



## LIGHTS! CAMERAS! <FLASH!> GMYS ACTION!

GMYS Students played at the Roxy Theater's production of "West Side Story," at Key Biscayne K-8 Center PTS' "Oscar Night" Annual Dinner Dance Auction held at The Grand Bay Club, and at a fundraiser held at Macy's, among many other local performances.



Way to go!



## Tradition Continues with Collaboration Concert by Emily Cochrane



The tradition lived on once again on March 1, 2009 in the Countess de Hoernle Theater at the Spanish River High School in Boca Raton. The Greater Miami Youth Symphony and the Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County joined forces for the second year in a row with one goal in mind: to make beautiful music together.

The GMYS String Orchestra, under the tutelage of Ms. Vivian Jauma, came together with the String Orchestra of the YOPBC and their conductor Ms. Susan Ott Rodberg. The audience was enthralled with renditions of *Mythos* by Soon Hee Newbold, *Jupiter from the Planets, Op. 32* by Gustav Holst arranged by Debra Baker Monday, and *Russian Sailor's Dance* by Reinhold Gliere arranged by John Caponegro. Following their performance, the audience was captivated by the GMYS Concert Orchestra led by Dr. Melissa Lesniak

and the YOPBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Mr. Bradford S. Chase. Although Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* was deleted from the program due to different arrangements, the combined orchestras delivered *Sleeping Beauty Waltz* by Tchaikovsky arranged by Isaac, *The Moldau* by Smetana arranged by Meyer, and *Belingrath Gardens* by Ralph Ford.

Bringing the evening to a close, the GMYS Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ms. Hui-fang Chen and the YOPBC Philharmonic Orchestra led by Mr. Manuel Capote merged to produce an ambitious series of pieces. Together, these orchestras serenaded the audience with the *Egmont Overture* by Ludwig Van Beethoven, *Capriccio Espagnol* by Rimsky Korsakov, and *A Tribute to John Williams* from the Kennedy Center Honors Program. "It was a lot of fun to come here, and we all had a great time meeting new

new people and working with different conductors," commented Natalia Hidalgo, GMYS violinist with the Concert Orchestra.

Students arrived around noon to run through the music together while adjusting to the individual style of each conductor. A carefully crafted schedule enabled each combined orchestra to practice in the band room, on stage, and share snacks and conversation. Once each group had finished rehearsing, the performers converged upon the locker rooms to swiftly change before the lights dimmed and the concert began. As the happy, tired musicians began to make their way home after the well-received performance, calls of "Nice meeting you!" and "See you next year!" filtered through the air. It was yet another joint success for the Greater Miami Youth Symphony and the Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County.

## Is there a FLY on the Stage? By Vivian Jauma

Have you ever wondered what each movement from a conductor is really about? If you are a parent or a young student you might wonder what each movement means. Hopefully, the conductors movements are clear enough that one cant help but watch.

Often an orchestra's ability can be measured by how well they follow the conductor.

It pumps the blood as conductors are meant to pump the orchestra. The heart makes the blood flow as conductors make the music flow.

The key is to keep an eye on the conductor because they give you the key to solve the puzzle of how in the heck can 80 students play at the same time while playing different

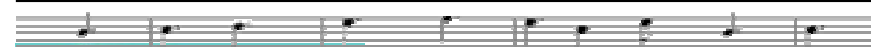


If that does not happen we can have chaos.

There were moments in this trip where the practice of watching the conductor were tested. I believe it was a great experience for my young musicians to learn from. With an

## The Greater Miami Youth Sympl

# THE TEMPO



## Letter From The President

By Wallace Glenn Kerrick, PhD

### GMYS Executive Board:

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It is always a pleasure to write about this amazing organization. That is because of the many outstanding youth musicians and their supportive parents which keep pushing the envelope of excellent in all orchestras. With over 500 youth in GMYS, beginning with our outreach program which filters these beginners up through four orchestras of increasing difficulty, GMYS is making its presence known in the community, public school music programs, and at the University level. Rumors are that there were so many kids at the middle school level in our program auditioning for the traditional best magnet high school programs that these schools were unable to take them all, which resulted in an increase in the numbers of applications to other school music programs. We are proud of the fact that we have approximately 80 public schools represented in our program as well as home school kids. Our reputation among youth musicians in Florida reaches as far north as West Palm Beach and Orlando where our orchestras perform and collaborate with other youth symphonies each year. GMYS mainly serves south Miami-Dade County, but

we have musical hearsals every S away as Broward Naples.

