

Wild Music Opens at the Connecticut Science Center
New must-see, must-hear traveling exhibit showcases the sounds and songs of life across the globe

Hartford, CT— October 3, 2015 — Whales compose, bullfrogs chorus, songbirds greet the dawn, and people everywhere sing and dance. What do we all have in common? Visitors of all ages will find out on Saturday, October 3, when *Wild Music: Sounds & Songs of Life*, a hands-on exhibit that explores sound and music in nature and in life, opens at the Connecticut Science Center. *Wild Music* is presented by the Cheryl Chase and Stuart Bear Family Foundation with support from the First Niagara Foundation and the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

“Music is universal and creates a common bond across all people. The *Wild Music* exhibit does a wonderful job of connecting music to the sounds of nature while presenting the science of sound in an accessible and beautiful presentation,” said Cheryl Chase, Science Center Trustee and past Board Chair. “The Cheryl Chase and Stuart Bear Family Foundation is delighted to support *Wild Music* and share this engaging experience with the thousands of school children and families who will visit this fall.”

Wild Music invites visitors of all ages to expand their understanding of what makes music. Through whimsical, hands-on activities, they’ll not only hear the music that surrounds them every day, but they’ll see and even feel it, too. They’ll discover that nature is filled with “musicians” that create distinct musical masterpieces to communicate with and relate to one another. And they’ll explore how human music is inspired by the music of other living creatures—from tiny insects to giant whales.

Visitors to *Wild Music* will experience these exhibit highlights:

- Compose and play your own songs in the Jamming Room
- Experience sound through touch, sight, and hearing by using spectograms
- Hear how bird song has inspired humans to create beautiful music
- See a “talking drum” that mimics human speech
- Hear the songs of the deep from whales, shells, and underwater earthquakes
- Use an electrolarynx to speak without using your vocal cords
- Play a wall-mounted xylophone
- Hear birds whistle and learn more about what they’re saying

“The Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is pleased to support *Wild Music*, an exhibit that portrays the natural beauty of music, which Richard so cherished during his life,” said David Polk, advisor of the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

With its hands-on activities and music samples drawn from natural soundscapes from across the globe, *Wild Music* invites visitors to celebrate every note of every player in the symphony of life. *Wild Music* is a production of the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Association of Science-Technology Centers, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Music, with major support from the National Science Foundation and additional support from Harman International, Inc. and the NEC Foundation of America.

“Not only does the Connecticut Science Center offer terrific science education and enrichment opportunities to Connecticut students and families, it adds to our state’s economic vitality by attracting thousands of visitors to our region each year,” said First Niagara New England Regional President Jeff Hubbard. “We are thrilled to continue our partnership with them on this new exhibit and help support the educational and economic benefits they bring to our community.”

Wild Music is designed to be accessible to all visitors. All of the exhibit’s videos are narrated and captioned, and more than a dozen major components have audio descriptions for vision-impaired visitors. Many components incorporate tactile (raised line) graphic illustrations, and many have visitor-adjustable volume controls. All areas of the exhibit were built to be accessible for visitors using wheelchairs. In addition, text in *Wild Music* is printed in large, highly-readable type and is written in both English, Spanish, and, in some cases, Braille.

"The science of sound is truly fascinating. Music is all around us all the time, but there's so much more to it than what we hear," said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. "*Wild Music* will show our visitors what music looks like and what it feels like, and will let them create music of their own. We are delighted to bring this unique experience to our members and guests."

Wild Music is presented in the Connecticut Science Center’s Saint Francis Care Traveling Exhibit Gallery through January 3, 2016. Access to *Wild Music* is included with the purchase of General Admission or Membership. For more information, visit CTScienceCenter.org.

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About the Connecticut Science Center: The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving 2 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children’s gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: CTScienceCenter.org or (860) SCIENCE.