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BAND OF US AND LOCAL RISING ARTISTS SACRIFICE GAINS TO GIVE BACK THROUGH “xCHANGE”, A NEW BENEFIT CONCERT SERIES

Washington, DC August 18 - Local DMV music group BAND OF US presents “xCHANGE”, a special concert series focused on bringing awareness and support to the needs of the community. This event will feature fellow local rising artists Calista Garcia and Echelon the Seeker, and will be hosted by DMV-based poet E-Baby. It will take place on Saturday, September 2, 2017 at the DC9 Nightclub on 1940 9th Street NW in Washington, DC and is open to all ages. Doors will open at 8:30 PM and the event will begin at 9:00 PM. Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased in advance online (www.officialbandofus.com/events) or at the door. All proceeds from ticket sales for this event will benefit Stepping Stones Shelter of Rockville, MD.

The concert will feature local artists whose diversity in musical style further the message of bringing people together. BAND OF US has already made a significant mark in the short one-year period they’ve been active; taking their energetic, soulful, and jazzy rock sound to various venues such as Fox 5’s “Good Day DC”, as well as being selected as a finalist in the 2017 Bernard/Ebb Songwriting awards. Also performing will be Echelon the Seeker, whose fresh musical feel combines familiar 80’s pop-rock elements with modern soul and R&B. Joining the lineup will be 16-year-old Calista Garcia, a rising singer-songwriter who met the members of BAND OF US during the same Bernard/Ebb songwriting competition, in which she won “Young Songwriter of the Year”. According to Grammy Award winning Nashville songwriter Don Henry, “She writes like she’s 15 going on 50.” The event’s emcee will be DC based poet E-baby, who hosts an often-sold-out open mic at Busboys & Poets. “It was important for us to find artists who were just as passionate about helping others as we are,” says BAND OF US drummer Marcus Jackson, “and who also are just as passionate about their art itself. It’s amazing that people of different backgrounds can come together for a common cause - it’s pure positive energy.” As a joint effort, all of the artists have agreed to donate 100% of their earnings from ticket sales to the shelter.

In a day and age where many focus solely on self-gain, often as a matter of simple survival, it is rare to find those who are willing to give of themselves in order to help others; especially when every dollar counts while trying to “make it”. BAND OF US has made a deliberate decision to pause and give back, even before making it big on a national stage- they almost feel *compelled* to do so. “We know what it’s like to go through the ups and downs of life,” states frontman Peter Garza, “and how important it can be for one to pull up someone else when they’re in a down phase, because you never know when those roles can be switched. We just never want to

forget our gratitude to God for where we came from, where we are, and what we have to offer.” They stress the importance of establishing strong community foundations before gaining access to larger platforms, and they want to improve the lives of others while pursuing their own goals.

The band calls the event “xCHANGE” (pronounced “exchange”) for a specific reason. “Everyone has something that they can give, but many people overlook the fact that the act of giving in itself is a gift to the giver.” explains Kyle Alexander, bass-guitar player and background vocalist for the band, “This is the exchange that we want people to experience, to receive through giving.” In addition, it is meant to showcase artists on the rise, as well as organizations aimed at helping those in need, which is another kind of exchange. For the performance, The artists and audience also share an exciting night of music and expression aimed at positivity. By the end, their goal is that all parties have given as well as received in one way or another, and that all are fulfilled as a result.

The group aims to partner with a community organization for each xCHANGE to raise awareness. The first organization in this series is Stepping Stones Shelter. With a motto of “moving families forward”, they seek to provide aid for families in need of housing and other services in order to make their way back to independent stability. “We often have tunnel vision when thinking of homelessness,” says BAND OF US saxophone player David Byass, “but the reality is that many of those who are homeless are every bit as ‘normal’ and hard-working as everyone else, but simply cannot afford housing or other necessities to stay afloat. This is why we feel the work that Stepping Stones does is so crucial.” More info about Stepping Stones Shelter can be found at steppingstonesshelter.org.

This will be a good clean positive experience suitable for the whole family, and will include acts that, years from now, you’ll be proud to say you saw before they got big. It will be much more than an average evening show - it will be a unique experience that you will not want to miss, and one that can potentially have a lasting impact on those involved.

For more information, guestlist and interview requests, or if you’d like to review the show, contact BAND OF US at officialbandofus@gmail.com, or visit www.officialbandofus.com

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