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!TANG TO HOST BENEFIT CONCERT AT ELBO ROOM FOR LOCAL SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Bay Area Band Raises Funds for Horace Mann Middle School

Berkeley, Calif. - January 9, 2001 - Berkeley based soul band !Tang announced today it plans to host a benefit concert this Saturday, January 13th at the Elbo Room in San Francisco. Proceeds from the show will go towards San Francisco's Horace Mann Middle School. The school is near the Elbo Room's 23rd and Valencia location, in the heart of the Mission District. Horace Mann's middle school music program centers on an orchestra lead by teacher Anthony Blea. Funds from the show will go directly towards instrument repair and the purchase of new instruments. !Tang hopes its efforts to raise funds will spark a renewed interest in the community's education programs, especially its funding for the arts.

Horace Mann's music teacher Anthony Blea notes school music programs have been deteriorating over the past couple of decades, due in large part to lack of funding. He also points to the fact that certain neighborhood schools have been suffering more than others: "There's less of an opportunity for kids, especially in the Mission District, where families are poorer. Many of these kids don't have a chance to take music lessons, don't have the support. I'm from the Mission, but I was lucky. I was able to make it to the 'other side of town' to take lessons. I wanted to come back and return to the Mission to help these kids, to give them a chance." Blea continues to play music himself, having raised nearly \$1700 for his students, through his own band's benefit show.

!Tang bassist Ian Barlow says, "We've wanted to benefit a local school in light of district cutbacks in arts education programs in recent years. And choosing to support a school music program was a natural choice - we all began our musical careers at a young age and in large part due to the exposure we received from our schools." Barlow adds, "The best way we know to benefit music education is to play in support of the students who need and want to be a part of it."

Blea teaches 5 music classes at Horace Mann Middle School; nearly 100 students will benefit from funds !Tang raises this weekend.

!Tang will appear at the Elbo Room this Saturday night - 650 Valencia Street in San Francisco. Doors at 9:30pm; show at 10pm; 21 and over only. More information on the venue, including directions, can be found at www.elbo.com, or by calling 415.552.7788.

ABOUT !TANG

With over eight years of music creation under their belts, !Tang's 8-piece lineup brings a renewed appreciation for soul to the forefront with their second album release, *Oaktown Ring*. The Berkeley based band formed in 1993 when several members of the University of California Marching Band came together to become the ultimate local party band. The group recorded its debut album *How Do You Take It?* in 1997 and has since grown to become a Bay Area club favorite. The 8-piece lineup features a full horn section, vintage keyboards, and the talented voice of frontman Ray Wilcox (Zircus, Extinguisher), affectionately known as Uncle Ray.

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