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The Philly POPS and the *Your Music Matters Morning Show* on WNJC 1360 Radio Launch

PHILLY POPS PRESENTS: ALL SOUTH JERSEY JAZZ FESTIVAL

Region Wide High School Jazz Band Competition and May 23, 2016 Concert

Marlton, NJ (March 22, 2016) –A new collaboration has been formed between The Philly POPS and the *Your Music Matters Morning Show* on WNJC 1360 and WWDB 860 Radio to launch *Philly POPS Presents: All South Jersey Jazz Festival* which involves a high school jazz band competition and concert. Schools must be located in one of seven counties to be eligible to participate. They are Camden, Gloucester, Burlington, Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic and Cape May.

Starting March 21, 2016, high school Jazz bands are asked to submit a three-minute video with high quality sound to toallsouthjerseyjazzfestival@gmail.com. A panel of Philly POPS musicians and music industry judges will select the top 10 high school jazz bands as finalists. Then, the public will vote for their favorite band through a radio and social media competition. All 10 finalists are winners as they will be awarded a Master Class by a Philly POPS musician and will be invited to perform two three-minute songs in the *All South Jersey Jazz Festival* concert. It will take place on Monday, May 23 at 7 p.m. at Investors Bank Performing Arts Center, 519 Hurffville-Crosskeys Road, Sewell, NJ. The winning band will perform two songs in a side-by-side concert with The Philly POPS BIG Band Combo at the event. The Philly POPS will provide two complimentary tickets for all band members in the winning ensemble to attend a POPS concert.

Frank Giordano, President and CEO of The Philly POPS, a South Jersey resident, looks forward to The POPS connecting with these music students in New Jersey. He said, “There are so many high school jazz bands throughout the Southern New Jersey area and they all deserve to be recognized. As schools continue to struggle with music education budgets, we hope this program will encourage schools to maintain ongoing jazz education programs.” Paul Dilks, program director of *Your Music Matters* at WNJC 1360 and WWDB 860, is thrilled to have The Philly POPS as a partner in this program. He explained, “I have always thought we needed to bring more attention to music programs that focus on Jazz and pop music, and because The Philly POPS has taken such an interest in South Jersey, there is great excitement in the schools and the community about the festival.”

The Philly POPS, the largest standalone POPS orchestra in the United States, has an outstanding *POPS in Schools* innovative arts in education program that is expanding to Southern New Jersey with this endeavor. The program is now in eleven schools in the School District of Philadelphia. It is designed and developed around collaboration, professional development, deep lasting relationships, and extended in-school work with administrators, teachers, and students. *POPS in Schools* focuses on interactivity, Master Classes with guest artists and POPS musicians as well as performance

opportunities and access to concerts and rehearsals.

Competition Rules:

Beginning March 21, 2016 and ending April 8, 2016 at 5 p.m., high school jazz bands are invited to submit entries. Each entry must include one song on CD or common audio file such as an mp3 or wav. and include the lead representative's name, school, and contact information. Desired length for song submission is three minutes or less. The representative submitting the entry is responsible for having received previous written permission from all performers or from a parent or legal guardian if the performer is less than 18 years of age. By submitting an entry, the representative acknowledges that the school has secured applicable licensing for their use of the submitted song. In addition, it is agreed that each student will participate in the performance and that they have signed a photo release form with the school, allowing media coverage and photography/videography for promotional purposes.

One entry per jazz band. All submissions must include students from the current 2015 – 2016 school year. Each entry must be submitted separately via email in common audio file formatting to toallsouthjerseyjazzfestival@gmail.com. Each entry will be judged for professional sound and performance quality. All submissions from the school will be judged by musicians from The Philly POPS and music industry judges, who will select the top 10 finalists to participate in the competition.

Voting Process:

Each band selected to be in the 10 band competition will receive airplay of their entry on WNJC 1360 and WWDB 860 and compete against other bands for votes. Airplay will be during the 7 a.m. hour of the *Your Music Matters Show* with Paul Dilks on WNJC 1360 and WWDB 860 on April 25, April 27, April 29, May 2, May 4 and May 6, ending at 5 p.m. Each band's submission will be played during the 7a.m. hour on all of these days. The voting period will begin on April 25, 2016 at 8 a.m. Voting will end at 5pm on May 6, 2016.

Voters should visit www.1360radio.com and click the link to the Facebook page -- [All South Jersey Jazz Festival](#) – to vote for their favorite high school jazz band. Voters can only vote once throughout the competition. They will vote by clicking the “like” button on the post of their favorite band.

For more information, visit phillypops.org and www.1360radio.com or call Paul Dilks at 609-685-3736.

About The Philly POPS:

The Philly POPS, the largest standalone pops orchestra in the United States, delights audiences with the inspired performance of American popular music. The POPS celebrates this distinctive musical heritage through an expanding repertoire of innovative concert presentations and a robust set of educational and engagement initiatives.

Now in its 37th season, the official POPS orchestra of Pennsylvania serves a consistently growing audience of over 100,000 annually. Music Director Michael Krajewski and the 65-piece Philly POPS orchestra keeps listeners tapping their toes to an impressive repertoire of songs from American traditions of music up through today's chart toppers.

Outside the concert hall, *Salute Series* performances – including POPS on Independence on July 3 and the *I'll Be Home for Christmas: A Salute to the Military and First Responders* – celebrate the American tradition of service around important national holidays; *POPS in Schools* enhances music education for Philadelphia School District students; and *POPS Outside* brings POPS music to local communities.

The Philly POPS performs as a founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, and at venues throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

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