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PORTLAND MOTHER CREATES MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

'Music Workshop' Launches in February for Twelve Portland-Metro Area Schools

Amy Richter, mother of two Beaverton elementary school students, became fed up watching music disappear from her children's school curriculum and decided to do something about it. So last year, she formed a non-profit organization called Music Workshop aimed at bringing music appreciation and study to public schools free of charge.

Music programs are being phased out from public schools all around the country. Although the value of music education in child development is well documented, a focus on testing coupled with severe budget cuts are making it very difficult to keep music programs in public schools.

Enter Music Workshop... a turnkey and completely free music education program that can easily be taught by teachers or volunteers. In just forty minutes of class time, students learn valuable lessons of music appreciation and study including a focus on styles, cultures, genres, instruments and musicians. Students participate in lively discussions and activities that promote personal academic, artistic, and behavioral growth. Amy Richter's educational background in Music Therapy and experience as a musician make her uniquely qualified to spearhead this initiative.

"With all of the cuts happening today in our schools, we need to be creative with additional educational opportunities," says Richter. "Music Workshop will not only supplement reduced music programs, but it will also compliment existing programs. Our hope is that students will be inspired to pick up an instrument and continue their musical exploration after experiencing the program."

Music Workshop has already garnered a groundswell of support from the local music, business, and education community, having established partnerships with The Oregon Music Hall of Fame, media conglomerate Entercom, J-Fell Presents, Concordia University and prominent musicians such as violinist Aaron Meyer.

The pilot program will launch within ten to twelve Oregon public schools this February with a debut episode covering the topic of Jazz. In conjunction, each Pilot School will have the opportunity to host an assembly delivered by Aaron Meyer and provided by the Oregon Music Hall of Fame.

For Music Workshop to be free of charge to public elementary schools, donations are needed. Please go to www.musicworkshopedu.org to donate today.

About Music Workshop

Music Workshop is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate, inspire and motivate children through music education by providing public elementary schools with a free, innovative and turnkey supplemental music program. Learn more at www.musicworkshopedu.org