

Santa Monica Lookout

Concert for the Arts Raises More than \$88,000 for Santa Monica - Malibu District Schools

By Lookout News

March 21, 2017 -- The Greg Coote Concert For The Arts headlined by two multiple-Grammy-award winners this month raised more than \$88,000 to support the arts in Santa Monica - Malibu District schools, event organizers said this week.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation's 12th annual concert benefits the Foundation's For The Arts endowment campaign, which works to "ensure the continuity of arts programming" for students in the two cities' public schools, organizers said.

The March 11 concert at Santa Monica High School's historic Barnum Hall featured five-time Grammy winner Michael McDonald, formerly of the Doobie Brothers and Steely Dan, and four-time Grammy winner "Weird Al" Yankovic and included a student choir, orchestra and band members from Samohi, Malibu High School and Olympic High School.

"What a thrilling evening," said Linda Greenberg, executive director of the Education Foundation. "It is amazing to see the skill of our student musicians as they put on an incredible show alongside our headliners.

"Their talent and this show are testaments to our community's dedication to ensuring excellent arts education. We are so grateful to the generous artists, crew, volunteers, students and each attendee who made this concert such a success."

This year's concert was renamed the Greg Coote Concert For The Arts, in memory of entertainment executive and school district parent Greg Coote, who spearheaded the creation of the Ed Foundation's For The Arts endowment campaign. He died in 2014.

Proceeds will support arts programs in SMMUSD schools next year and the Education Foundation's For The Arts Endowment.

Since their inception 12 years ago, the concerts have raised nearly \$1 million for arts programs in Santa Monica and Malibu public schools, Foundation officials said.

To learn more about the Ed Foundation visit smmef.org