The Music Settlement Named Provider for State of Ohio Scholarships for Students with Special Needs

CLEVELAND – June 8, 2017 – The Music Settlement (TMS) announced today that it has been named an approved provider for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program and the Ohio Autism Scholarship Program.

Both scholarships, funded and administered by the State of Ohio, will allow eligible local children, youth, and adults (up to age 22) to receive services from TMS's Centers for Music Therapy and Early Childhood. These scholarships can offset program fees by up to $27,000 per school year.

"Ultimately, these scholarships will allow more young people with autism and other special needs to explore new possibilities and work toward goal achievement," said Ronna Kaplan, MA, MT-BC, chair of the Center for Music Therapy at TMS. "We are thrilled that the State of Ohio not only provides these opportunities, but has also validated our excellent programs in music therapy –50 years strong!– and early childhood education."

In addition to utilizing scholarship funds for music therapy sessions, children between the age of 3 and 6 may also use the Ohio Autism Scholarship to attend Preschool, Day School, or Kindergarten at TMS. They might also choose to participate in Settlement programs such as ARTS N PLAY, which offers children with special needs the opportunity to interact and bridge with typically developing peers in a setting co-led by a TMS music therapist and early childhood teacher.

The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship will also provide tuition support for eligible children to attend Kindergarten at TMS.

The Music Settlement has welcomed inclusion students, including those with autism, to its five-star award Step Up To Quality early childhood programs for many years since the center's inception in 1955.

For the past three years, TMS has been a partner with Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Center for Autism to provide inclusionary early childhood education.

"All are welcome at The Music Settlement," said Karen Heitlinger, chair of the TMS Center for Early Childhood. "Our inclusion students typically have flourished in our process-based EC programs, and we look forward to welcoming more students who are ready for the next step in a 2017-18 inclusion classroom."

To utilize either scholarship for TMS classes or music therapy, parents of eligible students must first register with The Music Settlement, where administrators will assist with the scholarship process. Interested parents can call 216-421-5806 xt. 104 for more information.

About The Music Settlement

Founded in 1912 by Almeda Adams as The Cleveland Music School Settlement, The Music Settlement is one of the nation's oldest community schools of music. Providing early childhood education since 1955 and music therapy since 1966, The Music Settlement remains on the forefront of music-based initiatives that advance human potential. Its programs reach students from birth through retirement and beyond. The Music Settlement is generously funded by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council. In 2014, the Settlement opened the BOP STOP nightclub at 2920 Detroit Ave. in Ohio City, after its donation to the organization in late 2013. In 2016, TMS won its second consecutive *Cleveland Magazine* "Best Music Instruction" award. The organization is currently building a new campus in Ohio City. Its online properties include www.TheMusicSettlement.org, facebook.com/TheMusicSettlement, twitter.com/musicsettlement, and Instagram.com/themusicsettlement. Classes and programs can be sorted by age group at www.TheMusicSettlement.org/all.

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