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**CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY'S INSTRUMENTS FOR KIDS PROGRAM GIFTS  
INSTRUMENTS TO WORTHY DRUID HILLS ACADEMY BAND PROGRAM**



**December 7, 2012 | CHARLOTTE, NC** – Spirits were high on the morning of Friday, November 30, 2012, as band students at Druid Hills Academy helped representatives from the Charlotte Symphony to haul a trunk-load of trumpets, saxophones, flutes, and other assorted band instruments into their music classroom. Smiles widened as the instruments were removed from their cases and presented to the eager young musicians, the most recent recipients of the Charlotte Symphony's *Instruments For Kids* program.

A component of the Charlotte Symphony's Education Programs, *Instruments for Kids* collects used instruments, arranges for their restoration and repair, and then places them in the hands of deserving student musicians in school bands and orchestras of the greatest need and potential within the Charlotte Community.

*"Instruments For Kids* would not be possible without a collaborative community effort," stated Chris Stonnell, the Charlotte Symphony's Education Programs Manager. "Many generous community members donated instruments and funds. Howren Music and Sound restores the band instruments and Blue Ridge String Instrument Company repairs the strings. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools helps us to identify worthy band programs in need, and the teachers and students give the instruments life."

The program's recent donation to Druid Hills Academy will effectively double the capacity of the school's band program and the number of students it reaches.

“The Druid Hills band program is in its second year and currently has 11 members from the sixth and eighth grades. It has not been an easy journey thus far due to the lack of instruments limiting the program's growth. Druid is a Title I school and many of our families are unable to rent the necessary equipment for participation. The donation given by the Charlotte Symphony will provide other Druid middle School students the opportunity to experience playing in a band and continue to grow a program that the students can take pride in,” said Anne Brooks, Band Director at Druid Hills Academy. “My biggest joy is when I see my students grow and take notice of their abilities as their instrumental journey continues at Druid.”

The Charlotte Symphony's impact on the Druid Hills Academy's instrumental journey will not end with this donation: through its Education Programs, the symphony plans to provide periodic sessions with its own professional musicians coaching Druid Hills band students.

Anne Brooks and her sixth-graders provided the grand finale for the morning, proudly playing their most practiced piece in thanks to the *Instruments For Kids* program. This time next year there will be twice as many students making music in Brooks' classroom.

#### **Instrument Donations**

Dust off that old trumpet and do some good! ***Instruments for Kids* is currently accepting donations of band and orchestra instruments, including instruments in need of minor repair.** Critical needs include student-size violins and cellos. Donors are responsible for assigning a value to their tax-deductible instrument donation and will receive an official receipt and acknowledgment letter from the Charlotte Symphony.

**To donate an instrument to *Instruments For Kids*, please contact Chris Stonnell, Education Programs Manager, at 704.714.5110 or [ChrisS@charlottesymphony.org](mailto:ChrisS@charlottesymphony.org).**

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