TRANSFORMING AND EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH MUSIC

For the Love of Music

OCTOBER 17, 2018 – 7:00 PM

GREYSOLON BALLROOM

BIG TIME JAZZ ORCHESTRA

YOU WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

August 12, 2018

Dear Friends Old and New,

The KAKO Foundation is shaped in the belief that the arts fosters self-esteem, dignity, pride, community, and civic engagement. The Foundation believes that nurturing the artistic gifts in every child is essential to breaking and ending the devastating cycle of violence and poverty.

The KAKO Foundation is named after Kako (pronounced "kah-ko") Gaspard, a 16-year-old Haitian boy and a cousin of performer, conductor and composer Jean "Rudy" Perrault, the Director of Orchestras and Professor of violin and viola at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Kako was kidnapped, tortured and killed in Haiti on May 21, 2008.

"He loved the trumpet and started playing that instrument that he picked himself at a very early age," writes Kako's father, Rudy Gaspard. "He was convinced that music would allow him to obtain a scholarship to study abroad someday... He also encouraged other kids in his community to play music too and even donated his first trumpet to one neighbor whose parents would not have been able to afford one." [Excerpt from "An Angel took flight..." by Rudy Gaspard (Kako's father)]

Through the KAKO Foundation, the founders celebrate Kako's life and the life of all children who, like Kako, have been the innocent victims of atrocities. We are inspired by the words of Leonard Bernstein: "This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before."
The KAKO Foundation's "Music for All" program has grown from the 25 children in Haiti in the first year to over 1,000 in the tenth. In Duluth, the Kako’s Choir has grown from 6 children in the first year, to 24 in just four years.

For the last 10 years, our annual fundraiser for the Kako Foundation has raised an average of $5,000.00 annually. On this 10th Anniversary year, we are hoping to reach a higher goal, as the lives of our students in Haiti continue to be challenged by natural disasters and political upheaval; as our youth in Duluth continue to be faced with waning arts and afterschool opportunities. Kako’s gala, For the Love of Music, will raise funds for instruments, salaries for instructors, and other costs to run the programs.

We are writing with the hope that you are in the position to help us reach a higher goal by sponsoring the gala, offering a silent auction item, or hosting a table for the event held on Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. at Greysolon Ballroom. We will be celebrating Kako’s life and the 10th Anniversary with the music of the Big Time Jazz Orchestra, a silent auction, and hors-d’oeuvres.

Sponsorship levels include, but are not limited to, the following:

PIANISSIMO ……. $100.00
CRESCENDO ……. $250.00
FORTE …………… $500.00
FORTISSIMO …… $1,000.00

If you are interested in engaging in this fun and important event, please contact us at (218) 724-3484 or kakofoundation@gmail.com. Visit our website www.kakofoundation.com and Facebook page for updates on the event and ticketing.

Thank you! Merci Beaucoup!

The Kako Foundation
Board of Directors