

LOCAL EDUCATOR AWARDED GRAND PRIZE IN “SHARE YOUR SMARTMUSIC STORY” CONTEST



Sister Gail Buckman, SSND (center), a School Sister of Notre Dame and band director at St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic School in south St. Louis, was the grand prize winner of the national “Share Your SmartMusic Story” contest, sponsored by MakeMusic, creators of the SmartMusic practice software. On Nov. 12 at a school assembly, Sister Gail was awarded \$2,500 and a \$500 gift certificate at J.W. Pepper (a sheet music retailer). Pictured are representatives from Nottlemann’s Music (which sells SmartMusic locally), St. Gabriel School and MakeMusic. View her winning essay at smartmusic.com.

News Release

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LOCAL EDUCATOR TO BE AWARDED GRAND PRIZE IN “SHARE YOUR SMARTMUSIC STORY” CONTEST

Sister Gail Buckman, SSND, recognized for her commitment to innovation and excellence

ST. LOUIS, MO – November 5, 2009 – St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic School announced today that their band director, Sister Gail Buckman, SSND, will be presented with the grand prize of the national “Share Your SmartMusic Story” contest at 2 p.m. Thursday, November 12, at the school. The contest was sponsored by MakeMusic, creators of the SmartMusic practice software, which accompanies students as they practice, provides them with instant feedback, and sends student results and recordings to their teacher for grading.

Launched in June, the “Share Your SmartMusic Story” contest encouraged educators to submit essays describing how SmartMusic has transformed their music programs. In September, the top eight finalists’ stories were posted on the contest page at smartmusic.com for open voting. In mid-October, the results of thousands of votes were announced, with Sister Gail as the grand prize winner.

In her essay, Sister Gail indicated that with more than 40 years of teaching experience, she believes she embodies the statement that “one never becomes too old to learn new things.” She described her initial reservations about the SmartMusic software, and her subsequent realization that it helped her to engage, challenge and reward her students. She also explained how having students complete SmartMusic assignments at home reduced the need to test students during class, resulting in more class time for teaching. Sister Gail’s entire winning essay can be viewed at smartmusic.com.

As grand prize winner, Sister Gail will be awarded \$2,500 and a \$500 gift certificate at J.W. Pepper (a sheet music retailer) to purchase music for the band program. Sister Gail’s cash prize will be given to her religious community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who will share a portion of the winnings with the band program. The award will be presented by MakeMusic CEO Ron Raup, at 2 p.m. Thursday, November 12, at the St. Gabriel the Archangel School, 4711 Tamm Ave., St. Louis, Mo., 63109.

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Philosophy of St. Gabriel the Archangel School

We, the St. Gabriel School community, strive to develop and deepen our knowledge and love of God. We dedicate ourselves to academic excellence and provide students the means to attain it. Recognizing parents as the primary educators, we work together to foster the full potential of each student...spiritually, emotionally, aesthetically, physically, and socially. More information about the school can be found at <http://stgabschool.org>.

About MakeMusic, Inc.

MakeMusic, Inc, a Minnesota corporation, is a world leader in music technology whose mission is to develop and market solutions that transform how music is composed, taught, learned and performed. For more than 20 years, Finale has been the industry standard in music notation software. It has transformed the process by which composers, arrangers, musicians, teachers, students and publishers create, edit, audition, print and publish musical scores. Additionally, MakeMusic is the creator of SmartMusic, the complete practice tool for band, orchestra and voice and SmartMusic Gradebook, the web-based student grading and records management system. Further information about the company can be found at www.makemusic.com.

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