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**INSTRUMENTOS DE LA LIBERTAD, INC.**



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# PRESS RELEASE

Instrumentos de la Libertad Receives IRS Non-profit status

*Denver non-profit addresses lack of arts education for Latino students.*

**Denver, July 5, 2005:** Instrumentos de la Libertad, Inc., announced today that they have received the IRS' 501 (c) (3) non-profit status, making Instrumentos Denver's newest federally-recognized organization to attack the lack of arts education for Denver's Latino students.

The organization, founded by Executive Director, Jason Justice, in late 2003, primarily serves the children of Denver's west side. The organization provides musical instruments and instruction, completely free of charge, to those students whose families cannot afford this opportunity. The organization holds lessons and ensemble rehearsals on the grounds of St. Joseph's Church in Denver, located at 605 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The administrative offices are located at 1224 South King Street in Denver.

Recent research has shown that when students are given music instruction for as little as one year, IQ tests show an increase of approximately 10 points. Music instruction positively affects the spatial intelligence centers of the brain, which are the same cognitive processing centers for math and science comprehension. "Instrumentos de la Libertad exists to level the educational playing field for inner-city, minority students whose families cannot provide access to music instruction. In this way, these economically disadvantaged children have the same opportunity to improve their performance at school in the same way as children in suburban schools from families higher on the socioeconomic ladder," says Executive Director Jason Justice. He further comments, "We feel that helping children perform better at school is the best way to stack the deck against a future of dependence on public assistance."

Instrumentos de la Libertad currently teaches 65 students in piano, wind, brass and string instruments and guitar. The students range from ages of 7 to students entering college during Fall 2005. Benefactors include the Denver Jazz Club, Flesher-Hinton music store and Meis Musical Instrument Repair of Lakewood, who collectively have contributed \$25,000 in instrument donation and repair and general funding.