



**BARBRA STREISAND AND SONY/BMG CONTRIBUTE \$20,000 TO MUSICOPIA,  
A PHILADELPHIA NON-PROFIT DEVOTED TO  
PRESERVING MUSIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA (February 7, 2007)**—The Streisand Foundation is donating \$10,000 to Musicopia, a non-profit organization that brings educational music enrichment programs to schools and communities throughout the Greater Philadelphia area. Sony/BMG, Barbra Streisand’s record company, has pledged to match her monetary contribution with \$10,000 in audio and video equipment. Thus far, Ms. Streisand has directed over a quarter million dollars in gifts to fund arts and music education in each of the 14 American cities visited on her 2006 tour.

“We were completely surprised and overjoyed by Barbra Streisand’s generosity,” says Denise Kinney, Musicopia’s Executive Director, who learned of the unexpected donation during a Christmas week phone call from the Foundation. “I immediately shared the news with my mother, Welthie Fitzgerald, one of the founders of Musicopia over 30 years ago. We instantly thought of numerous ways in which we could use this contribution to support schools trying to initiate or reinvigorate their music programming, and give kids in underserved communities access to music education.”

Musicopia plans to put The Streisand Foundation and Sony/BMG donations towards supporting programs to inspire students towards a lifelong involvement in music. Among these initiatives is Gabriel’s Music Orchestra, a volunteer youth orchestra in South Philadelphia comprised of students from various inner-city schools. Musicopia is also working with the Chester-Upland School District to revitalize the Chester Marching Band, once considered the pride of the city. The money will also help support the purchase and repair of instruments for students in schools that are struggling to grow their music programs.

According to Rupa Balasubramanian, Program Associate at The Streisand Foundation: “Although the Foundation ordinarily supports Los Angeles-based arts organizations, Ms. Streisand made the decision to give back to worthy organizations in all of the American cities on her 2006 tour. She understands that there is a strong relationship between the humanities and academic accomplishment. She believes that active participation in arts and music education motivates students in more traditional areas of study.”

Ms. Balasubramanian explained that community groups in each of the 14 municipalities made recommendations and after extensive research, Ms. Streisand, along with the Foundation, chose area recipients for the donations: “We were looking specifically for an inner city school or organization serving a diverse student population, as well as thriving programs with sustainability.”

Musicopia (formerly called Strings for Schools) began as a single string quartet 34 years ago that sought to fill a void in music education and encourage young people to appreciate classical music. Today, its professional musicians from leading Philadelphia ensembles also present a full range of jazz, multicultural and crossover popular programs that feature all forms of instrumentation, including brass, woodwinds, strings and percussion.



According to the Music Performance Fund (a division of the American Federation of Musicians), Musicopia has grown into “the largest provider of outside music education resources for schools on the East Coast.” Musicopia presents over 700 programs per year, with a total yearly outreach to over 200,000 students and parents. Currently, 18 professional ensembles present more than 40 different music education programs with almost 100 of the regions’ professional musicians, many of whom are recognized nationwide and even internationally for their musical achievements. Musicopia focuses its outreach to geographical areas that lack adequate music programs or are cut off from the region’s rich cultural life. On average, 60% of Musicopia’s audiences are classified as low-income.

“It is such a delight to hear that Barbra Streisand recognizes the work we’re doing here in Philadelphia, and as I learn more about The Streisand Foundation, I realize that our missions complement each other beautifully,” adds Ms. Kinney.

Barbra Streisand started The Streisand Foundation with a concert at her home in 1986 entitled “One Voice,” in which she stressed that “sometimes we forget the importance of one voice, of each of our voices, and the enormous difference it can make in all of our lives.” Her desire to make a difference, particularly her strong belief in the need to help the disadvantaged, remains the driving force behind The Streisand Foundation today.

Since its inception in 1986, and as of 2005, the Foundation has directly given out grants totaling more than 13 million dollars, and has raised an additional 14 million. In the early years, the Foundation provided assistance to organizations working on the issues of nuclear disarmament, preservation of the environment, voter education, and the protection of civil liberties and civil rights. In 1993, the Foundation supplemented this list with additional priorities, including funding for women’s, children’s and youth-related issues.

Ms. Streisand kicked off her fall tour in Philadelphia on October 4, 2006, at the Wachovia Center. In addition to supporting a Philadelphia organization, Ms. Streisand also donated funds to charitable groups or schools in Columbus, New York, Washington DC, Boston, Minneapolis, Ft. Lauderdale, Atlanta, San Jose, Chicago, Atlantic City, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Los Angeles.

For more information about Musicopia, please visit [www.musicopia.net](http://www.musicopia.net) or call 215-829-9522.

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