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SPECIAL GUEST OTIS HACKNEY

CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA- MAYOR'S OFFICE

to speak at *High Note High Step* on November 14

November 4, 2019...On November 14, Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly (DCP) -- two charities dedicated to providing arts education to students in the Philadelphia area regardless of economic circumstance -- will celebrate the accomplishments of its students and the benefits of bringing music and dance to thousands of the region's children each year.

Otis Hackney, Chief Education Officer of the City of Philadelphia will serve as the Keynote Speaker. Mr. Hackney is a Philadelphia native who began his career teaching mathematics at Germantown High School and more recently served as principal at South Philadelphia High School, where he successfully helped heal divisions after high-profile instances of racially motivated school violence. He also believes in improving opportunities for all children.

The High Note High Step breakfast event takes place at The Union League of Philadelphia at 140 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Attendees will have networking time between 7:30-8:00AM, with the program officially beginning at 8:00AM. Otis Hackney is expected to speak at approximately 9AM.

Other event highlights:

Attendees will see how music and dance positively impacts students' lives through:

- Film testimonials
- In-person student Q & A sessions
- Live performances by those students who are directly impacted by Musicopia's and Dancing Classrooms Philly's programming.

Students from DCP's in-school residency program will dance, a string octet comprised of members of the Musicopia String Orchestra will perform, as will "HOME", the rock band ensemble from the Andrew Jackson School in South Philadelphia. The octet, HOME band and DCP dancers will also join together for a performance of *Ob la di, Ob la da*. (Andrew Jackson is a Musicopia Adopt-A-School. The Adopt-A-School program helps twelve Title 1 schools bring the many benefits of music education to their students.)

The morning will also include a silent auction of a hand-painted violin by world-renowned artist Frankie Flores.

Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly thank their High Note High Step Silver Note Sponsor Rothman Orthopaedics, Bronze Note sponsor Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, additional sponsors NAXION, Exude, Inc. and Tri-force Consulting Services Inc. and in-kind sponsor La Colombe.

About Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly

Musicopia is a non-profit organization that reaches more than 16,000 children a year through educational music enrichment programs in schools and communities throughout the Delaware Valley including in-school programming, after school-programming including the Musicopia String Orchestra and Musicopia Drumlines program, and an instrument donation program. Founded in 1974, Musicopia's mission is to provide opportunities for children to experience, learn, perform, and appreciate music.

Dancing Classrooms Philly (DCP) is based on Dancing Classrooms, the highly acclaimed American Ballroom Theater Company program, created in New York by Broadway dancer and show dance champion Pierre Dulaine. DCP was launched in the Fall of 2007. Its mission is to foster self-esteem, social awareness and joy in children by providing the opportunity to learn and perform ballroom dance. DCP serves more than 3,500 students each year.

Musicopia and DCP joined forces in 2012 to create a strategic alliance to provide both organizations with a more efficient infrastructure while advancing their missions and community impact. Musicopia and DCP share the common goal of promoting confidence and self-esteem through the arts and are committed to working with under-served children and schools.