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**10TH ANNUAL YOUNG MUSICIANS UNITE (YMU) GALA TO RAISE FUNDS FOR
STUDENT MUSIC EDUCATION WITH DISCO THEME & LIVE MUSIC ACTS ON
SATURDAY, APRIL 29 AT MIAMI BEACH BANDSHELL**

Actress/Filmmaker Gabrielle Anwar to chair gala; comedienne Monique Marvez to be Celebrity Emcee

Miami, FL (February 13, 2023) – **Young Musicians Unite** (YMU), a nonprofit organization which supports student music education in Miami Dade County, is proud to announce its **10th Annual Gala** will be held on **Saturday, April 29** at the iconic 1961 landmark **Miami Beach Bandshell**. Chaired by acclaimed actress and filmmaker **Gabrielle Anwar**, the gala will be emceed by Los Angeles-based comedienne and radio host **Monique Marvez**.

Young Musicians Unite (YMU) has served over 11,000 students since its inception in 2013, supporting its mission of "Giving Students a Voice Through Music." Founded by musician/performer **Sammy Gonzalez**, YMU partners with local public schools to provide free music education with trained instructors, lesson plans, instruments, and all necessary resources to produce vibrant music classes – which have been proven to inspire personal development and foster a sense of community.

"Young Musicians Unite creates bright magic within the dark deprivation of the denial of the arts in the public school system," said Gala Chair **Gabrielle Anwar**. "Musicians are born here – their entire futures are miraculously rerouted through their newfound meaning. I am so proud to be a part of this organization and eagerly look forward to our annual gala to raise the funds it takes to change lives."

Studio 54 is the inspiration for this year's "Disco Chic" gala theme, with guests encouraged to dress in disco looks and boogie down to the evening's live music performances by student musicians. After walking the red carpet, Gala guests will enjoy a festive cocktail reception featuring premium libations, followed by a seated dinner, performances, and dance party with **DJ Adora**.

During the cocktails, guests may bid at the Gala's silent auction, which will include coveted memorabilia, dining and travel experiences, and one-of-a-kind celebrity moments. Up for bid is a Private Round of Golf with award-winning actor (and YMU Gala Honorary Chair) **Andy Garcia**, as well as a two-night stay and dining package at the Ritz Carlton South Beach.

The evening will feature performances by **YMU's** talented young musicians, who have been working hard all year to show off their accomplishments. By attending the Gala, guests will help YMU reach its

fundraising goal of \$450,000 to provide over 4,500 students in Miami-Dade free music education for the 2023/2024 academic year.

“We are proud and humbled to reflect on all the work YMU has accomplished over the last 10 years, transforming the lives of over 11,000 children across Miami Dade,” said YMU Founder **Sammy Gonzalez**. “We’re extremely grateful for all the love and generous support we’ve received from the community, and look forward to an amazing Gala, with the students crushing it on stage.”

YMU student musicians performing at the Gala range in age from 14 to 18, and attend Miami-Dade public schools including **Miami Beach Senior High School, Carol City Middle School, Young Men’s Preparatory Academy**, and **Dr. Henry W. Mack/West Little River K-8 Center**. Also performing will be youth musicians from **Ransom Everglades** and **The Cushman School** who are part of the YMU Student Ambassador Program, a mentoring and fundraising initiative.

Headlining the student performances will be the legendary **Miami Beach Rock Ensemble** – celebrating its 50-year anniversary. Founded by the late **Doug Burris** in 1972, it is the first school-based ensemble of its kind in the nation, and focuses on high-energy music ranging from The Beatles to Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin. Its current group is composed of 12 student members from Miami-Dade public schools.

Also performing will be the six-member **Jazz Collective**, featuring the top jazz players from six different schools across Miami who perform with a level of sophistication well beyond their years; the seven-member **Arrowhead**, a high school ensemble that has been playing high energy rock music together for over six years; **Avalanche**, a high school indie rock ensemble performing Foo Fighters, Blondie and more; the seven-member **Not Yet Published**, featuring a group of young musicians led by two female vocalists and one male vocalist performing a variety of rock music, from Led Zeppelin to U2; the five-member **LoBac**, a mid-size jazz ensemble comprised of Wynwood's top student jazz musicians with a focus on Haitian-based repertoire; and **Drumline**, a percussion-based group based on one of the most rigorous and disciplined programs where students work together as a unit and learn rudiments, reading music and cadences for performances.

Chaired by **Gabrielle Anwar** and Honorary Chair **Andy Garcia**, the YMU Gala is pleased to recognize its 2023 committee members: **Sammy Gonzalez**, YMU Founder; **Nancy Bernstein**; **Maxwell Blandford**; **Melanie Buffet**; **Nick D’Annunzio**; **Gabriella Fraenkel**; **Eric Greenwald**; **Melanie Greenwald**; **Randy Gumenick**; **Shari Gurkin**; **Daniel Herbst**; **Ezra Kassin**; **Kaisa Levin**; **Shareef Malnik**; **Tashima Mathis**; **Mark Meland**; **Tricia Menendez**; **Adam Mopsick**; **Andi Potamkin**; **Michael Rosen**; **Elaine Segrera**; **Tara Solomon**; **Jep Thornton**; and **Mark Young**.

Tickets for the **YMU** Gala are available for \$175 per person. Table reservations are also available: \$1,250 for a table of eight and \$1,850 for a table of 10. All tickets include an open bar with premium spirits, hors d’oeuvres, seated dinner, and a delightful Donut Dessert Station courtesy of **Purely Baked by Sarah**. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: www.YMU.life/concert.

About **Young** **Musicians** **Unite**

Young Musicians Unite believes that every student deserves access to music education regardless of their socio-economic background and has provided turnkey music education solutions for Title 1 schools across Miami-Dade County for the past 10 years. YMU is actively providing music programming for over 3,500 students in 35 schools in the 2022/23 school year. The organization engages student musicians through diverse, relatable music programs including Drumline, Jazz Bands, Rock Ensembles, Music Production, Modern Band, Beginning Band, and Strings. For more information, visit www.youngmusiciansunite.org or follow on Instagram at [@youngmusiciansunite](https://www.instagram.com/youngmusiciansunite).

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