As evidence of G tional accomplish number of GMYS have been recog mplishments: GMYS Concerto ner), Terrence Sr bra Orchestra Cc winner), Jiwen Le Orchestra MDCP Competition winn (2008 GMYS Pia petition winner), ( State winners, si) intendent's Hono winners, and six : World Symphony evidence of exce always, we are c of our graduating to college.

At the heart of GI standing music s: school teachers, sors and student teachers all of wf standing credenti and teachers. Di staff is our extrac Director Dr. Melis incredible Music fessor Huifang C them under Artist

### Conductors:

Ms. Melissa Lesniak, PhD,  
Executive Director, Concert Conductor

Mrs. Hui-fang Chen  
Music Director

Mrs. Vivian Jauma, String Orchestra  
Mr. Besnik Hashani, Young Mozarts  
Mr. Eugene Timmons, Concert & Jazz

### Principal Guest Conductor

Mr. Jacomo Bairos

### Orchestra and Chamber Coaches

Nicolas Real Jose Leon

# THE TIMES



April 2009

## Student

re musicians traveling to re-  
Is every Sunday from as far  
is Broward County, and

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Concerto competition win-  
errence Smith (2008 Alham-  
chestra Concerto Competition  
, Jiwen Lei (2008 Cleveland  
stra MDCPS Mozart Concerto  
tition winner), Rachel Ostler  
GMYS Piano Concerto com-  
1 winner), eighteen 2009 All  
winners, sixty five 2008 Super-  
ent's Honors Music Festival  
s, and six side-by-side New  
Symphony winners. Further  
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, we are confident that 100%  
graduating seniors will go on  
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heart of GMYS is its out-  
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teachers, university profes-  
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rs all of which have out-  
ig credentials as performers  
achers. Directing this music  
our extraordinary Executive  
r Dr. Melissa Lesniak and  
ble Music Director, UM Pro-  
Huifang Chen. Read about  
nder Artistic Staff



<http://www.gmys.org/>. GMYS is a  
non-profit organization owned  
and run by the parents. The  
Executive Board of Directors and  
Board of Trustees are responsi-  
ble for overseeing the administra-  
tion of GMYS. The actual run-  
ning of GMYS is done by our  
Executive Director who is the  
driving force behind our success.  
All the wonderful programs are  
under her direction as well as  
most of the grant writing. The  
majority of funding for GMYS  
comes from grants awarded to  
GMYS by foundations, US gov-  
ernment (NEA), FI state, Dade  
county and local cities in recogni-  
tion of our outstanding accom-  
plishments. Be proud! Musicians  
do your best to be serious about  
rehearsals. Parents support  
GMYS in whatever way you can.  
We need you're your help  
([www.gmys.org](http://www.gmys.org)). We have to  
raise every dime to support this  
incredible organization.

clear enough that one cant help but watch.

Often an orchestra's ability can be measured by how well they follow the conductor. However, the younger the students the harder it is to do. It's hard enough to read the music, now imagine getting your eyes off the music to make sure that what you are playing is with the conductor.

I often think of conducting as being the heart beat of a circulatory system. If the heart is not functioning, neither can the rest of the body.

The key is to keep an eye on the conductor because they give you the key to solve the puzzle of how in the heck can 80 students play at the same time while playing different parts.

