



For Immediate Release

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Media Release

SOA students donate over \$1,000 to One80 Place

Charleston County School of the Arts

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North Charleston, SC - Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) Middle School Band presented a check on January 23, 2020 to One80 Place in the amount of \$1,032. These funds were raised during their two holiday concerts in December.

The concert featured a piece titled "A Solitary Wish" composed by Brian Balmages. In concert halls and venues across the country, it has become customary to collect a "love offering" from those in attendance when playing "A Solitary Wish." SOA's Middle School Band chose this year's love offering to benefit one80 Place, a Charleston service agency dedicating to helping families and individuals end their homelessness and turn their lives around.

"I am very proud that my students took these piece to heart and portrayed an act of kindness while helping those less fortunate," said Suzanne Reed, SOA Middle School Band Director.

Balmages describes the piece as one that begins with a single individual (a clarinet soloist) just asking to be noticed while everyone walks by, some dropping a few coins or a dollar but avoiding conversation at all cost.

"As the music develops, we experience a wide range of emotions as the joy of the holidays is juxtaposed with solitude," Balmages has noted. "Ultimately, in this particular story, the individual is joined by another, and eventually there are four of them together (the quartet). As a couple people begin to leave, two voices remain - Flute and Oboe representing one, and alto sax representing the other. The person's wish comes true - they are no longer alone."

"To Mrs. Reed and the SOA Middle School Wind Ensemble, thank you for continuing my efforts to make a difference," said Balmages. "It means the world."

For more information, please contact SOA Arts Coordinator Leah King at (843) 529-4990 or leah_king@charleston.k12.sc.us.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.