

# GCYO Through the Years

*South Carolina  
Honors*



*Richard Wilson Riley*  
*as*  
*the 87th Governor of South Carolina*  
*and*  
*Nancy Stevenson*  
*as*  
*the Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina*  
*January 10, 1979      Columbia*



Greenville County Youth Orchestra  
Booster Club



December 11, 1979

The GCYO Booster Club was organized in November to develop interest in and promote the activities of the Orchestra program and to lend financial and moral support. The Booster Club is off and running. Members are signing up. Fund raising activities are producing excellent results: there's something in the kitty. More needs to be done in the weeks ahead.

Orchestra/Booster Club members have been working hard to help with the expenses for the April in Miami performance at the Conference of the National Music Educators Associate. Every dollar raised by Booster Club Activities will reduce the financial burden on Orchestra members and their families.

Your help and talents are needed to build up the accomplishments of the young men and women who are the Greenville County Youth Orchestra. Please join the proud parents and friends who are active in the work of the Booster Club. Please plan to join us at our meeting on January 12

On behalf of the GCYO Booster Club chairpersons and officers, it is a pleasure to wish you a blessed and musical Christmas holiday.

Daniel T. O'Connell  
President

DT0:jf

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY:

NEXT MEETING

Greenville County Youth Orchestra Booster Club will have a covered dish supper and a get-to-know-you program

No

4429

*Greenville County Youth  
Orchestra Booster Club*

**4 WINNERS**

**DINNER FOR TWO:**

Cork & Cleaver                      The Forum  
20 Lb. HAM                      20 Lb. TURKEY

*You do not have to be present to win*

**\$1.00 Donation**

**Drawing Tuesday, Dec. 11, 1979  
Fine Arts Center**

No

A

P

# NATIONAL SCHOOL ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

## HONOR AWARD

THIS CERTIFICATE IS GRATEFULLY AWARDED TO

THE GREENVILLE COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

In recognition of outstanding accomplishment and unselfish devotion  
toward the advancement of the ideals and objectives of N S O A.

FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - MENC NATIONAL IN-SERVICE CONFERENCE  
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

Date: APRIL 10, 1980

James H. Godfrey  
President

Howard C. Stein  
Secretary

# Crescent Music Club

Greenville, South Carolina

presents

## JOANNE COHEN

*Violinist*



with

GREENVILLE COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
of the Greenville County School System

James B. Senn, Conductor

Dr. Robert Washburn, Guest Conductor

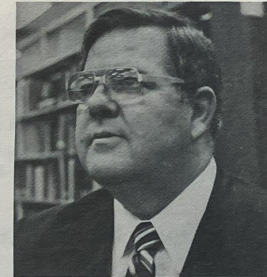
March 25, 1980 - 7:30 P. M.

# Crescent Music Club of Greenville

Presents the

## FOURTH ANNUAL ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF GREENVILLE COUNTY



*Dedicated to*  
**DR. RAYMOND O. THIGPEN**  
1930 - 1979  
*A tribute to*  
*his Life, his Work, his Music*

Dr. J. Floyd Hall, *Superintendent*

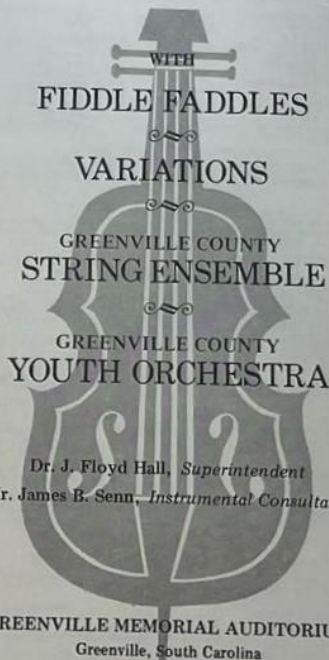
Mrs. Marion Uldrick, *Fine Arts Consultant*



# The School District of Greenville County

PRESENTS

## THE SIXTH ANNUAL ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL



Dr. J. Floyd Hall, *Superintendent*  
Mr. James B. Senn, *Instrumental Consultant*

MAY 6, 1982

7:30 P.M.