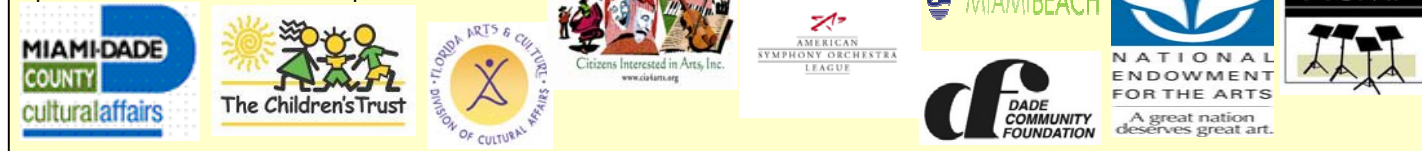
Students that went on the West Palm Beach trip in the "Strings" group hopefully learned a valuable lesson in their last performance.

When you are playing with new musicians that are not in your group that might have a different idea of how the music should go, need to look at the conductor to get their unifying factor.

in this trip where the practice of watching the conductor were tested. I believe it was a great experience for my young musicians to learn from. With an experience like that, no matter who is in front or next to you, good music will be achieved.



Special thanks to our sponsors:



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Ms. Jacolyn Alvarez

**Orchestra and Chamber Coaches**

Nicolas Real	Jose Leon
Scott O'Donnell	Laura Wilcox
Lee Morrison	David Babe
Luis Gomez-Imbert	Sprite Crawford
Tinder Burris	John Dadurka
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*Thank you for your time and devotion!*

perform and collaborate with other youth symphonies each year. GMYS mainly serves south Miami-Dade County, but

Director Dr. Melis incredible Music fessor Huifang C them under Artist

**The GMYS 3rd Annual Summer Concert is now open. Please visit [www.gmys.org](http://www.gmys.org)**

**Upcoming Events — Mark your Calendar**

- April 25** Chamber Concert—Edison Library. 2 pm
- May 9** Season Gala Concert— FIU Wertheim Hall. 3:00 pm Young Mozarts and String Orchestra. 4:30 pm Concert Band, Jazz Band, Symphony

or Dr. Melissa Lesniak and  
ble Music Director, UM Pro-  
Huifang Chen. Read about  
nder Artistic Staff

**Summer Camp registration is  
open at [www.gmys.org](http://www.gmys.org) for more information!**

**Check out our Calendars!**

January 2 pm

at the Rarick Center

for the Chamber Orchestra

and the Symphony Orchestra

**Newsletter editors & staff:**

Doris Triay-Merein, Nayanneth  
Marcano-Cotarelo, Paula Cochrane.

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Marcano-Cotarelo, Isabel Martinez,  
Leah Mcleod.



### GMYS CONCERT BAND by Mr. Timmons

The GMYS Concert Band, in addition to working on music for concert presentations, are also making preparations for upcoming required performance assessments. We believe our students should get the best that we have to give them as they are willing to commit their young lives to studying serious music.

Our GMYS Band is studying all of the major diatonic scales and arpeggios. We start with the first seven scales as required by the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA). As we master one scale we move on to the next. Our goal is to master all twelve scales and to have fun playing music by some of the world's greatest composers.

Our "Rockin" GMYS Jazz Band is working on the Blues Scales in the key of Bb, Eb and F. We are also working on our improvisational skills in the same keys. We hope to be able to perform at the Spring Gala in May.

### YOUNG MOZARTS



Under the tutelage of Mr. Besnik Hashani, the Young Mozarts performed in Homestead.

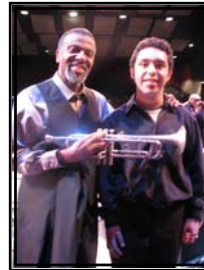
Keep an eye on these rising musicians!



GMYS quintet performed at the University of Miami's Victor E. Clarke Hall. Bravo!



Jorge Muniz was one of GMYS' members who participated in this year's All State Conference. Congratulations to all who achieved this milestone!



