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## MusicFest Orlando 2008

By Jennifer Gierson

From Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, The Greater Miami Youth Symphony Strings Orchestra took part in a competition known as MusicFest in Orlando, Florida's premier music festival. MusicFest is a competition of middle and high school students competing for awards in assorted musical categories such as chorus, concert band, jazz ensemble, and orchestra. The three day trip was a fantastic event for many students who take part with the orchestra. Through much private lessons and practice, many private lessons and practice, students who participated in the competition competed with great excellence. The songs,



The students performed two songs, "Jericho" and "Themes From A New World Symphony" (difficult pieces for a beginning orchestra), and took home the first place award for orchestra, beating out high school groups from as far away as Texas and California. GMYS Strings Orchestra was the only musical group that took part in MusicFest with elementary school age students, so we were competing against much older musicians. Through perseverance thanks to our very own Mrs. Jauma, the Strings Orchestra was the one to beat. We scored a Superior rating. The judges were very impressed with the talent our young players possessed and were very happy to see that we have such interest in music and were giving up our Sundays to be in the Orchestra.

After our successful performance Saturday morning, the Strings Orchestra

traveled to Disney's Animal Kingdom and experienced many thrill rides like Expedition Everest, the roller coaster where everyone has a surprise encounter with the very scary Yeti. After a fun filled day at Animal Kingdom, the Strings Orchestra took part in a dinner banquet where we were awarded our First Place trophy. Sunday morning, the group traveled to Sea World and experienced many exciting shows and rides. Students enjoyed the great performance of Shamu, the twists and loops of The Kraken, and the interesting dances of the various performers. The String Orchestra would like to thank Mrs. Jauma for this incredible opportunity to participate in this thrilling competition. We could not have done it without her hand (and wand) to push us forward.

## Symphony Graduates Move Forward With Brio

By Alexia Frith

The Greater Miami Youth Symphony has affected too many students to count. Some who began playing in the symphony at a young age are still going strong. This year we have a number of graduating seniors who will soon be moving on to do bigger and better things. Alvaro Velasquez, plays the French horn, and is a student at New World School of the Arts, will be attending Florida International University. Abigail Loutoo plays the cello, attends Miami Dade, and will be beginning studies at the University of Miami. Joanna Villa plays the violin, attends Coral Reef Senior High, and will most likely be attending Stetson

Berriz attends Coral Reef Senior High, plays the violin, and will be attending the University of Florida. Nig Sun currently attends Miami Christian School, plays the flute, and will be attending the University of Florida next year as well. Another senior with a bright future is Spencer del Moral. Spencer plays the cello, attends Coral Reef Senior High, will be going to the University of Florida, and is the recipient of a Bright Futures Scholarship. Andrea Garriga attends Florida Christian School, plays the oboe and English horn. Next year Andrea will be attending Florida International University on a full scholarship. David Jones, another Coral Reef student, plays

trumpet, and will attend the University of Central Florida in the fall. Hugo Seda, plays the French horn, and attends South Miami Senior High. Hugo is still undecided as to which college he will be attending in the fall. Bernarda Reyes, who plays the Violin, attends Palmer Trinity School, and will be off to Berklee School of Music.

Good luck to all of our GMYS Seniors, you will be greatly missed!



**A special thanks to our sponsors:**









# The Tempo Times

Volume I, Issue 3

May 2008



## From The President's Desk

By Wallace Glenn Kerrick, PhD

### GMYS Executive Board:

- Wallace Glenn Kerrick  
*President*
- Thomas Morrison  
*-President* Vice
- Pat Gladieux  
*Treasurer*
- Cristy Charters  
*Recording Secretary*
- Doris Triay-Merein  
*Corresponding Secretary*
- Rolando Barrios  
*Past President*
- Isabel Murga Martinez  
*Fundraising Committee*
- Monica Cronin  
*Charter & Bylaws Committee*

