



## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 30, 2012

### **ROSIE'S HOUSE HONORS PHOENIX SYMPHONY MUSIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL CHRISTIE, JAZZ PIANIST/ARTS ADVOCATE CHARLES LEWIS**

*Free Music Academy celebrates 16 years of changing lives through music; Honorees will receive artwork created by Rosie's House students*

(PHOENIX, AZ): Phoenix Symphony Music Director Michael Christie, Valley pianist and music education advocate Charles Lewis, and Rosie's House faculty member Erin Crawford will be recognized at the Annual Rosie's House **Anniversary Celebration**, Friday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at the Scottsdale Artists' School, 3720 North Marshall Way in Scottsdale.

The **Anniversary Celebration**, which celebrates 16 years of changing lives through music, will raise funds to provide students from low-income families with the uplifting force of music in their lives. Each year, Rosie's House: A Music Academy for Children, teaches over 10,000 music lessons to Phoenix-area students in strings, winds, piano and voice.

"Music is a force for transformation and social change," said Jazz Pianist Charles Lewis. "At Rosie's House they light a creative spark, and I am honored to work with student vocalist Yinka Shonaïke on her jazz singing as we get ready for the special event."

Shonaïke will collaborate with Lewis on two Duke Ellington pieces at the annual **Anniversary Celebration**, which also features Rosie's House students and alumni performances, special guest performances by jazz artists Alice Tatum, and specialty foods and wines.

Tickets are \$75, and are available for purchase at [www.rosieshouse.org](http://www.rosieshouse.org).

Honorees will each receive winning artwork from a campus-wide art celebration. Students are creating paintings that express their favorite instrument and show how music is a collaborative art form.

"At Rosie's House, students learn much more than just the musical notes on a page. They learn to perform, create and achieve great things," said Rosie's House Faculty Honoree Erin Crawford. "Our students have overcome great hardships and are making dedicated efforts in their lives to be successful musicians and productive adults. I am so delighted to accept the honor, and to see my alumni students perform at the celebration. "

#### About Rosie's House

Rosie's House: A Music Academy for Children was founded in 1996 to give children from low-income families the chance to experience music in their lives. The academy provides free music instruction and loaned instruments to underserved Phoenix-area students. Through music Rosie's House inspires social change and helps students develop a commitment to personal and academic achievement. For more information about the non-profit organization, visit [www.rosieshouse.org](http://www.rosieshouse.org).