



For Immediate Release

December 2000

**SECOND CD RELEASED WITH ORIGINAL SONGS BY CALHOUN KIDS
Proceeds to Benefit T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS Research**

The Calhoun School, an independent school on Manhattan's Upper West Side, has just announced the release of its second compact disc of songs, *Calhoun Kids For Kids Vol. 2: People Are So Beautiful*, with lyrics written by first graders, original music composed by Calhoun teacher Ben Clinesmith, and performances by Elementary School students and special guest artists, Victoria Williams and Ute Lemper.

Professionally recorded and packaged with cover artwork by first grader Jacob Saphier, the CDs are being sold for \$20. Proceeds from sales are being shared with the T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS research. "We are pleased that we are able to continue our partnership with The T.J. Martell Foundation—which began with the first CD released two years ago—so that a portion of the proceeds of this recording will help the foundation in its ongoing, remarkable work," says Steven J. Nelson, Head of School. "Service to the community is an ethic that The Calhoun School tries to imbue in each child."

The 24 songs on *Calhoun Kids For Kids Vol. 2: People Are So Beautiful* were written during the 1997-1998 school years as part of an integrated music & reading program developed by Calhoun teacher Ben Clinesmith. The interdisciplinary project, which augments the school's primary reading and writing curriculum in the kindergarten and first grades, began in 1995. The project created such excitement among children and parents that Ben could barely stop the flow of students who were clamoring to have their words put to music. In some instances, the children themselves came up with tunes. Before long, parent Michael Karp volunteered his professional services to record the students performing their songs in his studio, 39th Street Music, and a second parent volunteered to have the CD pressed and packaged. In February 2000, a team of Calhoun Lower School teachers was invited to present the innovative Kids for Kids curriculum to an international conference of educators in Brussels.

The release of *Calhoun Kids For Kids Vol. 2: People Are So Beautiful* was celebrated by its songwriters and families with an assembly at the school and a performance at TJ Martel's Annual Family Day, held on December 2nd at Basketball City. Meanwhile, plans are already underway to follow up with a third CD, with original songs and performances by the next wave of Calhoun Students.

Copies of *People Are So Beautiful* may be purchased for \$20/each or five for \$75, with a \$5 postage and handling charge, from The Calhoun School, 160 West 74th Street, New York, New York 10023.

For additional information, please contact Beth Krieger, Director of Publications and Public Relations, The Calhoun School, 212-874-6976, beth.krieger@calhoun.org.

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CALHOUN KIDS FOR KIDS, Volume 2: People Are So Beautiful
WHO'S WHO

THE PROJECT HISTORY & STUDENT SONGWRITERS

During the 1995-1997 school years, kindergartners and first graders at The Calhoun School participated in a new interdisciplinary curriculum integrating music, reading, writing and math that was introduced by Calhoun teacher Ben Clinesmith.

Kindergartners were taught classic songs (Rain, Rain Go Away, etc.), learning words, tunes and counting beats, but also becoming familiar with word spellings and syllabic structures through visual charting. In first grade, the songs, spellings, syllabic structures and counting became more complex. At the same time, first graders were encouraged to write their own lyrics, which they did eagerly. As Ben began to put their songs to music and use them in class, the excitement filtered down to many of the kindergartners, who begged Ben to put their prose to music as well.

At the end of the first year, a book was put together and distributed with a selection of the children's original songs. By the end of the second year, in 1997, the idea to record the children singing their songs took hold, and in the spring of 1998 the first wave of songwriters--at this point in second and third grade--were invited to participate in the first professional recording of their music. Included in the final selection of songs on the first CD, *Calhoun Kidz for Kids*, are lyrics written individually and in partnership, by twenty Calhoun students. Fifty-two classmates joined in on the recording. The second CD, *People Are So Beautiful*, was released in December 2000.

BEN CLINESMITH, COMPOSER & CALHOUN'S LOWER SCHOOL TEACHER

Ben Clinesmith is in his ninth year as a teacher in Calhoun's Lower School. The idea for the interdisciplinary curriculum that formed the basis for *Calhoun Kids for Kids* evolved from Ben's Masters thesis, *Integrating Curriculum Through the Study of Syllables*, and his theory that the arts can help integrate reading, writing, math and music for young children.