Congratulations to our young musicians, music staff, executive director, board of directors, committees, parents and friends of GMYS for making the 2007-2008 season one of the best seasons ever. Membership in GMYS reached a record 450 youth musicians ranging in age from 5 – 18 years. Our performances throughout South Florida (Orlando, Palm Beach, Miami Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami) have earned us a reputation for excellence in performance. This reputation also results from the fact that many of our young musicians are making a name for themselves as outstanding performers by being invited through competitions to play in the all-county, all-state, New World Symphony, and Cleveland Symphony Orchestras. GMYS has come alive and we should all be proud of its many accomplishments. Although the school year is coming to an end, GMYS still has the Summer Camp to end the year with. This camp is probably

one of the most affordable and highest quality music summer camps anywhere. This is because it is mostly funded by grant support in reorganization of the positive impact GMYS has on youth in South Florida. Check our website [www.gmys.org](http://www.gmys.org) for applications.

The granting agency most responsible for providing the funds that makes the many programs provided by GMYS possible is the Children's Trust. The Children's Trust was founded by retired Miami Herald Publisher David Lawrence Jr. in 2002. The Children's Trust receives its revenue through a 0.4223 mill property tax, which averages out to \$61 per year or just over \$1.00 per week for the average home owner. For families of GMYS musicians they receive back approximately ten times what they spend for tuition in the form of services from GMYS. This initiative comes up for a vote Aug. 26, 2008. If approved, "The Children's Trust" will be created

permanently. For GMYS as we know it, it is of primary importance that this initiative be passed. As president of GMYS I am asking all parents and friends of GMYS to join me in forming a political action committee to get this initiative passed. This committee would be broken down into 5 separate sub committees responsible for 5 precincts. Each sub committee would be responsible for a single precinct. We know who the voters that regularly vote in those precincts are. They are not so many, so it is possible to canvas all these voters before the election. The plan would be to do so approximately two weeks before the election, so that the voters will not forget. I am asking *everyone* to please contact me at [wglennk@aol.com](mailto:wglennk@aol.com) so that we can get started forming our

### Conductors:

Mr. Carlos Riazuelo  
Music Director

Ms. Melissa Lesniak, PhD,  
Executive Director

Mr. Besnik Hashani  
Mrs. Vivian Jauma  
Mr. Eugene Timmons

### Grant and Pre-Starter

#### Assistant:

Ms. Keisha Frith

#### Assistants:

Ms. Chiara Fasi  
Ms. Beula Amador



#### PreStarter Assistants:

Louis Merein  
Rachel Jones  
Bernarda Reyes

## Congratulations to GMYS Members Who Participated in the Miami-Dade County Superintendent's Honor Festival !!!

Joel Aguilera  
David Hernandez  
Melissa Rodriguez  
Laura Arevalo  
Natalia Hidalgo  
Eugenia Romero  
Sara Arevalo  
Pierina Hidalgo  
Camila Sabando  
Miguel Angel Barrios  
Maria Jaramillo  
Ruben Sabando  
Claire Burris  
Alex Marcel  
Michaela  
SalisburyMaria  
Centeno

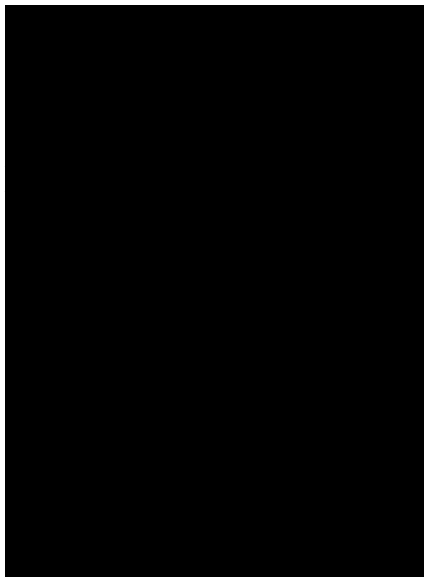
Gabriella Martinez  
Michelle Sanchez  
Tyler Chai Onn  
Hernan Martinez  
Kaitlin Schwartz  
Amy Chicalo  
Laura Martinez  
Leah Schwartz  
Christopher Charters  
Dorsey Minns  
Terrence Smith  
Emily Cochrane  
Alyssa Mosquera  
Patrick Sutton  
Emily Collins  
Barbara Mosquera

