



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 1, 2013

Midori & Friends presents 20th Anniversary Gala
Share the Music
Featuring Performances by
Grammy Award® Winner and Opera Sensation Ana María Martínez,
World-Renowned Violinist Midori,
and Young People from New York City's Public Schools
Thursday, May 2, 6:30 pm
at The New-York Historical Society

Mayor Bloomberg Proclaims Thursday, May 2nd, 2013, as "Midori & Friends Day"

Midori & Friends will celebrate two decades of inspiring children through music at the organization's 20th Anniversary Gala, *Share the Music*, on Thursday, May 2nd, 2013, 6:30 pm, at The New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at 77th Street.

This Gala will feature special performances by the organization's Founder, world-renowned violinist **Midori**, as well as Grammy® Award winner and opera sensation **Ana María Martínez**.

In addition, students participating in Midori & Friends programs at P.S. 4 in Washington Heights; P.S. 102 in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn; P.S. 163 in Bath Beach, Brooklyn; and P.S. 229 in Douglaston, Queens will dazzle the audience throughout the evening.

The *Share the Music* program will also feature the presentation of the **2013 Byron Gustafson Award** to Shawn Touriz, a Grade 4 guitar student at P.S. 4 in Washington Heights. Midori & Friends annually presents this award to a student who has shown exceptional motivation, a true passion for music, and a caring spirit for other classmates. The award is named for the late Byron Gustafson, long-time board member of Midori & Friends, who worked for over 30 years as an artist manager at ICM Artists and then Opus 3 Artists, guiding the careers of such musical luminaries as Wynton Marsalis, James Galway, and Midori, among many others.

More than just a festive occasion, *Share the Music* will serve a worthy cause, generating much-needed support to ensure that Midori & Friends continues to engage 13,000 young people each year, at no cost to the students.

In recognition of the organization's milestone, **Mayor Michael Bloomberg** made a special proclamation:

"On behalf of all New Yorkers, I applaud Midori & Friends' dedicated staff and supporters for nurturing the creative spark in our city's young people. Together, we look forward to all that this outstanding organization's students will accomplish, and to even more children learning to interpret the world through music.

Now, therefore, I, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York, in recognition of this important anniversary, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 2nd, 2013, in the city of New York, as 'Midori & Friends Day.'"

Midori & Friends gratefully acknowledges the *Share the Music* corporate sponsors: KKR, JPMorgan Chase, State Street Corporation, Opus 3 Artists, Con Edison, Beacon Wine and Spirits, and Uber.

ABOUT MIDORI & FRIENDS

In 1992, world-renowned violinist Midori had a vision to bring music education to all students in New York City. Today, 20 years later, Midori & Friends has inspired over 200,000 students through enriching, high-quality instrument instruction programs and interactive concerts and workshops. From voice to the violin, from the guitar to the saxophone, our programs annually engage thousands of young people at over 35 partner schools and community organizations in playing instruments, proudly performing for their friends and family members, and expressing themselves creatively.

The mission of Midori & Friends is to inspire children through music.

We provide New York City students who would not otherwise have access to the arts with meaningful and engaging music education programs that spark their creativity, increase their self-confidence, cultivate their pride in their school community, and nurture them as lifelong lovers of music. Midori & Friends programs are offered at no cost to students and are available to all children regardless of their musical ability, education, or economic background.

FURTHER INFORMATION, BIOS, HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTOS:

Midori & Friends

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