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Youth Orchestra**

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August 15, 2008

Ms. Marilyn Mathis
Murfreesboro City Schools
2552 South Church Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37127

Dear Ms. Mathis:

The League of American Orchestras has adopted a Statement of Common Cause: Orchestras Support In-School Music Education. The Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra is now one of 180 American adult and youth orchestras to date that has signed on in support of this initiative

Orchestras believe that

- A child's education is not complete unless it includes the arts. The arts are a core subject of learning, and music is vital to maximizing a child's full potential. Ensemble music making in schools is an important part of a complete music education.
- Schools are in a unique position to deliver comprehensive, high quality, systemic music education to all students. Orchestras will serve as a resource in this effort.
- The needs of students should be at the center of education advocacy efforts. Orchestras' education programs are most effective when developed to address the needs of student learners, in partnership with the school leaders (teachers, administrators, parents), local arts organizations, and other stakeholders.

Orchestra commit to

- Understanding the status of in-school music education and advocating for accurate data and accountability about how much and what kind of music instruction students receive.
- Discovering, implementing, and sharing best practices in advocacy for comprehensive, high-quality in-school music education through sustainable partnerships with all advocates in the community.
- Understanding how orchestra resources and strengths can best address student, school, and community needs.

Just as students and schools are strengthened through partnerships and relationships with the business community, I believe such a relationship could be developed with the arts community as well. As you have opportunity, the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra commits itself to working with you for the improvement of the education of every child through the inclusion of music education for every child.

Cordially,

Danny R. Jones
Executive Director

cc: Sean Gilliland, President
Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra