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For immediate release

New Instrument Library Fosters Music Education Accessibility

Oakville, Ontario, June 16, 2023 – Oakville-based non-profit Bandology has just launched a new Instrument Library, a collection of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments that can be borrowed by Halton youth from low-income households. Funded by a capital grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Instrument Library is the first of its kind in Halton region, as well as one of the only Canadian musical instrument lending libraries that offers such a wide variety of concert band instruments.

Instrument purchases or rentals typically cost upwards of thousands of dollars, and due to the high cost of participation, joining a band can be unachievable for many students who cannot afford to buy instruments.

“Music education has clear benefits for all but especially youth,” said Peter VanDuzer, President and Co-Founder of Bandology. “The reality is that in Halton and around Canada, many families face economic barriers that prevent them from purchasing instruments for their young musicians. Bandology aims to remove this barrier by making instruments more accessible to all.”

Music education has important academic, social and personal development outcomes for youth. Music education is associated with higher math and English scores, increased prosocial and teamwork skills, and lower anxiety, depression and stress levels.

“The long-term value of music education is priceless and I am thrilled that we’re able to provide youth facing financial challenges with the opportunity to not only pursue their passion, but also to reap the many lifelong benefits of music,” said Anushka Kothari, Project Coordinator at Bandology. “I



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attribute my success throughout my life to the patience, discipline and accountability I have gained through music education.”

An instrument can be borrowed from the Instrument Library for a school term or during the summer, for a small \$10 administrative fee.

Students and parents complete an application form, in which there is no means test but rather just a referral from a teacher or community service agency. The chosen instrument is delivered directly to the student, to avoid any transportation challenges.

Bandology is a Canadian non-profit dedicated to more music for more kids via education, collaboration and community. Based in Oakville, Ontario, it provides young musicians with more opportunities to play, learn and be inspired. Learn more about Bandology’s programs and services at bandology.ca.

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Media contact:

Julianna Rutledge, Innovation Manager, julianna@bandology.ca

Photos available upon request.