GREENVILLE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM  
Greenville, South Carolina

**Violin I**  
\*\* Anita Swett  
Finnie Butler  
Lucretia Keene  
Neil Blankenship  
Neehelle Lewers  
Anita Stevens  
Richie Twiddy  
Kendra Pickering

**Violin I**  
\*\* Gala Mickle  
Elizabeth Childs  
Christine Walker  
Katrina Jacobs  
Sally Adams  
Joey Johnson  
Teledia Young  
John Scott  
Larry Eggs  
Lisa Bergman

**Violin I**  
\*\* Beth Anderson,  
Concertmistress  
Sonja Sims  
Penny Smith  
Todd Ballew  
Marvin Neeley  
Amita Vakharia  
Candus Wester  
Lisa Nicole McMahan  
Sheri Bender  
Cindy Fowler

**Violin I**  
\* Katie Fitzgerald  
Betsy Bishop  
Chris Campbell  
Jeanine Coleman  
John A. Drake  
Melissa Drake  
Sabrina Edens  
Mitchell Embler  
Scott Ferrell  
Becky Garrett  
Paula Johnson  
Cynthia Lusk  
Patti Ann Moss  
Angie Smith  
Mike Spratt  
Rene Taylor  
Doug Waters  
Jane Weiger

**Violin II**  
Tim Arnold  
Richard Cranford  
Paige Dillard  
Bill Drake  
Susan Henry  
Melissa Imholz  
Myra Kelly  
Chip Lanford  
Susan Lawing  
Kim Lollis  
Kirsten Looser  
Tonya Mitchell  
Chris O'Rear  
Chrissa Ozzimo

**Violin II**  
\* Desiree Raxter  
Paul Moser  
Richard Magill  
Tammy Turner  
Shawn Couch  
Ted Hoffman  
Kevin Harris  
Wendy Bryan

**Violin II**  
\*\* Allison Vry  
Bill Sloka  
Tracy Frick  
Kelly Hall  
Amelia Howard  
Raquel Goldsmith  
Kathy Geddy  
Karen Prioleau  
Gil Davenport  
Emily Porter

### GREENVILLE COUNTY STRING ENSEMBLE

**Violin II**  
\* Christi Wassmer  
Amy Farr  
Karen McNeary  
Muzel Arney  
Stan Wilson  
Chris Neeley  
Jennifer Lindell  
Mary Trull  
Laura Roscoe  
Veronica Johnson  
Debby Jones

### GREENVILLE COUNTY YOUTH ORCHSTRA

**Maureen Pao**  
Bonnie Richardson  
Derric Sullivan  
Kavita Vakharia  
\* Sangita Vakharia

**Viola**  
Amy Alexander  
Chris Austin  
Martha Bayne  
Mark Brezeale  
Charis Johnson  
\* John F. Sullivan  
Kathi Thackston  
Jesse Williams  
Kathy Woodward

**Cello**  
Randy Archer  
Cathy Baskins  
Pat Hanahan  
\* Lori Hare  
Christie Littlejohn  
Colleen Marcou  
Clay McConnell  
Bob Moody  
Branley Smith  
Mike Vande Weghe  
Pam Zander

**Bass**  
\* Kenneth Drummond  
Thomas Neideigh  
Ronnie Vergnolle

### STRINGSATIONS

**Viola**  
\* Danny Noxie  
Alan Richardson  
Cello  
\* Mario De Armas  
Luanne Grant  
Ritchie Harvey

### VARIATIONS

Robert Williams  
Wendi Lancaster  
Viola  
\* Laura Hammond  
Tim Cato  
Tresa Bixler  
Gloria Cannon  
Shannon Smith

**Viola**  
\* Joanna Shelton  
Jennifer Vande Weghe  
Gary Poster  
Kaitly Hill  
Adrian Long  
Wendy Harrison  
Ellen Stevens

**Flute**  
Katie Hamilton  
Debbie Parsons  
Heidi Tribbett  
\* Pam Wilkins

**Clarinet**  
Jeffrey King  
Cindy Martin  
\* Carole Parlier  
Dean Zywicki

**Bass Clarinet**  
Martha Heile

**Oboe**  
Kay Kirby  
\* Claire Sayce

**Bassoon**  
\* Alan Dabney  
Joy Williams

**French Horn**  
Dennis Cohens  
Tina Hester  
\* Sammy Jordan  
Brian McLaurin  
Tonya Scott

**Bass**  
\* Jennifer Eleazer

\*\* Concert Master  
\* Principal Player

**Violoncello**  
\* William Hammond  
Patrick Sheel  
Robby Perry  
Topeka Grayden

**Bass**  
\* Leroy Kennedy

Melissa Charping  
Kenny Anderson

**Cello**  
\* Jennifer Beinor  
James Garrett  
Troy Kleckley  
Sara Spicer Wallace  
Richmond Stokely

**Bass**  
\* Laurie Miller

**Trumpet**  
\* Larry Conlin  
Becky Looper  
Bill Turner  
Todd Zywicki

**Trombone**  
\* Marshall Carson  
Mark Mauldin

**Tuba**  
Joey Ramsey

**Percussion**  
\* John Cook  
Lee Haynes  
Michael Shirley  
Michael Youngblood

**Assistant Directors**  
Jean Clarke  
Kathaleen Fowler  
Nancy Molleson  
Eliza Stockman

**Percussion Assistant**  
Michael Richardson

# PROGRAM

## STRINGSATIONS

William Thomas, Conductor  
Grace Huff, Raymond McGee, Kerri Mulderink, Assistant Conductors

