



Cedarburg School District Students Enjoy Holiday Performance by MSO

**Presented & Funded by Cedarburg
PAC, Inc. with a Grant from Rita Edquist
Memorial Fund**

Imagine the Cedarburg PAC filled to capacity with energetic and excited students. A bit chaotic? Actually just the opposite. On the afternoon of December 8, 2016, nearly 580 grade school, middle school and high school

students gathered with Cedarburg School District teachers and administrators at the Cedarburg PAC for a special holiday performance from the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (MSO). The atmosphere was magical!

The MSO student performance was presented and funded by the Cedarburg PAC, Inc., with a grant from the Rita Edquist Memorial Fund at Greater Milwaukee Foundation. This is in keeping with the Cedarburg PAC, Inc.'s mission to enlighten, to educate and to entertain, which has inspired many learning opportunities for young people over the years. This includes getting pointers from trumpet-great Chris Botti, singing alongside Broadway star, Franc D'Ambrosio, and gaining clever harmonizing skills from folk-country group, The Good Lovelies, to name a few.

Peg Edquist, a family representative for the Rita Edquist Memorial Fund, described Rita Edquist as a gifted artist who maintained an active interest in the performing arts. The Fund continues Rita's legacy by supporting the enriching function of the arts, she added.

"As I watched the MSO performance and observed the students, I was filled with pride to see our mission come to life," said Christy Cummings, Board President, Cedarburg PAC, Inc. "To watch and listen to such talented performers, who are masters of their craft, was a wonderful gift that we were delighted to share."

MSO Assistant Conductor Yaniv Dinur immediately connected with students using a combination of humor, passion and ability. He provided commentary about the music being presented and taught students how to experience music differently than they may have in the past. After a number of selections, including several from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, students participated in a holiday sing-a-long. They were truly engaged – swaying with the music, tapping their feet and singing enthusiastically. Several standing ovations near the end of the performance reinforced the students' appreciation of the performance.

Cedarburg-Grafton Rotary Club presented an evening performance of the MSO that same day. According to Layton Olsen, long-time member of Cedarburg-Grafton Rotary Club and founding sponsor and current board member of the Cedarburg PAC, Inc., "This was a wonderful arts education for the students. They had the opportunity to experience the skills of the world-class Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra here in our own Cedarburg PAC. For many of these students, this was a rare exposure to light classical music in an educational but entertaining forum. It was heartwarming to view their reaction to music they do not normally listen to."

Thanks to the MSO, our Underwriter and our Sponsors for an incredibly inspiring and fun-filled afternoon!