15 years, hundreds of thousands of children have been able to continue their music education as a result of our efforts, but we've still only scratched the surface."

"Teachers like those we honor this year provide inspiration to our children," said Marty Albertson, Chairman of Guitar Center. "Their unselfish dedication needs to be recognized and rewarded, and we need to encourage others to follow in their footsteps to help shape the future of our society."

-more-

The 2011 Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation awardees are:

Kelly Cuevas – Stephen A. Halsey Jr. High School, Rego Park, NY

Tawnya Garcia – Ron Russell Middle School, Portland, OR

Audrey Reese – Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, Atlanta, GA

Stephen Schmidt – Mooseheart School, Mooseheart, IL

Eric M. Troop – Bellalago Charter Academy, Kissimmee, FL

Music teachers who receive this honor meet criteria including:

- Instill a love of music in their students through instrumental music instruction in grades K-12
- Have the passion, dedication and leadership skills to persevere under difficult circumstances
- Give generously of their time, energy and talent, exceeding what is expected of music educators
- Demonstrate creativity regardless of availability of instruments, materials, classroom space and budget limitations
- Inspire students and challenge them to attain the highest level of musicianship
- Encourage musical growth through ongoing individual and group performance, auditions and evaluations

The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation donates new and refurbished musical instruments to underserved schools, community music programs and individual students nationwide, in an effort to give youngsters the many benefits of music education, help them to be better students and inspire creativity and expression through playing music. Since 1996, instruments have been donated to 1,124 school and community music programs across the country benefiting thousands of students. More information can be found at www.mhopus.org.

#

Note to media: Press interested in covering the event, please contact Steve Honig, 818-986-4300. Photographs from the award ceremony will be available upon request immediately following the event.