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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**SPECIAL GUESTS SUPPORT CHARLOTTE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**

The Charlotte Cadet Band I will present their Fall Concert on Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center. They will be performing *March Zuma* by John O'Reilly, *Two Renaissance Sketches* by Todd Stalter, *Colliding Visions* by Brian Balmages, *Our Kingsland Spring* by Samuel Hazo, and *Sagebrush* by James Curnow.

The Charlotte Middle School Cadet Band will be welcoming two special guests at their concert for a special performance. The second half of the program will be performed by Sunny Wilkinson and accompanied by her husband, Ron Newman.

Ron Newman has been a member of the MSU faculty since 1980. He was the Director of Jazz Studies and taught jazz improvisation, theory, arranging, and history. He also directed the award-winning MSU Jazz bands and produced numerous records with the jazz ensembles. He has been the Music Director and Conductor of the Lansing Symphony Jazz Band. He is an active pianist in both classical and jazz venues, most notably with his wife, jazz vocalist Sunny Wilkinson.

Sunny Wilkinson has taken her place in that elite group of jazz vocalists who have stretched their boundaries and found themselves "one of a kind". In addition to over three decades of professional accomplishments and performances, Sunny has sung with such music icons as The Count Basie Orchestra, Rob McConell and the Boss Brass, Clark Terry, Mark Murphy, and many more. In addition to an impressive performance career, Sunny has also made significant contributions in jazz education. She was the head of the Vocal Jazz Area at MSU for 18 years and developed a mentoring program for young women jazz musicians called "Sisters in Jazz".

Thank you to Sunny Wilkinson and Ron Newman for supporting our band programs at Charlotte Public Schools and offering our students a unique opportunity. The concert is free and open to the public. There will be a punch and cookie reception after the concert in the high school cafeteria.