



## **Tobin and Liane Rockley of Rockley Music Center and The Rockley Family Foundation Advocates for Music Education at Four-Day Event in Washington, D.C.**

*On Capitol Hill, the Rockley's re-enforced importance of new federal law and its  
inclusion of music education for all children*

**Lakewood, CO May 31, 2016** –Tobin and Liane Rockley, area business leaders, joined 91 music industry leaders and artists to advocate that all children deserve quality, comprehensive music education programs in their schools during the four-day National Association of Music Merchants' (NAMM) Music Education Advocacy D.C. Fly-In event in Washington D.C. on May 23 – 26, 2016.

With the recent passage of the federal education law, the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, the delegation met with their Members of Congress to reinforce the importance of music being listed as part of a well-rounded education for all children at the State-level.

“Every child needs music and the arts as part of a well-rounded education, said Liane Rockley. “Arts education gives all children the opportunity for self-expression, stress relief and just plain fun! It is monumental that our Congress was able to put aside their differences and reach across the aisle to get this passed.”

The Advocacy week began with a Day of Service where members from the group, including New York Yankee-turned Latin GRAMMY-nominated guitarist Bernie Williams, donated musical instruments and accessories and provided three hours of music lessons taught by master teachers of the drum, ukulele and guitar to students at D.C.'s Friendship Technology Preparatory Academy.

The Rockley's participated in advocacy training at Nelson Mullins – a premier national law firm based in Washington D.C., - during which they were briefed on the current issues facing public school music programs, ESSA and the current political climate. The Rockley's were also trained on how to develop state-level advocacy efforts for music and arts education in Colorado.

The Rockley's met with Senator Gardner (R-CO), Senator Bennet's (D-CO) office, Congressman Perlmutter (D - CO) and Congressman Polis (D-CO) about the importance of music education and the support needed to insure that each student has the opportunity to learn music in school – a message that the Rockley Family will continue to advocate for at home.

In addition to the advocacy work, the Rockley's were a part of a special welcoming committee for Turnaround Arts, a program under the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. At a reception held on Tuesday, May 24, the Rockley's honored a variety of artists, including **Smokey Robinson, Alfre Woodard, John Lloyd Young, Carla Dirlikov, Keb' Mo'**, among others, for their work in arts education advocacy. Each artist was recognized with a SupportMusic Award from The NAMM Foundation for his or her



support of this effort.

To view images from the Rockley's trip, please visit:

- [NAMM Day of Service for Music Education with Bernie Williams](#)
- [The NAMM Foundation/Sen. Lamar Alexander with the SupportMusic Champion Award](#)
- [NAMM Turnaround Arts Artist Reception](#)
- [NAMM, CMA and VH1 Music Advocacy Day](#)
- [White House Turnaround Arts Talent Show](#)
- [CMA, NAMM, VH1 Congressional Reception for Music Education](#)
- [Rockley Family Foundation, Tobin & Liane Rockley of Rockley Music Center and Rockley Family Foundation Advocate for Music Education in Washington, D.C.](#)

### **About Rockley Music Center**

[Rockley Music Center](#) is celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016. We are proud to be Lakewood's oldest retailer, selling pianos, digital pianos and orchestral stringed instruments. We also provide extensive services including repair, piano moving/storage and lessons through the Rockley Music Education Center.

### **About The Rockley Family Foundation**

The [Rockley Family Foundation](#) is a non-profit organization founded to promote music education. This is accomplished by raising money for [music scholarships](#), [donation of musical instruments](#) to the under privileged and [donation of the use of musical instruments](#) to the music education community. Since 2009, the Rockley Family Foundation has donated nearly \$17 million in instrument loans, instrument donations and cash/scholarships to extremely deserving non-profit organizations and secondary education institutions throughout the United States.

### **About NAMM**

The National Association of Music Merchants ([NAMM](#)) is the not-for-profit association with a mission to strengthen the \$17 billion music products industry. NAMM is comprised of approximately 10,300 member companies located in 102 countries. NAMM events and members fund the [NAMM Foundation](#)'s efforts to promote the pleasures and benefits of music, and advance active participation in music making across the lifespan. For more information about NAMM, please visit [www.namm.org](http://www.namm.org), call 800.767.NAMM (6266) or follow the organization on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

To learn more about the event or for interviews, please contact:

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