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For Immediate Release

## ***BART to Host Internationally Acclaimed Bluesman, Guy Davis, for Student Workshops and Free Performance***

**ADAMS, Ma** – On Monday, June 4, blues musician Guy Davis will host two workshops at Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter Public School (BART) with the sixth grade and high school music electives. His visit will culminate with a free, public hour-long performance at the school at 7 p.m.

Davis' visit to BART is part of a larger effort to highlight different vocal and musical styles to students. Though born and raised in suburban New York City, Davis has mastered various blues styles. Veins of Muddy Waters' Chicago-style blues to Robert Johnson's delta blues run through Davis's playing.

Not only is Davis a talented musician, playing harmonica, four and five-string banjos, and both the six and 12-string guitars, but he's also acted in several off-Broadway productions, appeared on television, and starred in his own one-man play, "In Bed with the Blues: The Adventures of Fishy Waters."

"Guy Davis is an accomplished musician, captivating storyteller, and a keeper of one of America's most important musical traditions," said Brian O'Grady, arts program coordinator at BART. "It is a special opportunity for our students and community to have Guy Davis here at BART."

Davis is no stranger to working with schools or students. He contributed the title track to the collection, "I Will Be Your Friend: Songs and Activities for Young Peacemakers." The CD, along with a teacher's aide kit, teaches diversity and understanding as part of the "Teaching Tolerance" campaign distributed by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

He has completed workshops similar to the upcoming BART event in schools and colleges throughout the United States and Canada.

"I'm able to give them a kind of introduction to the blues," said Davis in the River Cities Reader. "The classes are usually about 45 minutes long, and I tell them about the oldest forms of the blues, starting from the Mississippi Delta."

Davis accompanies this musical history with stylistic examples on harmonica and guitar, but acknowledges that there are numerous other styles to choose from.

"I like to start with a kind of a story, using only a harmonica, with trains and convicts and pigs and chickens and dogs," said Davis.

As part of the music elective curriculum, other musicians will also be visiting BART through the end of the school year. Various genres and styles will be featured as students study and explore musical expression.

BART is a nationally recognized, award-winning, tuition-free public middle and high school focused on preparing students for college. One hundred percent of BART's graduates have passed a college course and have been accepted into college prior to graduation. BART does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or sexual orientation.