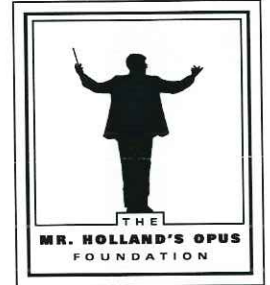


# OPUSNOTES

SUMMER 2009

## Maja's story

Music was always an important part of Maja Kazazic's life, especially as the war raged around her home in Bosnia. Maja was 16 when she and some friends were sitting in front of their apartment building, just as a mortar shell exploded. Six of her friends were killed instantly and Maja was severely injured, eventually losing her left leg. After several months fighting for her life, she was evacuated to Cumberland MD for treatment involving dozens of surgeries and to be fit for a prosthetic leg. Since she spoke no English, Maja had to learn a new language as well as how to walk again.



Allegany High welcomed her and she joined the band, learning how to play trumpet and read music. Later, as a member of the marching band, she played the cymbals while practicing walking and getting stronger. The music gave her the energy, rhythm and motivation to heal quickly. In band, Maja learned discipline and felt camaraderie and respect for her fellow students and teachers.



Dear Mr. Holland

Tuesday 3/3/09

My name is Guillermo A. Stentler and I would like to bring to your attention the thanks for the magnificent instruments you donated to my school Esperanza charter. I am in eight grade and is try my best to learn the bass, And I picked the bass because it is a butiful and unique insturment that hardly nobody had intrest in, but I did. So I would like to thank you not just for donating the instruments, but donating something that has changed my life and has field me with motivation and selfconfidence in my self, so thank you alot.

Sinslerly,  
Guillermo A. Stentler



Band Director Keith Hart with Tony Bennett & David Jaffin

## "Big Give" Gets Bigger

MHOF joined forces with Exploring the Arts, founded by Tony Bennett and his wife Susan, the Jaffin Family, Gibson Foundation (Music Rising) and O Magazine to provide \$100,000 worth of instruments to KIPP Believe College Prep in New Orleans. Mr. Bennett presented the instruments to the school during JazzFest, where he performed the following day.

The donation was sparked by David Jaffin of New York, whose father Dr. Barry Jaffin contacted O Magazine's "Big Give" contest to assist music programs in New Orleans. David collected dozens of instruments to be sent to public schools in the area.