



NEWS RELEASE

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Waterford Foundation Mary Lou Simmons Performing Arts Experience Brings Clarinet Virtuoso Dave Bennett to Waterford Schools

April 30, 2018, Waterford, Mich. – The Waterford Foundation Mary Lou Simmons (MLS) Performing Arts Experience is proud to announce a musical workshop for Kettering and Mott High School students, facilitated by Dave Bennett, a clarinet virtuoso who plays electric guitar, piano, drums, and vocalizes. Bennett, and the Dave Bennett Trio, will offer this workshop at both schools on **Tuesday, May 8, 9:45am at Kettering and 1:00pm at Mott.** The MLS Performing Arts Experience is made possible through the Waterford Foundation Mary Lou Simmons Legacy Endowment.

Bennett, a 2002 Kettering graduate, is a blazing clarinet sensation playing the “swing style” of Benny Goodman. Leading his ***Tribute to Benny Goodman***, Bennett has been a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall with The New York Pops (2013) and has played the program with 50 other US and Canadian orchestras including Nashville, Detroit, Rochester, Omaha, Toronto, Vancouver, Orlando, San Antonio, Jacksonville, Houston, Portland, OR and Portland, ME. Seventy-five performing arts centers across the USA have featured Bennett’s performances. Most recently, Bennett was announced as the 2018 Detroit Music Awards nominee for Outstanding Jazz Recording for his new album Blood Moon.

Mary Lou Simmons was an educator, volunteer, and philanthropist who possessed a passion to provide innovative and creative experiences for Waterford School District students. She spent 32 years dedicating her life and career to children and did so through her work as a teacher and member of the Waterford Foundation for Public Education. Mary Lou was principal while Bennett attended Schoolcraft Elementary School.

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The non-profit Waterford Foundation, established in 1984, is proud to proclaim it has an endowment just over \$2,000,000. Foundation trustees, volunteers, sponsors, and patrons have raised or donated money for many worthy projects with the Waterford School District. The Foundation exists to promote and recognize excellence in teaching and learning. Funding, derived strictly from donations or fundraising activities, supports teacher and student recognition events such as the grant program for District staff; Select Fifty for high school seniors, Durant Most Improved Program, scholarships for high school seniors, and outstanding teacher of the Year Award and Reception. More information about the Waterford Foundation is available at www.wsdmi.org/wfpe.

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