Waltzing Leaves . . . . .	Mueller-Rusch
Pavan . . . . .	James Brown
Minuet . . . . .	James Brown
Roberta Waltz . . . . .	Mueller-Rusch

## VARIATIONS

Bruce McLean, Conductor  
Paul Christopher, Karen Schruender, Assistant Conductors

Minuet and March . . . . .	J. S. Bach <i>Arr. V. Nelhybel</i>
Plink, Plank, Plunk . . . . .	Leroy Anderson
Harvest Song from Czech Folk Song Suite . . . . .	Arr. Merle J. Isaac

## GREENVILLE COUNTY STRING ENSEMBLE

Ronald Mattern, Conductor  
Judith E. Bowman, Jonathan Sullivan, Assistant Conductors

Allegro in C from Quartet No. 4, K. 157 . . . . .	W. A. Mozart <i>Arr. M. Isaac</i>
Sonatina for Strings, Opus 36, No. 1 . . . . .	M. Clementi <i>Arr. Applebaum</i>
Surprise Variations . . . . .	Vaclav Nelhybel

## GREENVILLE COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

James B. Serin, Conductor  
Jean Clarke, Kathaleen Fowler, Nancy Molleson,  
Eliza Stockman, Assistant Conductors

Dance Rhythms for Orchestra, Opus 58 . . . . .	Wallingford Rieger
Adagio in E Major, K. 261 . . . . .	W. A. Mozart Katie Fitzgerald, Violin
Russian Easter Overture . . . . .	N. Rimsky-Korsakoff
Fiddler on the Roof . . . . .	Jerry Boch <i>Arr. Felton Rapley</i>

## GRAND FINALE

America The Beautiful . . . . .	Sammuel A. Ward
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Stringsations  
Variations  
Greenville County String Ensemble  
Greenville County Youth Orchestra

*After an orchestra introduction, the audience is invited to participate in singing the first verse of America the Beautiful.*



CONCERT HALL

KENNEDY CENTER







The School District of Greenville County  
Greenville, South Carolina

Presents

The Greenville County Youth Orchestra

And

The Greenville County Singers



February 26, 1982  
Louisiana Superdome  
New Orleans, Louisiana







STROM THURMOND  
SOUTH CAROLINA

**The President Pro Tempore**  
UNITED STATES SENATE

October 7, 1983

Mr. James Senn  
222 Randall Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29609

Dear Mr. Senn:

My wife, Nancy, attended the 1983 District Faculty Meeting of the School District of Greenville County on Wednesday, October 5, 1983.

She said the performance of the Greenville County Youth Orchestra was outstanding, and I commend you for your direction.

If I may be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

*Strom Thurmond*

Strom Thurmond



A "Buck" Raising Button

Jan. 9, 1984

Organizers of  
Musical Springtime in Dubrovnik  
May 01 - July 09, 1984

To: Greenville County Youth Symphony  
James B. Senn, Conductor  
Fine Arts Center  
1613 W. Washington Road  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601  
U S A

The Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra warmly extends an invitation to the Greenville County Youth Orchestra to participate in the Tenth Musical Springtime in Dubrovnik Yugoslavia 1984.

We look forward to your participation in this musical event.

Ivo Dražinić, Conductor  
Luko Obradović, Director  
Ivo Brešković, Secretary  
Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra





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**The Advertising Federation  
of Greenville**

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Proudly Presents

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**“A View from the Top”**

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Friday, February 17, 1984

The Sheraton Central  
Greenville, South Carolina

Cocktails.....6:30 p.m.  
Entertainment..... The Spectrum Singers and  
The Greenville County Youth Orchestra  
1984 Addy Awards Theme.....Sandcastle Productions  
“A View from the Top”  
Presentation.....8:00 p.m.  
Master of Ceremonies.....Mike Collins  
Producer and Host of Carolina Journal, ETV;  
Weekend Personality, WBT, Charlotte  
Prerecorded Portions.....WYFF-TV  
Live Videotape.....WGGS-TV  
Sound.....Custom Recording  
Entertainment.....High Tide  
Gala.....Open Bar, Hors d’oeuvres, Dancing

ROAD  
TO  
DUBROVNIK

A  
Benefit Variety Show  
For

THE GREENVILLE COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

James Senn, Conductor

McAlister Auditorium  
Furman University

8:00 p.m.  
March 24, 1984

Patch



DUBROVAČKO GLAZBENO PROLJEĆE  
MUSICAL SPRINGTIME IN DUBROVNIK

INVITATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL — YUGOSLAVIA

Sportska dvorana  
Congress hall

U 21 sat  
At 9 p. m.