Limaris Torres  
Carlos Cruz Taura  
Kristians Mosquera  
Nicholas Vaccaro  
Jennifer Darias  
Jorge Muniz  
Athalie Vaval  
Andrew DeAlba  
Michael Newell  
Gabriel Villamiz  
Elisha Ekowo  
Ellen Ogihara  
Jerry Xu  
Orlando Elias  
Erica Ogihara  
Jennifer Yu

Keenan Ellis  
Santiago Olaguibel  
Andres Zambrano  
Treymon Ellis  
Patricia Padron  
Tom Zhang  
Lethel Flothmann  
Jason Rackear  
Demi Zhu  
Zachary Foss  
Eden Reyes  
Pearl Fuentes  
Natalie Reyes  
Carolina Gomez  
Marcos Rios  
Samantha Gonzalez  
Jacob Rivero

# Summer Camp is Back!

By Carlos Cruz-Taura



Students should be ready to play their instruments for consecutive hours in the day, and apply themselves in their electives as well as their ensembles and instrumental classes.

### Who will be teaching at the camp?

GMYS staff, public school music teachers, university music teachers, and well-known guest artists and performers.

### Did you go to summer music camp when you were young? What do you remember most from that?

I went to many summer music camps, and really enjoyed playing music all day, with kids that were just as excited about music as I was.

### Why does GMYS run a camp? Does it help find new members? Does it help

### kids move up to more advanced groups?

Many parents had asked if we could provide affordable summer programs, and we were very fortunate because in 2007, the Children's Trust released an RFP for Innovative Summer Camp proposals, and the arts were listed as one of the priorities. The Children's Trust grant funds the camp through this summer, and we can reapply for next year as long as the Children's Trust is reauthorized by voters in August. Also, we received funding last year from the National Endowment for the Arts Summer Institute grant, where we were one of only 25 organizations nationwide to receive NEA summer funding, and the only orchestra and youth orchestra to receive funding.

Dear GMYS Students and Parents!

*It's been an exciting year. I really enjoyed the collaboration in March, and I hope you did also. Please make sure to register for camp right away. This year we will have an array of exciting electives and wonderful guest artists. The Advanced Camp conductor this year will be Jacomo Bairos. Jacomo is a GMYS alumni and is currently pursuing his Masters degree at Peabody Conservatory, is a graduate of Julliard, and was a member of the Singapore Symphony! We will also have fantastic guest artists returning and new ones as well, such as Black Violin! Let's get ready for an exciting and intense music camp! -Dr. Melissa Lesniak*

# Orchestras Blend for Historic Collaboration Concerts

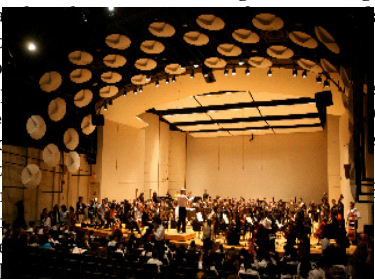
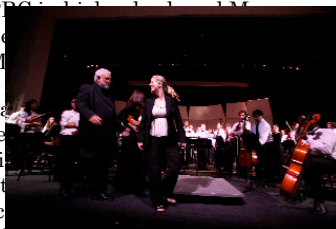
By Emily Cochrane

Lincoln Road and Spanish River High School now share one thing in common: both locations were overtaken by excited musicians from the Greater Miami Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County for performances in March, 2008. Three tiers represented each orchestra at these historic events: Strings, Concert, and Symphony Orchestras from GMYS and Strings, Symphony, and Philharmonic Orchestras from YOPBC. The two groups blended together during rehearsals at Spanish River High School on March 1st and rehearsals at Lincoln Theatre on March 8th.

As explained at the concerts and rehearsals, this historic event was the brainchild of Mr. Manuel Capote, conductor of the YOPBC Symphony Orchestra and Dr. Melissa Lesniak, GMYS Executive Director and conductor of the GMYS Concert Orchestra. The two conductors discussed combining the two orchestras at the All-State performance in January 2007, and then opened the possibility to all the other orchestras. There was also a very personal connection

for both conductors: Dr. Lesniak was a member of YOPBC in high school and Manuel Capote was a member of GMYS while growing up in Miami.

