

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 2012**

**Midori & Friends Announces the Appointment of
Suzanne Wilson as Executive Director**



Midori, Board Chair Peter Glaser, and the Midori & Friends Board of Directors are pleased to announce that Suzanne Wilson will join the organization as Executive Director.

The start of Ms. Wilson's tenure coincides with the beginning of Midori & Friends' 20th Anniversary season, which will be commemorated with special public events and initiatives.

In making the announcement, Mr. Glaser said, "We are delighted that Suzanne Wilson will join Midori & Friends. Her broad experience in arts administration and her passion for music education are tremendous assets that will guide our organization into its next decade."

Most recently, Ms. Wilson served as Chief of Staff to the President of the New England Conservatory, where she played a key role in the institution's strategic planning, board relations, development, and external affairs.

Prior to her position at the New England Conservatory, Ms. Wilson served for three years as Director of the Office of External Affairs and Partnerships for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. In this position, she designed and implemented agency-wide strategies to engage, communicate, and interact with communities and constituencies throughout the state.

Ms. Wilson launched her career in arts administration at the Celebrity Series of Boston, Boston's preeminent nonprofit presenter of world-class performers from around the globe. During her 12-year tenure at Celebrity Series, she became Vice President of Education and Community Relations and established an award-winning arts education and community program that brought music, dance, and theater to youth and diverse audiences.

Midori & Friends is celebrating two decades of providing long-term, school-based programs that provide children with opportunities to play instruments, sing, encounter world-class artistry, discover music traditions from cultures around the globe, and express themselves creatively.

Ms. Wilson succeeds Judi Linden, who is retiring from her position as the former Executive Director and current President of Midori & Friends. During the past two decades of her leadership, Midori & Friends has become one of the nation's most well respected music education organizations, hailed by *The New York Times* as "a cornerstone of music instruction for students throughout New York City." Ms. Linden helped Midori start the organization and oversaw the creation of its comprehensive music programs, the building of its teaching and performing arts rosters, and the cultivation of its partnerships with over 35 public schools and community agencies throughout the city's boroughs.

About Midori & Friends

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

Founded in 1992 by the concert violinist Midori and a small, committed Board of Directors, Midori & Friends has engaged over 200,000 students and their family members through high-quality music education programs, transforming under-resourced schools in socioeconomically challenged communities into vibrant learning environments.

All Midori & Friends programs are offered at no cost to participating students.

For further information, visit www.midoriandfriends.org.



Contacts:

Peter Glaser, Board Chair
Midori & Friends
212-763-9064
pmglaser@gmail.com

Caroline Horn, Director of Marketing
Midori & Friends
212-767-1300
chorn@midoriandfriends.org