



National Pawnbrokers Association®

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**Pawnbrokers Collect Musical Instruments and Donations for Flood and Natural Disaster Victims**

*School Music Programs That Have Suffered from Tornadoes, Floods, Hurricanes and Fires  
Will Receive Musical Instruments from Pawnbrokers with the help of  
The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation and Music Rising.*

**Keller, TX** — On December 6, the National Pawnbrokers Association (NPA) will celebrate the ninth year of its annual musical instrument donation program, Gift Day. Each year during the holiday season, NPA members come together to furnish needy and underfunded school band programs with a fresh supply of new, gently-used, and refurbished musical instruments.

This year, NPA members are asked to donate instruments to The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation and Music Rising. In 2005, Music Rising was launched to rescue the musical culture of the Central Gulf region of the U.S. from the destruction caused by the catastrophic hurricanes Katrina and Rita, by replacing the musical instruments lost or destroyed in the deluge. Co-founded by U2's the Edge and legendary producer Bob Ezrin, the organization continues to aid schools affected by natural disasters nationwide.

In the past year alone, record flooding from hurricanes and destructive fires have left an unprecedented number of children without the means to participate in music education. NPA is calling on its generous members to donate new and gently-used musical instruments to help rebuild school band programs affected by the devastation.

NPA members can also donate financial support to The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation and Music Rising. For more information visit [GiftDay.org](http://GiftDay.org)

**More About the National Pawnbrokers Musical Instrument Gift Day**

December is also National Pawnbrokers Day, which coincides with St. Nicholas Day. Saint Nicholas of Myra is famed for his generosity to the poor and for his penchant for secretly leaving gifts for people in need. St. Nicholas, recognized in America as Santa Claus, was canonized as the Patron Saint of pawnbroking, and his three bags of gold soon became the international symbol of pawnbrokers.

Now in its ninth year, Gift Day has helped members of the National Pawnbrokers Association donate thousands of musical instruments to charity organizations supporting underprivileged children, families, and veterans.

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*The NPA works to provide independent pawnbrokers nationwide with resources and tools to strengthen the pawn industry. NPA members are committed to operating their businesses in such a manner as to enhance and promote the positive and professional image of all pawnbrokers. Members believe in establishing positive and long-lasting relationships with local, state, and federal government officials. The NPA is the industry's only national association and is located in Keller, TX.*