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2-27-2006

### Youth can step ahead with music

University Relations

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**Youth can step ahead with music**

*Summary: Great musicians start by learning the basics of their instrument. "Step Ahead With Music," a two-week day program, June 5-16, at UMM, is designed for fourth, fifth and sixth graders who will be starting their first full year of music.*

(February 27, 2006)-Great musicians start by learning the basics of their instrument. "Step Ahead With Music," a two-week day program, to be held June 5-16 at the University of Minnesota, Morris, is designed for fourth, fifth and sixth graders who will be starting their first full year of music in fall 2006. The new program is overseen by Dr. John Stanley Ross, director of bands and assistant professor of music at UMM where he conducts the University bands and orchestras and teaches applied clarinet. Other instructors for the program will include UMM music faculty and local band teachers, all of whom are experts on their respective instruments.

Students will receive daily lessons from faculty experts, as well as regular sectional instruction and master classes along with their first full band experience. "Step Ahead With Music" provides a strong foundation for music education by teaching introductory skills and techniques on the following instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba and percussion. "Step Ahead With Music" will be held in conjunction with the Henjum Creative Study Institute at UMM. Outstanding teachers and the facilities at UMM provide an environment where students can create, explore, interact and expand their perspectives. Equally important to the "Step Ahead With Music" experience are the lifelong friendships made during the Creative Study Institute when students connect with other participants their own age who share similar interests.

"Step Ahead With Music" is sponsored by Continuing Education at UMM with the cooperation and support of area schools. Cost for the program is \$195-\$225 (contingent on any enrollment discounts for which the participant qualifies and signup by May 5), plus a \$75 materials fee to cover band books and other course materials. Some schools pay a portion of the tuition and/or provide transportation to UMM. Scholarships are also available based on financial need. A bus route runs from Alexandria with stops in Glenwood, Starbuck and Cyrus to UMM for a minimal fee.

Registrations will be accepted through June 1, 2006. Registration materials are available from local school counselors or principals, or by contacting Jacki Anderson, UMM Continuing Education at (320) 589-6456, or call toll-free 1-800-842-0030, or e-mail [andersjs@morris.umn.edu](mailto:andersjs@morris.umn.edu)

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