

*"I am very happy to join the GMYS family this season. I look forward to sharing with you all the fun and pleasure of discovering and performing great works of music, and the pride of helping you with your development as better players week by week. With your prompt and regular attendance and some work at home, I am sure we will have a very productive and successful season we will all be proud of. Let's do it!" - Mr. Riazuelo*

#### **Newsletter editors & staff:**

Doris Triay-Merein, Theresa Kuehne, Paula Cochrane, Dulce Gierson, Bruce Barham.

#### **Student contributors:**

Sabastian Chai-onn, Emily Cochrane, Jennifer Gierson, Carlos Cruz-Taura

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

November 30 and December 1 - Concert Orchestra Universal Studios

December 8 - Edison Library

December 16 - Winter Concert at Robert Morgan Ed. Center 4pm

February 16 - Strasburg Piano & GMYS Concerto Competition At FIU

March 1 (Saturday) - Collaboration With YOPBC in Boca Concert 7pm(Rehearsals 1pm)

March 8 (Saturday) Collaboration with YOPBC @ Lincoln Center 7:30 pm

May 10 (Saturday) Season Gala Concert at FIU Wertheim 3:30pm

## **Pre-Starters** (Continued from P. 3)

that she offered to play in front of the whole school." Another parent, David Melero, is very happy with the program. He has twin 10 year old boys and now they are both involved in the program. One of the twins, Noah, plays in the Strings Orchestra of GMYS, and inspired his brother, Owen, who is now learning to sight read in the Pre-Starter Program. "I want to

be in the Symphony one day," said Owen Melero.

More information on the Pre-Starter Program of the GMYS can be obtained by calling (305) 267-3002.

Ms. Frith works with students.

*A Special thanks to Pat Gladiex, Keile Allen Swartz, and all parents and young musicians who participated in our Macy's coupon fundraiser, on October 13th. It was a huge success!*

## **A Newcomers View from Strings**

**By Emily Cochrane, Concert Orchestra**

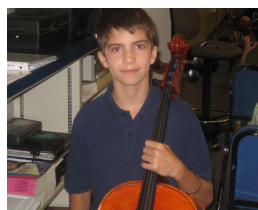
"It's more fun playing with an orchestra. Playing a solo isn't everything," commented Edward Luengo, twelve-year-old cellist new to the Greater Miami Youth Symphony's Strings Orchestra.

Under the instruction of teacher Maria Antonieta for the past five years, Edward has interacted with other cellists, violinists, and various orchestras, including the Superintendent's Honors Festival, The John I. Smith Elementary Orchestra, and the Doral Middle School orchestra this year. GMYS appealed to him because of the array of friends he has in the orchestra, and the variety of conductors who promised an exciting experience.

During these two months, the Sting Orchestra has offered what no other orchestra has given him in this past. "Mrs.

Juama is an Energetic conductor who jumps around like a crazy person," admitted Edward. Such antics

act like an invitation for him to appear every Sunday at rehearsal. Proudly sitting in fifth chair, Edward enjoys accompanying the violins the most. "I like the way the cellos' low notes



and the high notes of the violins come together. I enjoy being part of a whole section and the teamwork we use. We are always energetic, always, playing and never stopping."

When not dutifully playing and practicing his cello, Edward plays games and copies drawings on his computer. In the future, Edward hopes to perform successfully with the Strings Orchestra, and move up to the Concert Orchestra. "I'm glad I decided to join GMYS. I'm having a good time."

**We're on the web!**  
**www.gmys.org**

# The Tempo Times

Volume I, Issue I

November 2007



## From The President's Desk

By Wallace Glenn Kerrick, PhD  
President

### GMYS Executive Board:

- Wallace Glen Kerrick– President
- Thomas Morrison– Vice-President
- Pat Gladiex - Treasurer
- Cristy Charters– Recording Secretary
- Doris Triay-Merein - Corresponding Secretary
- Isabel Murga Martinez - Fundraising Committee
- Monica Cronin - Charter and Bylaws Committee