In addition to his work at Calhoun, Ben is a professional cellist and arranger. He is the cellist in The New England Piano Trio, with violinist Alan Grishman and pianist Yeeha Chu, and has recently begun to have his

arrangements for school orchestras published by Wingert-Jones Music, Inc. The arrangements were the result of his work as a conductor for 13 years with the Brunswick Regional Youth Orchestra at Bowdoin College, ME, where he was the cello instructor. In 1969, he was one of 100 cellists chosen from throughout the world to perform in a cello choir conducted by and honoring Pablo Casals at Lincoln Center in New York. Ben has been a member of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir John Barbirolli, and the American Symphony Orchestras, conducted by Leopold Stokowski. In the 1970's he was a co-founder and director of The Learning Tree School, an alternative school for children ages 5-13 in Westbury, NY.

MICHAEL KARP, PRODUCER

The parent of two Calhoun children, Michael Karp is an award-winning composer and producer. He has written original themes for such television shows as *Dateline NBC*, *New York Yankees*, *Live With Regis and Kathy Lee*, Discovery Network's *Outlaws and Lawmen*, *Headliners and Legends*, *MSNBC Investigates*, *Rivera Live*, *The World Series International*, and songs for *Sesame Street*. A nine-time winner of ASCAP's prestigious *Most Performed TV Themes*, Michael has also received individual awards for his themes for *Dateline NBC* and *The Yankees Baseball*.

The Calhoun School and its students are forever grateful to Michael for volunteering his considerable time, his talent, and his 39th St. Music Studio for the recording of both *Calhoun Kidz for Kids* and *People Are So Beautiful*.

RON SHAPIRO, PACKAGING & DISTRIBUTION

Ron Shapiro became enamored with the Calhoun Kids for Kids CD project about 1-1/2 years ago, when his son Daniel was co-writing lyrics to his first original song, "Who Do You Like Better, The Knicks or the Nets?" as part of the first grade's integrated music and reading curriculum. Ron seized on his son's enthusiasm and volunteered to help with the packaging and promotion of *Calhoun Kids for Kids Volume 2: People Are So Beautiful*. Ron's expertise couldn't have been more valuable. Executive vice president/general manager of Atlantic Records since 1997, Ron has been credited as the driving force behind that company's marketing strategy, overseeing a diverse array of departments including advertising & merchandising, product development, video production, media & artist relations, video promotion, artists development, creative services, and international. Among his charitable endeavors, Ron was recently co-chair of Gilda's Club's annual New York fundraising dinner, and serves on the boards of the Los Angeles-based City of Hope Music & Entertainment Group and the Bobby Brooks Foundation.

In addition to guiding and assisting Calhoun in packaging and marketing the new CD, Ron was responsible for inviting Atlantic artist Victoria Williams as a special guest on the recording.

KEN CHAYA, GRAPHIC ARTIST

As an art director, Ken Chaya has designed, directed and produced many best-selling books for Reader's Digest, Grolier, and other publishers. As a free-lance designer, he has worked in the various fields of magazine publishing, television and advertising. As a father, Ken spends as much time as possible with his son Lukas, a kindergartner at Calhoun, which he calls "a very special place on this planet." Ken Chaya was art director and graphic designer for Calhoun's second CD, *People Are So Beautiful*.

SONNY KOMPANEK, MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Arranger/composer Sonny Kompanek has orchestrated more than fifty feature films including *Miller's Crossing*, *Gods and Monsters*, *Ulee's Gold*, *Being John Malkevitch* and *The General's Daughter*. He has done arrangements for Wycleff Jean, Boys II Men, Soul Asylum, Renee Fleming, Liza Minelli, Bette Midler, and The Canadian Brass, for whom he has composed many original works. The Boston Pops, Montreal, Milwaukee, Denver, and New Orleans orchestras have played his original compositions. On a more personal level, Sonny was one of the valued musical arrangers on Calhoun's latest CD, *People Are So Beautiful*, and two years ago, he served as musical director/conductor for Calhoun's Middle School production of "Into the Woods." By far his "greatest creations," says Sonny, are his Calhoun kids, Chris (12th grade) and Nina (8th grade).

