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**DANCING
CLASSROOMS
PHILLY**

Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly Students to Open 20th Annual University of Pennsylvania Honor Band Extravaganza

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Philadelphia, PA ... This Saturday, January 13, at 7 PM, at St. Mary's Church on the Penn Campus (3916 Locust Walk), the University of Pennsylvania Band will host their 20th annual Honor Band Extravaganza. This event includes a free, public concert that will feature over 100 high school students from the City of Philadelphia and the surrounding region, following opening acts from 25 students from the Musicopia String Orchestra program and six dancers from the Dancing Classroom Philly (DCP) Academy. The concert will be followed by a second performance during the Penn-Harvard NCAA Div-1 Men's Basketball game at the historic Palestra (223 S 33rd Street). Approximately 120 high schoolers will perform with the University of Pennsylvania Band courtside throughout the game.

Since the early 1900s, the University Band has consistently provided outreach and opportunities such as clinics, summer camps, school visits, fundraisers, and band day events to support high school musicians in the region. Today, the outreach activities are directed by Kushol Gupta, Ph.D., Assistant Director of the Penn Band, and since 2005, the organization has hosted over ~70 such events. Over the past decade, many of these offerings have included Musicopia and DCP students.

Musicopia and DCP are grateful for their partnership with the University of Penn Band for allowing their students to share their talents and love of music and dance with the University of Pennsylvania campus and the Greater Philadelphia community. It is a unique opportunity for grade school students to be

invited to perform on a college campus, and it will be a memorable experience for these students and their families.

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About Musicopia

Musicopia's mission is to provide equitable access to music education and enrichment, encouraging self-confidence, global awareness, dedication and joy in Pre-K to 12th grade students and their communities. Since its founding in 1974, Musicopia has helped more than 393,000 children experience the benefits of first-hand exposure to the arts, and is a recognized leader in rebuilding and revitalizing school music programs. Musicopia reaches thousands of children each year in the Delaware Valley/Philadelphia area through in-school music education, an afterschool string orchestra program, an afterschool drumlines program, and its Gift of Music Instrument Donation Program.

For more information, please visit www.musicopia.net.

About Dancing Classrooms Philly

Dancing Classrooms Philly's mission is to foster self-esteem, social awareness, mutual respect, teamwork and joy in young people and their communities through social dance education and performance. DCP offers in-school and virtual residences and assemblies, Teacher Workshops, Intergenerational Community Workshops, and continuation programs for our flagship in-school ballroom program, a Saturday Academy program and the Allstars. Through our dance instruction, we help to enrich school communities across the Philadelphia region by building confidence in students, breaking down social barriers, and inspiring respect for all individuals.

For more information, please visit www.dancingclassroomspilly.org.

About The Penn Band

Founded in 1897, The Penn Band, the marching/pep band at the University of Pennsylvania, stands as one of the University's most progressive student-led traditions. Operating under the Department of Athletics, the Penn Band, comprising almost 100 members today, is not affiliated with any academic department and is sponsored by University Life. It is among the largest and most active student-led organizations on campus, rehearsing and performing over 100 times during the academic year. Members, representing 20 different states and 6 nations, serve as the guardians of All Things Red and Blue.

For more information, please visit <http://honorband.pennband.net>.