



For Immediate Release

Local Kids – And Parents – Receive a Special Musical Treat

*Non-Profit Art for Progress Presents an Educational Music Performance by Lauded Therapists
Jon Samson and “Jammin” Jenn Goodman*

Maplewood, NJ (September 6, 2011) - On Sunday, October 2nd Essex County parents will be able to relax and enjoy a delicious brunch while kids take in a fun-filled, educational musical performance from Jon Samson and special guest Jennifer Goodman.

With the advent of iTunes, Amazon, Youtube, and MySpace children have unprecedented access to music which in turn fuels their interest in song. Perhaps it's not surprising that music therapy is increasingly becoming an important tool for helping children with everything from shyness to autism.

For five years non-profit Art for Progress (AFP) has been bringing arts education to underserved youths and school systems who have lost their arts programming. Seeing educational music as yet another way in which the arts can play an elemental role in a child's development, AFP is presenting the show as way to introduce local parents to the possibilities of musical therapy and raise much needed funds for their arts education program.

Leading the event will be Jon Samson. Having been featured in *Parenting Magazine* and *Time Out NY Kids* as well as interviewed on Doctor Radio (Sirius XM), Samson is a music therapist who works with kids on the autism spectrum and as well as children who just need a friendly boost with self esteem and expression. Samson shares his special brand of music therapy by producing and performing what he calls "alternative family music". His work has led to a collaboration with the founders of the Blue Man Group at the Blue School in lower Manhattan and sold-out performances at events such as the annual BAMkids Films Festival.

Joining Samson will be Jennifer Goodman. Goodman is trained in three distinct forms of Applied Behavioral Analysis and was also awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Boston Conservatory of Music and a Master of Arts in Music Therapy from New York University. She skillfully combines both her theatrical and multifaceted clinical training into her work which targets speech production, attending behavior and social skills for children with special needs. In May of 2009, Goodman created Jammin' Jenn Music Therapy for Children to further her effective and unique approach to therapy.

The event will take place at 12PM on Sunday, October 2nd at Coda Restaurant in Maplewood Village (177 Maplewood Ave,). Each \$45 ticket includes brunch for one adult and musical performance for one child. Tickets are \$20 for each additional child. Parents with children of all ages are encouraged to attend as well as teachers and other professionals working with children. Tickets are limited and must be purchased on Brown Paper Tickets by Sunday, September 25th. Tickets are available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/194716>.

Part of the proceeds will benefit AFP's Art Education Program, which provides under-served youth with dynamic artistic programming. AFP is a NYC-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

For more information about Jon Samson visit Samson's website www.cocreativemusic.com. For more information about Jennifer Goodman visit Goodman's website www.jamminjenn.com. For more information about Art for Progress please visit www.artforprogress.org.