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PALM BEACH SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2018 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Pahokee Middle School band teacher honored by Symphony, students, Palm Beach County School District, and West Palm Beach community at CityPlace holiday music event

West Palm Beach, FL (December 4, 2018) – Palm Beach Symphony presented its first annual award for Instrumental Music Teacher of the Year for Palm Beach County to Pahokee Middle School band instructor, Alain Goindoo. Symphony Executive Director David McClymont presented the award to Goindoo on Monday, November 26 just after “snowfall” during a Music Mondays performance at CityPlace in West Palm Beach.

A months-long open call for nominations for the **2018 Palm Beach Symphony Instrumental Music Teacher of the Year Award for Palm Beach County** received numerous submissions from educators, parents, students, and the entire school community from as far south as Boca Raton and as far west as Pahokee. Teachers were nominated for outstanding teaching techniques, ability to nurture music talents, and capacity for connecting with and inspiring their students.

Together with Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools Keith Oswald, McClymont made the public presentation to Goindoo following a performance by a combined Pahokee Middle and Pahokee High School wind ensemble playing alongside Palm Beach Symphony musicians. “It gives me great pleasure to announce that the individual selected through a panel of judges and from among 100 music teachers in the county is none other than Alain Goindoo,” said McClymont. “We’re so pleased to honor the great work that Alain is doing as a music educator in Palm Beach County.”

In addition to a certificate acknowledging his work making a difference in the lives of students through music education, Goindoo received \$1,000 from Chafin Musicenter for classroom resources, \$2,000 in coaching sessions from Palm Beach Symphony musicians, a gift basket of indulgences, and an invitation to lead a student ensemble performance at Palm Beach Symphony’s 17th annual gala on February 18, 2019 at The Breakers Palm Beach.

“This award is our way of acknowledging the vital role the arts play in the education process,” said Olga M. Vazquez, Palm Beach Symphony’s Director of Education and Orchestra Operations. “A good teacher can spark a student’s interest. A great teacher can change lives. We were so impressed to learn of the many ways Mr. Goindoo is changing lives through his work in the music classroom and in the community, and we’re thrilled to present him with our first Instrumental Music Teacher of the Year Award.”

Among the many accomplishments cited in Goindoo’s nomination form are: building the band program for Pahokee Middle School from 0 to 90 students in two years; creating a Canal Point Elementary School band program using grant-awarded instruments from VH1 Save the Music and the Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation; creating a summer strings camp at Lynn University to provide his students and six other Title 1 elementary schools with free private lessons; securing scholarships, transportation, and food for FAU Summer Band Camp students; creating a summer band camp at Palm Beach Atlantic University sponsored by the Honda Classic for 50 underprivileged students; securing more than \$300,000 in grants to support music programs in the Glades; organizing holiday toy drives and annual food drives to provide food, clothing, shoes, and hygiene products to underserved children and their families. All of this is in addition to Goindoo’s day-to-day responsibilities as an instrumental music teacher.

Goindoo will be honored again at Palm Beach Symphony's third annual Holly Jolly Symphony Fête on December 17, 2019 at The Sailfish Club in Palm Beach, where select students in need will be gifted refurbished instruments from the Symphony's Instrument Donation Program.

Palm Beach Symphony expressed gratitude to Keith Oswald for supporting the award program on behalf of the Palm Beach County School District and to Publix for providing meals to the Pahokee Middle and High School student musicians who traveled 90 miles (round trip) on a charter bus provided by Palm Beach Symphony to participate in the evening's festivities.

Thanks to ongoing sponsorship from The Paul & Sandra Goldner Conservatory of Music, Palm Beach Symphony's music education program benefits thousands of Palm Beach County students each year through professional coaching sessions by Symphony musicians, side-by-side performances, lecture demonstrations, sectionals, and instrument donations. In 2017, Palm Beach Symphony performed Peter and the Wolf free of charge for 4,500 students, conducted more than 40 coaching sessions by professional musicians, and gave away more than 30 refurbished instruments to deserving music students and school music programs throughout Palm Beach County. The Symphony is on track to surpass these numbers across all initiatives in the 2018-19 season.

ABOUT PALM BEACH SYMPHONY

Palm Beach Symphony is South Florida's premier orchestra known for its diverse repertoire and commitment to community. Founded in 1974, the Symphony is dedicated to its mission of engaging, educating, and entertaining the greater community of the Palm Beaches through live performances of inspiring orchestral music. The orchestra is celebrated for delivering spirited and exacting performances led by Artistic & Music Director Ramón Tebar. Now in its milestone 45th season, Palm Beach Symphony continues to expand its education and community outreach programs with children's concerts, student coaching sessions and master classes, instrument donations, and free public concerts. For more information, visit palmbeachsymphony.org.

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