

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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RE: Sunriver Music Festival

PHOTO: Photos available

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### **Breedlove Guitars and Sunriver Music Festival Provide Guitars to Three Rivers School**

On Friday, February 25, five new Breedlove guitars were delivered to Mrs Nores' guitar music class at Three Rivers School by Jay and Teresa Bowerman and the Sunriver Music Festival. The delivery of this special gift was made possible through a generous school grant by the Sunriver Music Festival and the Breedlove Advocates for Music Program (BAM), supporting guitar educators and related guitar learning programs primarily throughout the Pacific Northwest. Jay and Teresa Bowerman are two of the three volunteers who help coordinate the BAM project with the Breedlove staff.

Three Rivers School's popular guitar class began in 2008 with fifteen students. This year, sixty eighth graders applied for the twenty available spots in the class. The selection was based on essays submitted by the students explaining why they wanted to be in the class. Rebekka Nores, the school's music teacher, selected the students that displayed the most interest and dedication.

"When the guitar class began this school year, we were very short on guitars. Many of the students brought in guitars that have been sitting in garages for over ten years and the sound quality was very poor," explains Rebekka Nores. "I submitted a grant request for five guitars to the Sunriver Music Festival. They have been tremendously generous to us over the years, providing the music program with a number of orchestra and band instruments."

Sunriver Music Festival Board of Trustees member, Bergen Bull, was aware of Jay Bowerman's relationship with Breedlove Guitars and passed the school's request to him to see if the Festival could purchase five guitars with an educational discount. Through Breedlove's BAM Program, Bowerman was able to secure five appropriate guitars for the school's guitar class.

"The five guitars the Festival purchased from Breedlove were based on their BAM pricing quote," explains Pam Beezley of the Sunriver Music Festival. "However, the five guitars that were actually delivered to the school were much higher quality. They are beautiful instruments. What a wonderful gift Breedlove gave to these students."

Beezley adds, "The presentation of the five guitars to the students was a rewarding experience not only because we were able to provide this gift to the school, but because of Jay and Teresa Bowerman's participation in this donation. They were both at the school delivering the guitars and Jay took the time to

describe the guitar models and special features to the students. Then he played one of his original folk songs for the students and before the class was over, he taught them to play 'This Land is Your Land'. The students loved it."

For the past seven years, the Sunriver Music Festival has provided the Three Rivers School's growing orchestra and band programs with musical instruments. Each year, the Sunriver Music Festival receives generous individual donations and foundation grants specifically earmarked for music education programs, workshops, master classes, artist in residence programs, music appreciation classes and musical instrument purchases. This year, the Sunriver Music Festival received funding from the Sunriver Rotary and the WHH Foundation to assist with these educational programs.

In the 2001 – 2002 school year, Three Rivers School and violinist Leslie Knight started the fledgling middle school music program with five orchestra students. Since then, the middle school music program has grown to fifty students in beginning band, thirty in advanced band, forty in choir and twenty in the new guitar class. Rebekka Nores teaches the middle school band, choir, guitar classes and the elementary music program.

"With 60% of the students qualifying for the federal free lunch program, Three Rivers students often do not have the means to purchase or rent musical instruments," explains Gayle Vidal, Principal of Three Rivers School. "As educators, we know that participation in music programs, such as the guitar class or band or choir, can make a huge difference in the student's enthusiasm for learning."

"Three Rivers is so very lucky to have such amazing support from their community and musical leaders like the Sunriver Music Festival and Breedlove Guitars," adds Rebekka Nores. "Programs like BAM keep the fire of music forever alive in our youth."

To get more information about the Sunriver Music Festival's music education programs and Young Artist Scholarship Program, call 541-593-1084, email [tickets@sunrivermusic.org](mailto:tickets@sunrivermusic.org), or visit [www.sunrivermusic.org](http://www.sunrivermusic.org). For information on the Three Rivers School music programs, please call the school's administration office at 541-593-3555.