"Logistics were a challenge at Lincoln Theatre because of the size of the space," stated Dr. Lesniak. "I am the Artistic Director, "but I do not play such a special role in the New World Symphony." The musicians were paired with their equals in the sister orchestra during rehearsals and performances, which helped them get to know each other. "My usual stand partner is a nice guy and everything, but it's a nice change to have a girl for a stand partner," Hannah Lee says," Hannah Lee



"Believe" arranged by Michael Story from the film, "The Polar Express," and Carrie Lane Gruselle's arrangement of "Themes from the New World Symphony" by Antonin Dvorak under the batons of Dr. Lesniak and Manuel Capote. YOPBC. The concert featured renditions of "The Polar Express" to Nabucco and Ted R. "Pirates of the Caribbean" by Black Pearl. GMYS Concert Orchestra and Philharmonic Orchestra wrapped up the evening with performances of "Danse Macabre, Op. 40," three dance excerpts from "Rodeo" by Aaron Copland and the "Finale and Allegro Con Fuoco" from Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 4 in F Minor, Op 36" under the direction of Mr. Carlos Riazuelo of GMYS and Mr. Wendell



# Q and A with the GMYS Executive Director

By Miguel Angel Barrios

**Dr. Lesniak, what inspired you to be a musician?**

When I was five, I went to the violin recital of a girl in my ballet class, and I asked my mom if I could play violin, which was a good thing because I was not very good at ballet! I had always wanted to be a musician from that point on.

**What is your favorite thing to do in your spare time?**

I am a master scuba diver, and I also ran the Miami half marathon in January 2008. I enjoy being outside, biking, and I enjoy reading literature as well as current event articles and periodicals.

**What is your favorite part about GMYS?**

I really enjoy working with the students, and watching their growth throughout the year. I am also really

happy that we have been able to create so many new programs like the summer camp that have given students in Miami the opportunity to advance over the summer in ways that were not accessible in the past.

**You received a PhD, what did you write your thesis on?**

My thesis topic concerned the Attitudes among University String Professors towards Music Education.

**Who is your role model in the music world?**

I am really inspired by many of my teachers. People like Wendell Simmons from the Palm Beach Youth Orchestra, my high school private teacher Carol Cole, as well as important teachers I had in college such as Mimi Zweig and Glenn Basham have all played a really significant role in my life.

**What inspiring words do you have**



**for the young musicians at GMYS?**

My dad told me many years ago to try to stay in school for as long as possible. I took that to heart, and stayed all the way through from undergrad, masters, and PhD, and I got a business minor. I think that was great advice. Being in the University setting is wonderful, and it's much easier to do these degrees when you are younger. Stay in school as long as you can afford it, but don't slack off, get different degrees and minors, and work on different projects and other activities!

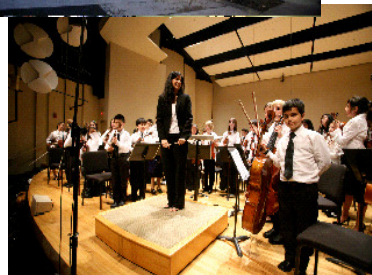
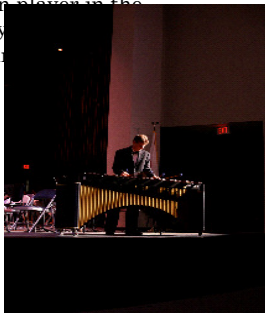
Our conversation could have gone on for hours... but we both had to practice.

## Collaboration

(Continued)

Simmons of YOPBC.

"This was a chaotic and slightly disorganized event," said David Zuniga, a high school violin player in the YOPBC Symphony. The event was fun and exciting.



**Did you know?...**

Last year, many students that attended the GMYS Summer Music Camp were able to move up to the next orchestra!

And local school orchestra directors told us they were extremely impressed with the improvement their students made over the summer!

GMYS was also able to recruit summer camp students, so much so, that a 4th orchestra, the Young Mozarts, was created!

Learn more about the Summer Music Camp on page 2 of this issue of the Tempo Times!