



**VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION AND MUSICNOTES.COM
WELCOME STUDENTS BACK TO SANDBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WITH \$35,000 DOLLARS' WORTH OF NEW MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

Madison, WI. September 12, 2016 – There is a cause for celebration this fall where music education is being brought back to **Sandburg Elementary School in Madison, WI**. The VH1 Save The Music Foundation is partnering with **Madison Metropolitan School District** to rebuild the **elementary instrumental music programs across the district**. This fall, Sandburg Elementary will receive \$35,000 worth of new musical instruments to start a **new string program courtesy of VH1 Save The Music and Madison-based sheet music e-retailer Musicnotes.com. This is the first grant for MMSD to help their strings program flourish**. Each subsequent year, the Foundation will award grants to additional schools until every student across the district has equity in access to instrumental music education.

A celebratory assembly will take place from 9:30 to 10:30 am this Thursday, September 15th at Sandburg Elementary School, 4114 Donald Drive, Madison. Representatives from the school, VH1 Save The Music and Musicnotes.com will speak and present the instruments to Sandburg students. Press is invited to attend.

"We are thrilled to be working with VH1 Save the Music Foundation to ensure equity in access to instrumental music programs in our district," MMSD Superintendent Jennifer Cheatham said. "Thank you to Musicnotes for sharing our commitment to music education for the children in Madison."

"A majority of Musicnotes' employees grew up in and raise their own families in the Madison area, and many of us and our children have directly benefited from the Madison Metropolitan School District's music programs," said Bill Aicher, Chief Marketing Officer at Musicnotes.com. "Musicnotes is honored to help ensure every child has access to quality music programming, here in our own community, as well as in other areas of need."

The **string grant in Madison** is part of VH1 Save The Music's 2016 class of grant recipient schools across the country. The Foundation is awarding a total of 57 total grants this fall in communities that span from coast to coast. All schools have committed to hiring a certified music teacher to teach the music program as part of the regular school day and support their growing music program for years to come.

"We are approaching our 20th anniversary as an organization – an important milestone as we look to the future of music education," said Henry Donahue, executive director of VH1 Save The Music Foundation. "We are so proud to be expanding our work into the **Madison Metropolitan School District** and working with our partners like Musicnotes.com to bring students the gift of music and the academic opportunities to succeed in life."

VH1 Save The Music Foundation is committed to ensuring that children everywhere have access to quality music education. To date, VH1 Save The Music has donated \$53 million dollars' worth of new musical

instruments to 2,024 public schools in 247 school districts around the country, impacting the lives of more than 3 million public school students.

About the VH1 Save The Music Foundation:

The VH1 Save The Music Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring instrumental music education programs in America's public schools, and raising awareness about the importance of music as part of each child's complete education. Founded in 1997, VH1 Save The Music was the first organization in existence dedicated to restoring music programs in America's schools. For more than 19 years, VH1 Save The Music has donated over \$53 million worth of new musical instruments to 2,024 public schools in 247 school districts around the country to date – impacting the lives of more than 3 million public school students. For more information, visit <http://www.vh1savethemusic.org/> or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @vh1savethemusic.

About Musicnotes.com:

Musicnotes.com, headquartered in Madison, Wis., is the world's largest digital sheet music retailer and publisher, offering more than 300,000 officially licensed arrangements, covering every skill level and genre, available for instant download. Musicnotes has transformed the way people of all ages purchase and play sheet music by fostering strong partnerships with music publishers, creating an ever-expanding catalogue, and pioneering new technologies, like their top-rated sheet music apps for iOS and Android devices as well as Mac and Windows desktops. Since its 1998 inception, Musicnotes has sold more than 30 million downloads to over 5 million customers worldwide. Learn more online at www.musicnotes.com.

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