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PRESS RELEASE

New Music/Math LEAP Program for 6th Grade Students in the Worcester Public Schools

WORCESTER, MA – Beginning this month, 6th graders in the Worcester Public Schools will experience a new, curriculum-based music and math program designed to enhance their exposure to classical music and understanding of the relationship between music and math. This LEAP (Learning through Education and Arts Partnerships) Program will be funded through generous grant awards from Ernie Boch Jr.'s Music Drives Us Foundation and Target. The program was developed in partnership with the Worcester Public Schools, Music Worcester's Music Guild, Joy of Music Program, Mechanics Hall, and CultureLEAP.

The program will consist of in-school visits by Joy of Music Program musicians as part of the Music Guild's Music-To-Go program and a music and math curriculum unit developed to help teachers integrate math and music concepts into classroom learning. Students will learn concepts including the relationship between a garden hose' length and the pitch it produces, the proportions of various instruments, and how to explore fractions through everyday objects. The program will culminate in a trip by all 6th grade students to Mechanics Hall on April 4, 2011 for an *Introduction to American Composers* concert.

If you would like to schedule a school visit or if you would like additional information, please contact Kristin Bafaro, CultureLEAP Executive Director, at 508-735-9567.

CultureLEAP (Learning through Education and Arts Partnerships) is a coalition of cultural institutions, funding partners, and the Worcester Public Schools that links students and teachers with the extensive cultural resources of Worcester County. By matching these connections to the curriculum of the Worcester Public Schools, student learning experiences are expanded beyond school walls. Last school year, approximately 6,000 students and teachers were exposed to the wealth of cultural resources in Worcester County through programming with CultureLEAP's cultural partners. For students and teachers, these cultural resources provide inquiry-based, experiential opportunities for learning which support academic achievement, promote creativity and critical thinking, and spark curiosity and a love of learning. Our work would not be possible without funding support from Massachusetts Cultural Council - Cultural Investment Portfolio Peers Program, Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Worcester Arts Council, Amelia Peabody Foundation, Melvin S. Cutler Charitable Foundation, Webster Five Foundation, TD Charitable Foundation, C.C. Lowell, Checkerboard, Seven Hills Global Outreach and the many residents of Worcester County who support arts-integrated education. For this particular LEAP Program, we gratefully acknowledge Ernie Boch Jr.'s Music Drives Us Foundation and Target.