

Music Is Art for The Soul is an art program that is driven to raise awareness for the lack of funding our school systems face. According to The U.S. Census Bureau and the Annual Survey of School System Finances in 2014 it cost about nine thousand dollars to send a child to school. While the average school received approximately four thousand dollars to educate that same student. Most school programs that provide our children with a fun creative outlet during school hours are greatly underfunded or eliminated. In addition, these underfunded school programs are credited for inspiring many young people to further their education. In 2014 according to the 44th annual Phil Delta Kappa International/Gallup poll of public attitudes toward public schools 60 percent of United States Americans said it was more important for the federal government to balance its checkbook over five years than to improve the quality of public education. Three years later the same polling group found less than half of adults see "preparing students academically as the main goal of a public school education." Making a small town like Eustis, Florida especially dependent on its community outreach to aid in some of the deficit our schools face. People like Producer Jerry Roach, Artist Hughie-Lee Smith and Singer Michael Ray all looked out of their bedroom windows dreaming, believing and aspirations in Eustis.

Fundraising is an important aspect of every event, social club, and organization. Music Is Art For The Soul has helped to raise thousands of dollars for the local music programs in Eustis. For the month of February and March, the students of the Eustis School Music Programs paint original works of art. The music students were asked the question, "What inspires you to learn music?" The answers varied from listening to Music Stars, furthering future education by receiving music scholarships and Trinity Dobbs who answered, "She was inspired when she watched as her sister matured in the long term music program." Music Director, Mr. Gerry Ricke, teaches hundreds of local youth each year. Mr. Ricke has 22 years directing the music program at Eustis Middle School. His music program has a jazz ensemble, steel drums, marching band and 3 concert bands.

Music Is Art For The Soul will be at 1884 Restaurant, located at 12 E Magnolia Ave, Eustis, FL 32726. FREE for the public to preview and place a silent bid. The evening of March 24, 2017, the community is invited to enjoy a glass of wine while strolling the art from 6pm to 10pm. The art will be available for viewing March 24, 25 and 26. All materials and mediums that are used for this art program are all donated by the community, The Eustis Mustang Music Association and the Music Association Of Eustis. There is a wonderful selection of over 35 pieces of original art donated to The Annual Eustis Jazz Revue. The progress can be followed on facebook Music Is Art For The Soul.

On April 07, 2017, the Eustis Band Program is having it's 7th Annual Eustis Jazz Revue. A night that begins at 5:30, featuring live Jazz performances by Award-winning Jazz Ensembles, student soloists, and a special guest artist. The event is held at The Mount Dora Community Building located at 520 N Baker Street, Mount Dora, Florida 32757. This event is known to attract business and community members because 100% of the proceeds go directly back to the Eustis Music Programs that provides music, equipment, and instruments for hundreds of children in Eustis grades 6-12.

This fundraiser is a great way to get close and personal with the future leaders of our community. This year's guest performer is Bianca Jade, an award-winning singer-songwriter. More information about her is found at www.biancajadesings.com. Tickets and information for The Annual Eustis Jazz Revue can be found at www.eustisband.com or on facebook Eustis Jazz Revue. Or you can purchase your Jazz Revue ticket at the Music Is Art For The Soul event at 1884 Restaurant.

