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### **Friends of ECPL, Making Music Accessible to All Children, Free Music Education**

East Cleveland, Ohio December 7, 2016 - The Friends of East Cleveland Public Library and East Cleveland Community Arts and Mentorship Program (ECCAM) are proud to offer free classes to East Cleveland students. The program, “Making High Quality Music Accessible to All Children,” received grants from Neighborhood Connections and Cuyahoga County Arts and Culture. Building on last year’s program, which offered music instruction to about 15 students, this year the program is expected to double in size with the new funding.

The program provides free Instrumental and vocal music lessons to participants, offering the exciting opportunity to study with professional musicians. Featuring some of Cleveland’s best musicians and educators visiting from Oberlin College and Tri-C, yearlong professional instruction is available on clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, guitar, piano, drums, voice, choir, rap, spoken word, and songwriting. Those seeking to grow music technology skills may also enjoy the audio production and engineering classes.

In addition to the pleasure and talent explored when learning to create and play music, there are tangible academic benefits to studying music as well. According to “Music Matters,” a report from the Arts Education Partnership, studies show that students of music show improved academic performance by many indicators, including increased average standardized test scores, achievement in math skills, and more. The consistent, positive impact of music education reveals many ways this opportunity is exciting and meaningful for young learners in Cleveland. Learning to make music, makes academic sense, and the East Cleveland Public Library is thrilled by the leadership of the Friends of ECPL and ECCAM in bringing this innovative partnership to the students of East Cleveland.

The program is open to students Grades 4 through 12. Classes are held at the East Cleveland Public Library, in the Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center. Sessions began December 5, 2016, meeting every Monday Afternoon 4:00PM - 6:30 PM. Students are encouraged to attend a session with their instrument to register soon - space is limited. View the full “Music Matters” report online at

[www.aep-arts.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Music-Matters-Final.pdf](http://www.aep-arts.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Music-Matters-Final.pdf)

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