Utorak  
Tuesday 12. 06. 1984.

**Greenville County Youth Orchestra**

U S A

**Gradski orkestar Dubrovnik**

YUGOSLAVIA

KONCERT AMERICKE I JUGOSLAVENSKE GLAZBE SA 150 IZVOĐAČA  
CONCERT OF AMERICAN AN YUGOSLAV MUSIC  
WITH 150 PERFORMERS





Dubrovník



# *The Singing Christmas Tree*

presents

## "An Old Fashioned Christmas"

The Greenville Memorial Auditorium  
December 7, 8 and 9, 1984

### GREENVILLE COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The Greenville County Youth Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the support of the GCYO Booster Club, Steve McDowell, President.

#### VIOLIN I

Betsy Bishop\*\*  
Beth Anderson  
Richard Cranford  
Ember Deitz  
Bill Drake  
Becky Garrett  
Susan Henry  
Myra Kelly  
Chip Lanford  
Kim Lollis  
Kristen Looser  
Renee McDowell  
Tonya Sabrina Mitchell  
Chrissa Ozzimo  
Maureen Pao  
Bonnie Richardson  
Angie Smith  
Jane Weiger

#### VIOLIN II

Lisa Racquel Jeter\*  
Muriel Arney  
Lisa Bergman  
Lisa Biege  
Elizabeth Childs  
Paige Dillard  
Linda Karen Lee  
Marvin Neeley  
Amit Ralhit  
Sonja Sims  
Penny Smith  
Chris Spiak  
Mary Trull  
Amita Vakharia  
Christi Wassmer  
Stan Wilson

#### VIOLA

Charis Johnson\*  
Tim Cato  
Melissa Charping  
Shelia Grayson  
Adrian J. Long  
Gerbrand (Gary) Poster IV  
JoAnna Shelton  
Jennifer Vandeweghe  
Katy Woodward

#### CELLO

Bob Moody\*  
James Garrett  
Kathie Hamilton  
Lisa Hollibaugh  
Troy Kleckley  
Christi Littlejohn  
Colleen Marcou  
Brantley H. Smith  
Karla Stewart  
Mike Vandeweghe  
Pamm Zander

#### BASS

Kenneth Drummond\*  
LeRoy Kennedy

#### PICCOLLO

Cindy Massey

#### FLUTES

Allison Foster\*  
Samantha Girardeau  
Lisa Ashley

#### OBOES

Kay Kirby\*  
Susan King

#### BASSOON

Joy Williams

#### CLARINETS

Cindy Martin\*  
Dean Zywicki

#### TRUMPETS

Bill Turner\*  
John Turner  
Greg Martin  
Anthony Balding  
Randy Boyd  
Richard Upton

#### FRENCH HORNS

Eric Manske  
Tina Hester  
John Vigil  
Brian Kelly

#### TROMBONES

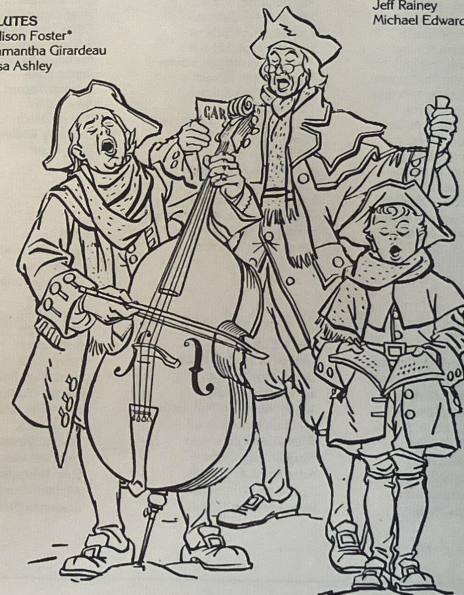
Jeffrey Khoe\*  
Bill Stone  
David Corner