### Conductors:

Mr. Carlos Riazuelo, Music Director

Ms. Melissa Lesniack, PhD, Executive Director

Mr. Besnik Hashani

Mrs. Vivian Juama

Mr. Eugene Timmons

### Assistants:

Ms. Chiara Fasi

Ms. Beula Amador



### PreStarter Assistants:

Louis Merein

Rachel Jones

Bernarda Reyes

Welcome, readers, to the first addition of the GMYS news letter. With so many wonderful things happening in this organization it was decided that the publication of a newsletter every three months would be a good start at informing our young musicians, parents, extended family and the public of the amazing accomplishments and wonderful stories associated with this organization. You musicians are so lucky to be part of a youth symphony like GMYS. At the present time we have over 300 youth registered. That makes us probably one of the largest Youth Symphony programs in the country. We have music staff (conductors, coaches and teachers) who rank among the best you can find anywhere and we will be running amazing stories about these people. You young musicians are without a doubt some of the best musicians in the state of Florida, as evidenced by the consistent number of GMYS students that make the all-state, and all county orchestras and bands. We intend to run stories throughout the year regarding the many accomplishments of our musicians. Beginning with this issue of our newsletter, you will learn about some of the amazing accomplishments of your friends and conductors.

As a musician in GMYS, you are part of an elite group of young musicians representing public, private, and home schools throughout the Miami area. GMYS provides musically talented youth the opportunity to meet once a week and play orchestral music together under the direction of

highly qualified music staff. Here kids are given the opportunity to play in orchestras according to their ability and not age or grade level. We have had elementary school children playing with high school students in our symphony orchestra. We have had elementary and middle school children in our concerto competition qualify to play with the Symphony Orchestra during our annual May concert. GMYS truly offers young musicians opportunities not found elsewhere. The youth music community of Dade County is small when compared to the total number of students.

GMYS gives you the opportunity to get to know these kids. When you go to all-state, for example, you will be with friends from GMYS representing this community who will in turn introduce you to other musicians. By the time you get to high school you will find that you know and have performed with most of these wonderful musicians in Miami. Many of the friendships and connection you establish in GMYS will follow you throughout your life. We just had an example of a very successful musician and conductor show up at last Sunday's rehearsal. He played tuba in GMYS and through that connection ended up getting a scholarship to the famous high school for music, Interlochen. Eventually he graduated from Julliard Music School, becoming a principle tuba player in internationally known orchestras, and finally ending up the conductor of the Singapore Pops Orchestra. When he returned for a visit last Sunday it was like homecoming for

him. He grew up playing with Mr. Timmons as his band director. Their reunion after so many years was heartwarming to watch. He was invited to coach the winds and to rehearse the Symphony Orchestra which was a treat for all. It was a terrific experience for him and our musicians to see first hand an example of the kind of opportunities GMYS can provide.

You may not believe this, but the real heroes of GMYS are parents. They are responsible for providing you with the opportunities you have in performing music. They provide you with the instruments, lessons, transportation, clothes, encouragement and other necessities required to be part of GMYS. This may come as a surprise, even to some parents. GMYS is owned and operated by the parents. That makes your parents and you part owners of GMYS. When you own something you take pride in it. You should all be proud of being part of your very own GMYS, which has become one of the best youth orchestras in this country. It takes time, work and financial support to make any organization successful. I'm asking all members (musicians and parents) to donate what ever time, effort and financial support you feel comfortable with. Help keep this organization on the right track.

# An Interview with the Symphony Orchestra Conductor

By Carlos Cruz-Taura, Symphony Orchestra

He has never forced his own children into music either.

Among Mr. Riazuelo's favorite instruments are the piano, clarinet, horn, viola, cello, and of course, the violin. Mr. Riazuelo has worked with many orchestras throughout most of Latin America— including Mexico, Venezuela and Argentina— and much of Western Europe. Referring to his work with a younger orchestra, Mr. Riazuelo says it has more “freshness, and enthusiasm.” “With professional orchestras,” he continues, “they have a higher technical level. Working with a younger orchestra is engaging and there is a freshness to musicians playing something for the first time.

Mr. Riazuelo says that the German repertoire is particularly well suited for the orchestras. He says that when choosing the music for performances, he tries to find something new and challenging, but within the skill level of the musicians.

For GMYS, He also tries to consider the mix of the instruments that the orchestra will have for the season. This season, for example, Riazuelo says that the orchestra has a very good tuba section. He wants to be able to engage it's full potential. “Everyone I know that is in music is in it because they love it,” he said. When asked about his goals for the Symphony Orchestra this year, Mr. Riazuelo says that if he can help the musicians to improve their skills, he will feel he has been successful. “I don't know how good anyone of us can become, bur if we can just get a bit better every three or four months, who knows what we can achieve.”



## Harmonious Humor



- A. What do you get when you drop a piano down a mine shaft?
- B. What do you get when you drop a piano on an army base?

