



## ATHFEST EDUCATION COMMITTEE BRINGS MUSICIANS TO CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOLS

### KEYS FOR KIDS TO COLLECT INSTRUMENTS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

ATHENS, GA—February 1, 2010—In 2008, **AthFest Inc.** formed the **AthFest Education Committee** with the goal of sharing the wealth of Athens' rich musical talent, knowledge, and expertise with local students. Several programs have been created to not only educate, but to inspire, students at the elementary and middle school levels, and to provide instruments to children of lesser means. These include **AthFest AfterSchool**, **AthFest InSchool**, and **Keys For Kids**.

AthFest, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation based in Athens, GA dedicated to music and arts education. Since 1997, AthFest has organized an annual festival to showcase the incredible musicians, artists, businesses and residents of the Athens community. Through separate fund-raising efforts, including the auction of donated, signed **Gretsch** guitars, AthFest continues to give back to the local community with their outreach in the local schools.

**AthFest AfterSchool** features accomplished local musicians performing acoustically for students in community centers' after school programs and Clarke County elementary school after school programs. Between songs, the artists share information about themselves, their music and their instruments as well as information about various aspects of the music industry. Students participate by clapping, singing, trying out instruments or creating new collaborations with the musician. This interaction with the students is both educational and entertaining. The feedback from the program has been very positive.

**AthFest InSchool** exposes elementary students to all genres of music. Musicians (solo or in groups) perform during normal lunch periods in the school. These musicians are then made available to come back during subsequent lunches to meet with small

groups of interested students to conduct mini lessons related to one aspect of their music (rhythm, harmony, the instrument, beat, etc.).

**Keys for Kids** is another program that is in the works. The idea behind this effort is to hold instrument drives to collect all types of musical instruments, to have them refurbished as needed, and then to make them available to local students who otherwise might not be able to afford an instrument.

Scheduled events for 2010 thus far include:

### **AthFest Afterschool**

Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>-Gaines Elementary- Evan McGown- 3:30-4:30  
Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>- Barnett Shoals - William Tonks- 3:30-4:30  
Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> Whit Davis - Evan McGown- 3:30-4:30  
Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>- Fowler- Dave Forker- 4-5  
Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> Cleveland Rd - Shauna Greeson 3:30-4:30  
Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>- Alps- JoJo Glidewell- 3:30-4:30  
Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>- Chase Street - JoJo Glidewell- 3:30-4:30  
Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>- Oglethorpe- JoJo Glidewell 3:30-4:30

### ***Athfest Inschool***

Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> Alps – Shauna Greeson 10:45-1:15  
Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> Chase—Don Chambers and Jim Wilson 10:30-12:30  
Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> Barrow – Evan McGown and Carl Lindberg 10:15-100  
Tuesday, February 23<sup>th</sup> Oglethorpe – Shauna Greeson 10:30-1:20  
Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> J.J Harris—Carl Lindberg and Joel Byron 10:45-1:15  
Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> Winterville—Don Chambers and Jim Wilson 11:00-1:10

AthFest director **Jared Bailey** adds, "The response to the AthFest AfterSchool program from the children, teachers, and school administrators has been so overwhelmingly positive that we have already expanded the program and plan to continue to refine and improve it."

AthFest 2010 is scheduled for June 23-27, and will mark the 14<sup>th</sup> year for this award-winning music and arts festival held annually in the downtown area of historic Athens, GA, featuring over 200 bands and artists in close to 20 music venues and 3 outdoor stages.

This program is supported in part **by Grassroots Arts Program of the Georgia Council for the Arts** through an appropriation of the Georgia General Assembly in partnership with the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center

For more information: [www.athfest.com](http://www.athfest.com)