#### TUBA

Jerel Warren

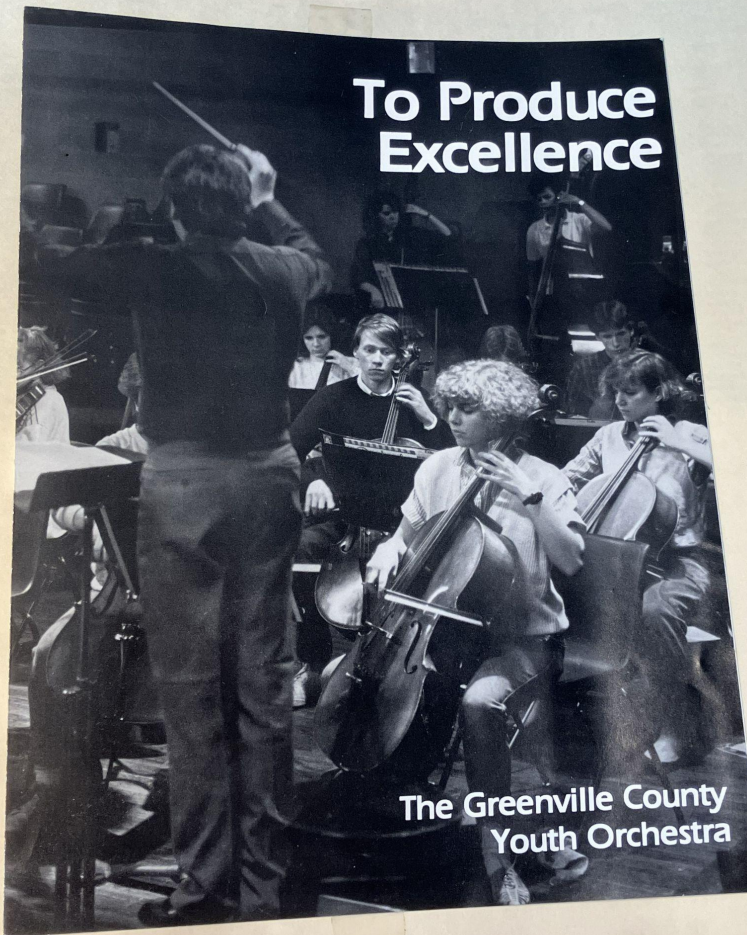
#### PERCUSSION

Johnny Williams\*  
Lee Haynes  
Harris Teague  
Cliff Rainey  
Michael Edwards



\*\*Concert Master

\*Principal



## To Produce Excellence

### The Greenville County Youth Orchestra



## Keyed to classics

### Simpsonville pianist shares love of music

When Elliott Smith was 4 years old, his Christmas wish list to Santa Claus included a recording of Ludwig van Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony No. 6 in F major.

While it may seem an unusual request for young child, for Smith it was the beginning of a life-long love of classical music.

"He had heard parts of the symphony on 'Mister Rogers,'" his dad, Frank Smith, said. "My wife and I enjoy classical music, so it was just natural for us to play it for Elliott when he was young."

Elliott Smith's interest in classical music flourished. While in the third grade, he began taking piano lessons from Barbara Stone of Greenville. Smith, now an 18-year-old senior at Hillcrest High School, will highlight his musical accomplishments as the soloist for the Greenville County Youth Orchestra's Spring Formal Concert.

The Simpsonville pianist performed April 22 at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 17 in G Major at 8 p.m. April 26 at McAlister Auditorium, Furman University.

"I didn't like performing at first," Smith said. "But now, I enjoy trying to get the music across to the people and make it enjoyable."

He was encouraged to take piano lessons from his mother, Elaine, who also plays the piano. She took lessons as a child and recently began lessons again with Stone.

"I am proud of Elliott," Elaine Smith said. "He has always been dedicated and he has a real passion for music."

Elliott Smith has many musical accomplishments to his credit. He has won state division competitions. He participated in summer study programs at Brevard Music Center and at Furman and Winthrop universities. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club, and he accompanies the Hillcrest Honor Choir. He also was named Most Talented by his peers in the school's yearbook. He attended Palmetto Boys' State and was a student member of the Fountain Inn Rotary Club.

"Elliott is a dream student," said Stone, who has taught piano lessons for more than 40 years. "He is an excellent student, works hard and loves music."

In addition to school activities, Smith



#### Want to go?

Greenville County Youth Orchestra Spring Formal Concert will be held at 8 a.m. April 26 at McAlister Auditorium, Furman University.

plays the piano at Simpsonville First Baptist Church. He also plays the piano for the church's Hispanic missions program.

