

Rosie O'Donnell Selects Hailun Pianos For New Kids' Music School



Pictured at the grand opening of a new non-profit arts center for underprivileged children in New York: Chita Rivera of Broadway fame; Rosie O'Donnell; and Theresa Perry, president, Hailun USA.

AT GRAND OPENING ceremonies for her youth arts school, Rosie O'Donnell thanked executives from Hailun Distribution USA for their generous help in providing pianos for the new facility in mid-town Manhattan. The school, named Rosie's Broadway Kids, has been described as O'Donnell's own after-

school version of "Fame" and is designed for local kids living below the poverty level who need a place to hang out, learn to sing, play the piano, and dance choreographed numbers.

For the grand opening, no less than Broadway royalty Chita Rivera and Sandy Duncan stopped in to give their blessings. Linda Dano, the actress and former soap queen, came and donated a "chair" in memory of her late husband. Some of "Rosie's kids," who've turned into formidable performers, turned out musical numbers including Arthur Schwartz's classic "Rhode Island Is Famous for You"—but changed the words to "Long Island" for Rosie, eliciting howls and cheers.

Named after Pat Maravel, a teacher from her childhood, O'Donnell's Maravel Performing Arts Center houses the Rosie's Broadway Kids program in a beautifully renovated four-story building filled with pianos and recital rooms. "Hailun has been with us from the beginning," O'Donnell said at the opening ceremonies. "We are honored to open the Hailun Studio, which has pianos and a study area for our kids. Through the generosity of Theresa Perry and the team



Hailun is the official piano of the new Maravel Arts Center in New York City. Pictured at the facility's Hailun practice studio are: Steve Mills, vice president, Hailun USA; Carl Demmler, owner, Beethoven Piano, New York; Theresa Perry, president, Hailun USA.

from Hailun USA, the lives of many young people will be changed."

The school is now serving approximately 1,500 fifth-grade students, 89% of whom come from low-income families. The school's mission statement reads: Rosie's Broadway Kids is an arts education organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children through the arts. Using professional teaching artists, Rosie's Broadway Kids offers classes in dance and music and a professional theater experience for children who might otherwise not have the opportunity. Its goal is to inspire excellence, motivate learning, uplift the human spirit, and instill a lifelong appreciation for the arts.