***Press Release template for SupportMusic Merit Award – For Individual Schools Only***

**[Contact Name]**  
**[Contact School]**  
**[Phone]**  
**[Email]**

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Description automatically generated

**[School Name]** **Receives National Recognition for Music Education Program**

**[City, State]** – **[Date]** – **[City/Town]**’s **[School]** has been honored with the SupportMusic Merit Award from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The SupportMusic Merit Award recognizes individual schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement in providing music access and education to all students.

Two awards are given each year: Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) for school districts and the SupportMusic Merit Award (SMMA) for individual school sites. Both reach K-12 schools and districts throughout the U.S. and offer opportunities to increase awareness and support for music programs. Over 1,000 districts and individual school sites (public, private, charter, parochial) were recognized for having the highest commitment to producing exceptional music programs.

**[**“**Insert quote from a school official on WHY music education is important to this school and students,” said the School Official. “Insert quote on the impact this designation will have on the school’s music education program.”]**

To qualify for the SupportMusic Merit Award, **[School]** answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by the leading national arts education research firm, WolfBrown.

**[**“**Optional student/teacher quote about WHY music education is important.”]**

**[Add information about the school]**

**About The NAMM Foundation**

The NAMM Foundation is the charitable arm of the National Association of Music Merchants, the global trade association for the music products industry. The foundation works to remove systemic barriers that limit access to music-making and career pathways in the music industry. By investing in bold ideas and innovative solutions, we strive to build inclusive and thriving musical communities. For more information about The NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.

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