Smith said he likes many different types of music, but his first love will always be classical.

"My dad always played classical music. It is the first thing I remember hearing," Smith said.

His favorite composers are Beethoven and Mozart.

## A Word From Gary

Let me start my portion of this newsletter by congratulating the many members of Greenville County Youth Orchestra who have achieved mightily amid the flurry of auditions and competitions that take place between November and January. Elsewhere in this communication you find lists of GCYO'ers who have earned significant chairs in All-County, All-Region, and All-State bands, All-State Orchestras, and competitions like the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Competition. (You should know that a good many of the wind and brass players are students of staff members Jeff and Mary AllyB Purtle!) They have truly outdone themselves! It is the presence of so many talented, motivated, and accomplished young musicians that makes it possible for GCYO to perform difficult music at its signature high-level of execution.

But if your student didn't make his or her mark in one of these competitions this year, you should still be proud: don't forget: they made it into GCYO, one of the finest youth music ensembles in South Carolina!

Your talented students are currently rehearsing some deliciously difficult music from the repertoire of orchestral standards: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol* is an orchestral barn-burner featuring string techniques like "flying staccato", big parts for solo winds, blazing brass fanfares and a busy percussion section. Even if you missed the film "Mr. Holland's Opus" when it came out in 1995, the expressively powerful *An American Symphony*, which closes the film, is likely to take your breath away. The Chamber Orchestra plumbs mature musical depths in Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 17 in G major with GCYO's sensitive and accomplished pianist, Elliot Smith.

In the near future, look for communications from me, Jeff, and Mary AllyB, and from the GCYO Association about some exciting changes which will come to GCYO starting in the 2001-2002 season. And while we are proud of the work we have done for and with your students, look for Greenville County Youth Orchestra to outdo itself again in the coming season!

## Kudos

The **Bolt-Spurgeon Award** is for the 10th grade boy and the 10th grade girl who help make the orchestra "more special." Please let us know who 'you' think should be nominated for this important award. When choosing your nominees consider overall contributions including active participation with set-up and take-down, attendance, attentiveness, and "team spirit." Forms are available on the 'check-in' table.

Do you need help with the cost of that wonderful summer music camp or with summer music lessons? Forms should be turned in by March 27.

*The School District of Greenville County,  
Dr. Bill Harner, Superintendent  
The Fine Arts Center,  
Dr. Roy Fluhrer, Director  
and the  
GCYO Association,  
Karen Allen, President,  
present*

## Greenville County Youth Orchestra

Gary A. Robinson, Director



### *Orchestra Camp 2001 Concluding Concert*

Twitchell Auditorium, Converse College  
Sunday, August 19, 2001  
4:00 p.m.

## Greenville County Youth Orchestra

Gary A. Robinson, Director  
Jeff Purtle, Personnel/Operations, Brass  
Mary AllyB Purtle, Music Library, Woodwinds  
Jennifer Taylor, Apprentice (Converse College)

### **Flutes**

Andrea Armstead  
Julie Bentz  
Katelyn Love  
Wilson Peden  
Bridget Whitten

### **Oboes**

Melissa Allen  
Syntha Neal  
Leah Whiddon

### **Clarinets**

Alison Connington  
Meredith Rogers  
Kim Zayas

### **Bassoons**

Monica Morgan  
Patrick Tarrant

### **Saxophone**

Matthew Hiott

### **Horns**

Debbie Barrett  
Jean Beckwith  
Jason Ward

### **Trumpets**

Graham Connington  
Nate Krueger  
Michael Morris  
Seth Paxton

### **Trombones**

Owen Caprell  
Matthew Lancy  
Evan McDonell

### **Tuba**

Liz Jamison

### **Keyboards**

Thomas Russell

### **Percussionists**

Nikhil Bumb  
Alex Demosthenes  
Caleb Gaston  
Jesse Lee

### **Violin I**

Lena Benson  
Emily Blankenship  
Dixie Clayton  
Christine Crumpler  
Emily Groves  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Annie Mahaffey  
Nichelle Nichols  
Lane Pellet  
Chloe Robinson  
Matt Russell  
Alan Stone

### **Violin II**

Jenny Barton  
Catherine Carroll  
Elizabeth Littell  
Abby Liu  
Paul McKenney  
Joseph Plaxco  
Jean Starnes  
Julie Wilson  
Claire Zeigler

### **Violas**

Sarah Alexander  
Emily Coleman  
Katie Coleman  
Jonathan Hyslop  
Wes Johnson  
Laura Martin  
Susannah Plaster  
Melissa Sims

