



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Erie Philharmonic musicians visit Barber National Institute

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Erie, PA: Four musicians and former-musician and current Executive Director from the Erie Philharmonic will visit the Barber National Institute on Friday, May 27, for an interactive visit where each student will have the opportunity to hear, touch, and try the violin, viola, cello and percussion instruments. A wide range of students at varying age levels will participate in the Instrumental Petting Zoo, reaching over 20 classrooms. Artists include Executive Director Steve Weiser (percussion), Howard Lyon and Lou Nicolio (violin), Jennifer Jansen (viola) and Robert Nicholson (cello).

The Elizabeth Lee Black School is a part of the Barber Institute that serves students ages 3-21 who have autism, intellectual disabilities, or multiple challenges. It is the first school in PA named “School of Excellence” by the National Assoc. of Special Education Teachers for their exemplary teachers and programs that strive to “make dreams come true.” The Barber Institute has received numerous awards and provide professionals who serve with world-class education and training to those in need.

The Philharmonic is proud to bring the Instrumental Petting Zoo to the Barber National Institute. “Our goal is to have students experience and touch instruments that they wouldn’t necessarily see on a regular basis as well as hear different sounds and learn how they work,” says Weiser. “Music is the only universal language that carries no barriers, and it is the Philharmonic’s duty to the community to continue to enrich, entertain, and educate people of all ages. We’re honored to be visiting this nationally recognized school right here in Erie.”

*The Instrumental Petting Zoo will occur in the gym and library of the school from 9:30am-12pm.  
Media welcome. Please contact Lisa Herring at [lisa@eriephil.org](mailto:lisa@eriephil.org) or 814.455.1375 for any questions.*

Steve Weiser  
Executive Director  
[sweiser@eriephil.org](mailto:sweiser@eriephil.org)  
814/455-1375 x20

Lisa Herring  
Director of Community Impact  
[lisa@eriephil.org](mailto:lisa@eriephil.org)  
814/455-1375 x17