- A. A flat minor
- B. A flat major

## Playing with Strings

By Jennifer Gierson, Strings Orchestra

and enthusiasm to make them better musicians. The Strings Orchestra has also motivated Mrs. Juama. As she hears the players' progression, she selects harder songs and pushes the orchestra as well. Mrs. Juama selects songs she thinks will sound the best with all the players in the

orchestra, and so far, she has not let us down. This year, Mrs. Juama is elevating the expectations of the Strings Orchestra by selecting these two pieces for the Winter Concert: *In the Hall of the Mountain King* from Peer Gynt, *Suite No. 1* by Edward Grieg, and *Orange Blossom Special* by Ervin T. Rouse. As one of the Strings Orchestra members, I feel that the group is ready to face the challenges that Mrs. Juama has presented to us. As Mrs. Juama would say, “Friggin' Forte!” or “Play loud and play **strong!**” Bravisimo, Mrs. Juama! Lead on!

## Pre-Starter Program Rises to the Top

By Doris Triay-Merein

The Pre-Starter program of the Greater Miami Youth Symphony offers an opportunity for young children to become familiar with the violin and develop their musical talent at no cost to their families. Many of these children will go on to play in the strings section of the youth symphony, and may even become a violin virtuoso. Meeting in St. Andrews Episcopal Church, West Wind Park, South Miami K-8 Center, and in Homestead, the program is open to anyone interested.

The Pre-Starter Program, which is a feeder program for the Greater Miami Youth Symphony, began in the 2005-06 season through funding from the Children's Trust, thanks to Dr. Melissa Lesniack. It was originally started by Jackie Alvarez and her former student, Keisha Frith. Ms. Alvarez started with less than ten students and county

funding which stopped after the first year. Motivated by the interest of their students, Ms. Alvarez and Ms. Frith donated their time and kept the program going without any funding. Now this program has grown to include 180 students and four locations.

"Books, stands and instruments are lent out based on need. I don't think there is another program like this in Miami. Lessons go on for three hours on Saturday mornings for free," said Keisha Frith. Bernadette Gokool, a mother of two daughters ages 11 and seven, said, "They are developing more because of this program. This is where they really learned how to play the violin."

Usually parents find out about the program by word-of-mouth. Kui Y. Chen, mother of a six year old

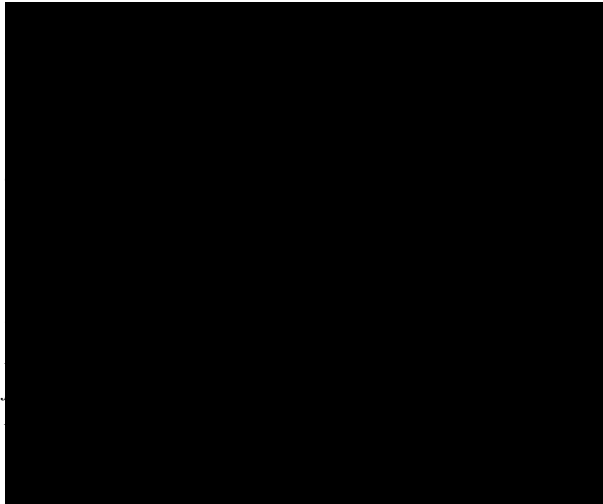
daughter in the program, found out about

Michelle Chen enjoys playing the violin!

it through a Chinese newspaper. She stated that the program has really helped her daughter's self-esteem. "My daughter feels so special now, (continued on p. 4)



Photographer, Phil Roche, poses the Concert Orchestra for a group shot on picture day with their conductor, Dr. Lesniack.



## The Buzz on Besnik

By Sebastian Chai-Onn, Young Mozarts

Mr. Besnick Hashani, is a young, new addition to the Greater Miami Youth Symphony. He is a first-time conductor, working with a first-time orchestra, "The Young Mozarts."

Mr. Hashani has an interesting history. Born and raised in Kosovo, he began playing the violin when he was 8 years old. As a teen, he played in a city orchestra, and

attended a high school for music. When he came to the U.S.A., Mr. Hashani attended the Florida International University School of Music, here in Miami.

Mr. Hashani enjoys classical music, all sorts of ethnic music, and songs from the 1960's and 70's.

Mr. Hashani said, about the Greater Miami Youth Symphony, "It's great to be a first-time conductor, and I think that my kids are wonderful and funny!"