### **Cellos**

Kris Hamil  
Christa Labadorf  
Jean Loder  
Sally Pesavento  
Almut Peters  
Spencer Player  
Courtney Taylor

### **Bass**

Nathaniel Johnson  
Jennifer Taylor

In her own words,  
Executive Director  
**Holly Caprell** talks about  
the worth and needs of the  
**Greenville County Youth  
Orchestra.**

**W**e are training tomorrow's musicians. Our students will be the professional musicians of tomorrow, and this is an important part of their education. [By giving to Greenville County Youth Orchestra,] you're not only investing in the students on the stage but in the future of orchestral music. We provide a quality education for our kids. People don't know how good these kids are. If I sent you a CD without a label on it and you started listening to it, I would guess that you would have no idea this is a youth orchestra.

"It's all about the kids. When you hear them perform and you meet them, you realize they deserve this opportunity. This group of musicians is so talented and such a wonderful group of students. The real reason why I took this job [two years ago] was because I felt that they deserved all the opportunities they could have. They're just well worth it."

Our bare bones budget is right around \$65,000. The three Peace Center concerts [we host annually] cost roughly about \$5,000-6,000. [Our funding] comes from donations, grants and students' participation fees. As the organization grows, we need to increase awareness so we can increase our draw for funding. The grants that we get and the [participation fees] aren't covering the expenses. The organization until recently wasn't good at raising money. You can't fund a \$65,000 budget selling fruit. We're working on new ways to develop that. ■

CEO of  
Greenville  
County Youth  
Orchestra



PHOTOGRAPH BY OLIVETTA FOTOGRAFIE

## Business Briefs

### Caprell appointed first executive director of GCYO



Caprell

from Converse College and is the music director at Simpsonville First Presbyterian Church. She also is a private voice and piano teacher and the voice teacher in the South Side Private Musicians program at Southside Christian School.

The Greenville County Youth Orchestra is the Orchestra-in-Residence at Greenville County School District's Fine Arts Center and part of the school district's After School Strings Program that encompasses school string classes, a countywide Fines Arts Center and three other after-school orchestras - Philharmonic, Sinfonia and Jr. Sinfonia.

Caprell may be reached at hol-

### Clemson plans workshop

The Clemson University Small Business Development Center will sponsor a workshop for small business owners of Upstate South Carolina from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 18 at the University Center Auditorium, 225 S. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville.

Participants should bring the following to the workshop:

- Business checkbook.
- Driver's license.
- Federal tax ID number if you are a corporation, partnership or LLC.
- All business owners with a 20 percent or more interest should attend in person.
- Green Card if you are a permanent resident.

To pull your credit report, visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). All credit accounts must be current at the time of the workshop.

Seating is limited and registration is required. Confirmation of registration will be provided.

Call 370-1545 or e-mail [sbstic@clermson.edu](mailto:sbstic@clermson.edu) to register.

# Youth Orchestra takes on challenges

## Cellist Seth Russell to solo at first concert of season

By Ann Hicks

ARTS WRITER  
ahicks@greenvillenews.com

If there's a theme to the Greenville County Youth Orchestra's first concert of the season, it is this: "Never underestimate a teen-ager with talent, an instrument and a dream," says Maestro Gary A. Robinson.

Unlike most youth orchestras, which sample single-movement orchestral pieces and selected movements from larger works, the 56-member GCYO will per-

form complete symphonies and concerti, showcasing soloists from within its own ranks.

"It's remarkable for what the kids have set out to accomplish," Robinson says.

The Thursday night concert will feature Brahms' boisterous Academic Festival Overture, a work frequently associated with youth ensembles because of its school associations. Brahms (1833-1897) composed the overture to celebrate an honorary doctorate awarded to him by the University of Breslau in 1880. The composer conducted the work at its premiere.

### YOU CAN GO

**What:** Young Artist Concert No. 1 by the Greenville County Youth Orchestra

**When:** 8 p.m. Oct. 18

**Where:** Peace Center's Gunter Theatre

**Tickets:** \$10

**Information:** 467-3000

GCYO principal cello Seth Russell will solo on Camille Saint-Saens' Cello Concerto No. 1, considered one of the greatest of all cello concertos.

Russell has been a member of GCYO since 2004. He's a home-schooled senior and attends the Fine Arts Center, where he studies chamber music with John Ravnán and coaches strings students in the after-

school program.

The young cellist was a member of one of the Fine Arts Center's string quartets that tied for first place in the South Carolina Instrumental Chamber Music Competition in 2005. In addition, as a member of a Fine Arts Center string quartet, he competed in the final rounds of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2005.

