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THE WOODLANDS PRESENTS A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF UNITY AT THE AUGUST WILSON CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE ON JULY 11, 2019

Downtown Pittsburgh, PA – The Woodlands presents its 20th anniversary performance by Notes From The Heart Music Camp participants at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. “With this concert, the Notes From The Heart faculty and performers endeavor to create and embody an aspirational vision where equity is commonplace, a community where all feel valued and respected, and a high-quality artistic experience,” states Jesse Solomon, Woodlands’ Director of Programs and Marketing. “Through the Notes From The Heart Music Camp, The Woodlands strives to ensure that all participants share both the joy and the human right of self-expression.” The week-long intensive music program for individuals with disabilities or chronic illness, held on the 52-acre Wexford campus, culminates in a performance at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center in downtown Pittsburgh. Tickets to the concert are free, but must be reserved through www.mywoodlands.org.

“The Notes From the Heart Summer Music Camp at The Woodlands provides individuals a safe space for all to come freely as they are, taps into a person's creativity, provides opportunities for self-expression, and enhances growth through music,” according to board-certified music therapist Kory Antonacci. Miss Antonacci specializes in working with children with medical complexities, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and chronic illness. She currently oversees the Creative and Expressive Arts Therapies program at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in addition to running the year-round Music Ensemble club at The Woodlands. Throughout the summer music camp, participants of all musical abilities are coached in singing, playing instruments, and stage production. “Whether it is singing a solo or playing an instrument for the first time, the Notes From The Heart music program unifies individuals of all abilities across our region and the great city of Pittsburgh to create a space where the love of music is met by the kindness and compassion for all of our neighbors.”

Internationally- and locally-known musicians, conductors, and educators join Kory in instruction, returning as Notes From The Heart Music Camp faculty and staff. Previous to his position as Director of Orchestral Activities at The Hartt School, Edward Cumming was Resident Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony. Andrew Clark is Director of Choral Activities at Harvard University. Allison Fromm is the Founding Director of Joyful Noise, a New Jersey and Delaware chorus of adults with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries, which has become a national model for similar ensembles. Lilly Abreu is a vocal recording artist, and teaches voice at Carnegie Mellon.

The Woodlands’ mission is to enrich the lives of children and adults with disability and chronic illness by providing adapted therapeutic programs that support and strengthen the development of skills in socialization, creative expression, environmental awareness, recreation, and spirituality at its fully accessible Wexford, PA, facility. Program applications, further information, and a schedule of The Woodlands' programming are available at www.mywoodlands.org.