Accolades to Symphony's Adrian Cotarelo for being selected by audition to the Melton Mustafa "Jazz Cats" Honor Band and performing at the Annual Jazz Festival in Miami Beach alongside Jazz trumpet greats such as Ira Sullivan and M. Mustafa.

### My 2009 Youth Fair Experience—Leah McLeod (Age 8)

It was Wednesday, April 1st 2009 and school let out early at 2:00 pm. I had no homework that day so my Mom told me to rest a little before going to my evening performance at the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair. I could tell that this was going to be a very interesting evening.

We arrived at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center located on the campus of Florida International University at about 7:00 pm and signed in. A man then told us that all the performers were to sit in the first three rows. My brother Stephen and my cousin Chelsea sat behind me to videotape and take pictures. My mom, my accompanist, sat beside me.

The first group to perform was from Beacon Hill Preparatory school. The performers were 7-9 years old. They were nicely dressed in black and white outfits and white gloves. They unpacked

made a loud buzzing sound when flicked. It was entertaining to watch one of the girls bopping to the beat as she played the marimba. Everyone in the audience smiled.

Then there was also an 18 year old fiddler who had been playing the violin for the past 7 years. He played a quick Irish tune but all in first position. It wasn't my favorite type of music but it was still good.

Another soloist was Jeremy Whitman. He is a member of GMYS Symphony. He played the marimba, but a much larger one to the one Beacon Hill used. He was terrific! I enjoyed the piece as it had a lot of dynamics which made it so interesting.

The last performance was by an all boy High School beginning jazz band from Belen Jesuit School. They were dressed nicely in dark blazers

### COLLABORATION CONCERT IN PICTURES



### A Note from the GMYS Executive Director



Dear Students and Parents, I have just returned from a wonderful conference, the American String Teachers Association National Conference, this year, held in Atlanta, GA.

I was so fortunate to reconnect with many of my old friends and teachers from Indiana University, and several friends and colleagues from University of Miami were also in attendance. I attended several sessions related to teaching strings in today's world. One particular session I attended that I found extremely useful was a three hour in-depth session on ADVOCACY for music education. The session was led by a national leader in music education advocacy, who has enabled districts across the county to reverse cuts to music education in their communities. I learned a lot in these sessions, but the two most crucial points addressed were the following: In order for a community to successfully advocate for music education, there must be

1. A COMMUNITY MUSIC COALITIONS MUST LEAD THE ADVOCACY EFFORTS. Music educators (string, general music teachers), parents, merchants, local musician/artist members, etc, must communicate together to effectively advocate for their community. And most importantly, PARENTS must be the most visible advocates for music education in their communities. Parents must have much more influence as voters over local decision makers than they otherwise will rubber stamp. Parents- decision makers must have their voices heard!! I encourage you to visit [www.supportmusic.com](http://www.supportmusic.com) for advocacy materials that can ease our community.

Melissa Lesniak, PhD  
Greater Miami Youth Symphony  
Executive Director

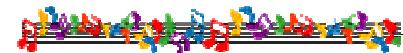
Dear GMYS Family and Friends,



It is hard to believe that the end of school year is almost here. This year we had three consecutive concerts in February and March. The first concert was held at the Miami Science Museum and what a hot day it was! The orchestra did a fantastic job. We all had a good time, and the collaboration concert with the Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County was a wonderful experience. The experience of having conducted more than 150 young musicians was how great it was to see and feel all the enthusiasm, as well as the

The Symphony's season will end on May 9th with a world premiere" at FIU. This work was written for the Greater Miami Youth Symphony by Florida International University of Miami. The concert will also feature our 2009 Concerto Competition winner of the Dvorak Cello Concerto. The program will also include last movement of Tchaikovsky's March Slave. I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the GMYS Pre Board, Dr. Melissa Lesniak, the staff of GMYS, and the parents and students of GMYS for making this season so smooth and pleasant one. I thank you for all your understanding and encouragement for more years to come.

