

MEDIA RELEASE

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Induction of Mel Bay as St. Louis Walk of Fame Honoree Set for June 30

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A ceremony to induct **Melbourne (Mel) E. Bay** (1913 - 1997) as a **2011 St. Louis Walk of Fame** honoree has been scheduled for Thursday, June 30, 2011. Festive live music starts at 11:00 a.m and ceremony begins at 11:30 a.m. The ceremony will include the unveiling of a bronze star and biographical plaque located in front of 6178 Delmar, St. Louis, MO, across the street from the Moonrise Hotel.

Mel Bay, during a lifetime of 84 years, made significant contributions to modern guitar education and laid the foundation for the continued growth and advancement of the instrument in the St. Louis region, the nation and throughout the world. Born in the small southern Missouri sawmill town of Bunker and growing up in Desoto, Mel Bay realized at the age of 14 he had a talent for music. After twenty five years of performing music professionally, Mel Bay, from his downtown Kirkwood business establishment, pursued guitar instruction and wrote, published and distributed a diversity of "how to play" books that inspired multitudes of aspiring guitarists, including many accomplished and celebrated professionals. In excess of 20 million copies of Mel Bay's Modern Guitar Method series have been sold worldwide. An obituary in the December 1997 issue of U.S. News and World Report magazine referred to Mel Bay as "*the George Washington of the guitar world*".

For more information about Mel Bay: www.melbay.com/tribute.asp

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The **St. Louis Walk of Fame** is a non-profit organization founded in 1988 to provide a showcase for the cultural heritage of St. Louis and to advance the knowledge, awareness and appreciation of great St. Louisans and their accomplishments.

The actual St. Louis Walk of Fame consists of sets of brass stars and bronze plaques honoring individuals from the St. Louis area who made major national contributions to our cultural heritage. Nominees for the St. Louis Walk of Fame must fulfill two main criteria including: 1) ***they must have been born in St. Louis OR spent their formative or creative years here***; and 2) ***their accomplishments must have had a national impact on our cultural heritage***.

Each year nominations are accepted for accomplished individuals from fields such as art, music, architecture, literature, journalism, civil rights, education, science, sports, acting, entertainment and broadcasting. The Walk of Fame selection committee consists of over 120 St. Louisans including the chancellors of all area universities, key people from local libraries, arts organizations and historical societies, media journalists, and other citizens with an informed understanding of St. Louis' cultural heritage.

For more information about the St. Louis Walk of Fame: www.stlouiswalkoffame.org