

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MUSIC MATTERS: LIVE MUSIC TO SUPPORT SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS

Michael Allan Harrison and Grooveyard are the headlining performers at *Music Matters*, a fundraising event on Saturday March 7 at the Melody Ballroom. March is National Music in Our Schools Month. Celebrate by attending and help keep music education alive in our public schools.

Music Matters is hosted by First Octave, a project of the Portland Schools Foundation that is a non-profit fund specifically earmarked for music education. With the failure of Measure 28 and Oregon's education budget under increasing strain, this is the perfect time to give to important public schools programs and have fun in the process.

Portland's school children need your support:

- 28 out of 61 Portland Public Elementary Schools do not have a music program.
- 12 out of 18 Portland Public Middle Schools do not have a choir.
- 5 out of 18 Portland Public Middle Schools do not have a band.

Dan Schulte, local jazz bassist and educator says, "I learned to play music in the public school system and I want my three children to have a chance to do the same."

First Octave is dedicated to the premise that early and consistent music education fosters creative as well as intellectual values and is essential to a balanced curriculum. Since 1997, the First Octave Fund and the Portland Schools Foundation have raised and granted over \$125,000 to Portland high schools, middle schools and elementary schools. 100% of proceeds generated from this event will go to First Octave, where 95% of donated money goes to music programs.

Music Matters takes place from 7:00 - 11:00PM on March 7. Other performers at *Music Matters* include Ron Steen, Swingline Cubs, Derek Sims Sextet and Jane Wright.

Dinner is included with the ticket price. Visit <http://www.firstoctave.org> for details on ordering tickets. Or send a \$50 check to the First Octave Fund, 516 SE Morrison, Suite 1200, Portland, OR, 97214 by February 28. Tickets will be held at the Melody Ballroom at 615 SE Alder in Portland.

Support our public schools because the fact is *Music Matters!*

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