



# Gifford Youth Orchestra Notes And News

Fall/Winter 2016

*More Violins – Less Violence – Better Tomorrows*



## ANNUAL STUDENT CONCERT.

Once again we have proof that our slogan, "More Violins -- Less Violence -- Better Tomorrows," has touched the heart of our community and demonstrated the power of our belief in these beautiful young people. Our GYO musicians ages 7 - 14, some with only a few months' experience playing violin, not only played their little hearts out, but also displayed excellent discipline and stage etiquette! During this annual concert, which is our major fundraising event for the year, we were blessed with double the attendance we normally draw and donations amounting to a little over \$900.00. While prior years' performances have reaped donations upwards of \$2,300, we thank you all for your gifts. We especially thank you for your enthusiastic applause which warms the children's hearts and puts smiles on their faces! These children love to perform -- we love to showcase them on the stage!



## LET THE CHILDREN SING!

We are expanding our vision to meet our 2017 goal of enrolling 50 students in the GYO Music Program. Our brand new Community Youth Choir for children ages 7-14 will include several different genres of music: Gospel, Broadway Tunes, Classical, Pop, and even Opera! Choir Director Courtney Godwin, hopes to be teaching 15 children in January. We look forward to having 30 young people in our choir by Summer! When our Gifford children pick up a violin for the first time, they are embarking on playing the most difficult instrument in the orchestra! For some of our other children, their primary instrument is their voice -- their music education begins in our choir --Let the Children Sing!



Music Director Joan Haar teaches with TLC (tender love and care).

## MORE SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED

It is our intent to keep all of our children "Off the Street and On the Stage" with love and music! That's what we do with the help of our donors. Each \$1,837 scholarship helps an 'at-risk-of-homeless' child have another year of music education, which includes a violin, 48 weekly classes, a GYO tee-shirt, and a nutritious meal before or after each class. We know the importance of early music education and its positive impact on a child's brain and development. This year we took a financial leap of faith and lowered parents' financial responsibility for music lessons to \$10/month per child. To supplement program expenses, we are applying for grants and approaching Rotary Clubs and other organizations as well as our loyal donors in order to expand the opportunities for scholarship for our "at-risk" students. Perhaps you will include us in your Holiday Giving!

## COMING UP IN DECEMBER: Dr. Mark Rendell, Indian River County School Superintendent,

commented on why he has invited the GYO to perform at the Principals Lunch and meeting on December 15, 2016. "This is a great opportunity for the principals to see that the students are extending their learning opportunities beyond the school walls. I want the principals to be aware of this wonderful experience and music education provided by the Gifford Youth Orchestra."

**Coming up in January:** two more new cultural arts programs for 2017!



GYO Students playing Christmas Carols for Hibiscus Children on Christmas Eve 2015.

The GYO will be sharing its talents and gifts with the community this Holiday Season. On Christmas Eve we will perform our traditional Christmas Carol program for the Hibiscus Society and the Family Homeless Center. One of the vital traditions of the GYO is active service and contribution to the community. Through performances like these, our students learn firsthand the value and satisfaction of giving back to their hometown and neighboring communities.

**If you'd like to sponsor a child with a tax-deductible Holiday Donation, or a donation of any amount, please make your check payable to the Gifford Youth Orchestra and mail it to P. O. Box 691166, Vero Beach FL, 32969  
Or send by PayPal to: [donations@gyotigers.org](mailto:donations@gyotigers.org).**

The Gifford, Florida Youth Orchestra is a 501(c)(3) Corporation whose mission it is to provide education, experience, and training in various cultural and performing arts, including music, drama, dance, and the vocal arts for the youth of Gifford, Florida (and neighboring Indian River County communities), with a core focus on mastering stringed instruments. Your donation allows the GYO to continue helping children change the trajectory