·RICK CUTLER, MUSICAL ARRANGER

Rick Cutler, who has been playing drums since the age of 5-1/2 and keyboards since his teens, studied at the Julliard School as well as with jazz great Chick Corea. He has performed in many Broadway shows including "Hair," "The Wiz," "Candide," "They're Playing Our Song," "Woman of the Year" and "Seesaw," and currently writes music for television, film and radio. Rick's work in this field includes the Emmy-nominated theme for "Dateline NBC," "Later Today" on NBC, the theme for the New York Yankees on MSG Cable and the "Outlaws & Lawmen" mini-series on the Discovery Channel. He was also the composer of all of the original music for "The Gregory Hines Show" on CBS. Some of the artists he has performed and recorded with include Liza Minelli, Leonard Bernstein, Michael Franks, Noel Pointer, Herbie Hancock, Freddie Hubbard, Billy Eckstine, Gloria Gaynor, Rodney Dangerfield, Donna Summer, Larry Coryell, Jon Lucien & Charles Aznavour. Rick currently tours with both Gregory Hines (former Calhoun parent) and Liza Minelli.

UTE LEMPER, GUEST ARTIST

Best known for her bold interpretations of composer Kurt Weill and the French repertoire of Piaf and Prevert, Ute Lemper is a powerhouse talent whom critics have embraced time and again. From her starring role as Velma Kelly in the hit Broadway musical *Chicago*, to her electrifying cabaret performances, Ute has captivated audiences all over the world. With her groundbreaking Decca Album, *Punishing Kiss* (released April 4, 2000) Ute exhibited her extraordinary talents as the new alternative pop diva. Mother of two Calhoun children, Ute's true versatility shines through when she joins the children on four of their original songs, "Rabbits are Fluffy, Bears are Furry," "The Boy With a Mechanical Brass Fly," "The Bears and Bees Rhyme," and "Who Do You Like Better, The Knicks or the Nets"?

VICTORIA WILLIAMS, GUEST ARTIST

Neither a Calhoun parent nor teacher, Atlantic recording artist Victoria Williams graciously volunteered to join the Kids for Kids project thanks to Ron Shapiro (*see above*). She can be heard on two cuts on the new Calhoun CD, "There Are Songs You Can Play," and "We Love Animals." Victoria's voice was recently described in a *Vanity Fair* tribute as "a one-of-a-kind voice that resides somewhere between Neil Young and Minnie Pearl, and on her latest album (*Water to Drink*) she continues to mix folk, gospel, and jazz with sophisticated standards." She is perhaps best known as the organizer of Sweet Relief—a nonprofit charity for musicians helping musicians in crisis. In 1993, when other musicians covered her songs on the first Sweet Relief album to help defray costs related to her

battle with multiple sclerosis, Victoria gave the record royalties to uninsured musicians who she felt were in more need of the money. A second Sweet Relief CD, in 1996, benefited wheelchair bound songwriter Vic Chesnutt. The Calhoun community is honored to have Victoria as a guest artist on *People Are So Beautiful*.

COVER ARTISTS

The lovely paintings that grace the cover and inside notes of *People Are So Beautiful* were created during the 1999-2000 school year by then-first graders **Jacob Saphier** (cover), **Alexandra Getsos**, **Chara Louka**, **Ben Dicker**, **Jimmy Modico**.

THE CALHOUN SCHOOL

The Calhoun School is a coeducational, independent school on Manhattan's Upper West Side that has been serving New York families since 1896. As a leader in progressive education, the school prides itself on its innovative, academically challenging curriculum, its commitment to diversity and community, and its dedication to nurturing the whole child--morally, creatively, and intellectually. The school is housed in two buildings, one on West 81st Street and a second on West 74th Street, with 578 children from preschool through 12th grade.

THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION FOR LEUKEMIA, CANCER AND AIDS RESEARCH

The T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS Research was founded in 1975 by music industry executive Tony Martell and his colleagues after the death of Tony's son, T.J., who died of leukemia. This music and entertainment industry charity has since grown and evolved into a foundation--with offices in New York, Los Angeles and Nashville--dedicated to creating deeper understanding of and treatments and cures for leukemia, cancer and AIDS. Volunteers have raised more than \$155 million for innovative, cutting-edge research that would otherwise not have been accomplished.

For more information about the T.J. Martell Foundation, contact 212-833-5444.

For additional information about The Calhoun Kids for Kids project, please contact:

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To purchase copies of the CD, contact:

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