Musically yours,



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## Director

MUSIC COALITION 2. PAR-  
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*Pictured above, GMYS Chamber Groups perform at the Coral Gables youth outreach center.*

Symphony

st here. The Symphony Orchestra had a busy spring semester  
n. The first one was held at the Robert Morgan Educational  
of the GMYS. It was well received and I hope that it had an  
in the Symphony Orchestra of the GMYS. The second concert  
t day it turned out to be. But despite the sun, heat and wind,  
ne, and the audience appreciated it! The third concert was a  
n Beach County at Spanish River High School in Boca Raton.  
ng musicians on stage was amazing. It is hard to describe  
well as hear the power of the music.

ld premiere performance of the composition “Deciphered Rev-  
ony by Fred DeSena, a Composition Faculty member at the  
tition winner, Ji Kim, who will be performing the first move-  
ment of Brahms’ Symphony No. 1 in C major, and  
hMYS President, Dr. Wallace Glenn Kerrick, his Executive  
s of GMYS for making my first year as your Music Director a  
ragement, and I look forward to working with you for many



The first group to perform was from Beacon Hill Preparatory school. The performers were 7-9 years old. They were nicely dressed in black and white outfits and white gloves. They unpacked different colored handbells and carefully placed about four on each small table in front of each student. They were very disciplined and performed well.

I was called next. I was a bit surprised as there was no program to warn me ahead of time and hoped my violin stayed in tune. The Master of Ceremonies asked me to introduce myself, my age, school and the piece I was going to play. It was Concerto No. 5 by F. Seitz. I was quite nervous but managed to stay composed. I played well but thought I could've done better. The audience cheered as I bowed and I felt so relieved.

There were quite a few more groups from Beacon Hill Prep performing on other rhythmic instruments like drums, bells, sticks and maracas. They also had an unusual instrument that

interesting.

The last performance was by an all boy High School beginning jazz band from Belen Jesuit School. They were dressed nicely in dark blazers and white shirts. They performed O.K. to me.

At the end of the performances, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners were announced. Everyone was given ribbons and free passes to come back and enjoy the rides at the fair. I was extremely honored to be given a 1<sup>st</sup> place award and was also happy for Jeremy who not only received the 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon but a special one for a perfect score.

I am happy that I entered this event. It has given me more confidence and allowed me to hear other instruments that I may not have been able to hear at school and also appreciate the talents of other musicians. And to top it off, I get to go back to the fair to enjoy the rides with my family.....for free!

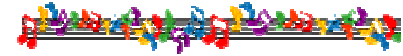


### A Scorching Performance at the Miami Science Museum!



more years to come.

Musically yours,  
Huifang Chen



### ANOTHER ADVANTAGE OF GMYS - COLLEGE EDGE! By Is

Budget Cuts. Enrollment cuts. The state of the economy. The news is stressful and, finances, enough to make our heads spin. Parents and students are stressing over college. Many good students don't get in to the college of their choice. However, our children have

My daughter is a good student who wants to study music education. In my day, she would have had more options, but, given the bleak news, she applied to nine different colleges. She had her first audition was at a university that is known for turning down students. After the audition, whatever it took to get my daughter accepted. We were skeptical, until she received her scholarship offer, even a small one, makes a difference to the admission process.

For our students, listing GMYS on a college resume is prestigious, given the reputation of the program. Colleges know that students who participate in programs such as GMYS are serious about their education. It is imperative that now, more than ever, parents support GMYS so that it can continue to grow and give them an edge in their college applications and in life.



**E! By Isabel Martinez**

ful and, for those of us who are the parents of college appli-  
ver college admission and the horror stories telling us how  
children have an advantage over others because of music.

lay, she would have had no trouble getting into many universi-  
d first choices, back-ups and back-ups to the back-ups. Her  
After the audition, the professor told us that she would do  
received her acceptance letter and a scholarship offer. It  
admissions process.

reputation of the program and the level of music the students  
MYS are disciplined and committed to their stud-  
it it can continue to enhance our children's educa-