Seth and the members of the Delta Trio took first place in the South Carolina competition in 2006, and he and the members of the Jocassee Sextet placed first in 2007.

The orchestra will also perform Haydn's Symphony No. 104, one of the composer's "London" symphonies.

For about two decades, the Greenville County Youth Orchestra existed as two orchestras: a larger symphony orchestra, whose students encompassed a relatively wide ability range; and a smaller chamber orchestra designed for the most-skilled players.

Starting this season, the orchestra rehearsals were combined into one three-hour session, which allows the students and their conductor time to play complete works and to examine their inner workings in minute detail, Robinson says.

As additional incentive for ongoing achievement, GCYO members receive a full honors-level school credit through the Fine Arts Center for their successful participation.



HEIDI HEILBRUNN / Staff

Cellist Seth Russell rehearses with the orchestra.



HEIDI HEILBRUNN / Staff

Gary Robinson, right, conducts the Greenville County Youth Orchestra during practice at the Fine Arts Center.

# Robinson celebrates 25 years with youth orchestra

Young musicians tackle 'the big-name pieces'

By Paul Hyde

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In 1985, Gary Robinson, a young, talented musician, got two solid offers for conducting jobs — one in White Plains, N.Y., the other in Greenville, S.C.

"I chose to come to Greenville because of the impressive dedication to the arts in the Greenville community and especially in Greenville schools," says Robinson.

More than two decades later, he's sure he made the right decision.

"Even in times of economic uncertainty, the school district has continued to offer the highest level of musical training for its most enthusiastic students," he says.

On Thursday, Robinson celebrates his 25th season as conductor of the Young Artist Orchestra at a 7:30 p.m. concert at the Peace Center's Gunter Theatre. On the program are works by Vaughan Williams, Mozart and Gade.

The 60-member Young Artist Orchestra is the most advanced of the five orchestras that comprise the Greenville County Youth Orchestras.

The five ensembles include as many as 300 young people, including



The Greenville County Youth Orchestras' Young Artist Orchestra performs Thursday at the Gunter Theatre.

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public, private and home-schooled students in Greenville County.

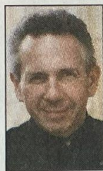
Robinson is proud of the Young Artist Orchestra for always tackling "the big-name pieces" — complete symphonies by Beethoven, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky and others.

His young musicians are fearless, he says.

"Having been around this music for a while I'm sometimes wary," says Robinson, a faculty member of the Greenville County Schools Fine Arts Center. "The kids, not knowing about this difficulty, will suggest ridiculously hard music to play.

"They don't realize how tough it is — so they rise to the challenge."

He adds: "Our scheduling of Beethoven's 7th



Robinson

Symphony later in the year has something to do with this youthful *bravado*."

He also mentions the orchestra's recent performance of Tchaikovsky's challenging Symphony

No. 2.

"The kids just played the pants off of it," he says.

A big highlight for the orchestra was being chosen, after a competitive audition, to open the June national convention of the League of American Orchestras, the professional organization for ensembles throughout the nation.

Through the years, the Young Artist Orchestra also has performed at Washington's Kennedy Center, at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston

and on tours throughout South Carolina.

In addition to conducting the Young Artist Orchestra, Robinson is a percussionist with The Greenville Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the Foothills Philharmonic.

How does he feel about his 25th anniversary with the Young Artist Orchestra?

"It's gone by in a flash," he says. "Time flies when you're having fun.

"But the number 25, being a quarter century, definitely gives one the feeling of having been around a while," he says with a laugh.

The Young Artist Orchestra rehearses once a week and performs three concerts a year at Gunter Theatre. It also joins its sister ensembles for events in other venues.

## YOU CAN GO

■ **What:** The Young Artist Orchestra's "Best of Friends" concert, celebrating Dr. Gary Robinson's 25 seasons as conductor.

■ **When:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

■ **Where:** Peace Center's Gunter Theatre, 300 S. Main St.

■ **Tickets:** \$15 for adults; \$8 for students and children.

■ **Information:** 864-467-3000 or [www.peacecenter.org](http://www.peacecenter.org)

Many Young Artist Orchestra players have gone on to prestigious conservatories and other university music programs.

"A fair percentage of our kids go on to colleges and conservatories to study music," says Robinson. "But they all have a deep commitment to music-making regardless of their professional ambition.

"My involvement is more than matched by the amazing talent and commitment of the teens in the orchestra."

Thursday's performance, titled "Best of Friends," includes Vaughan Williams' Overture to "The Wasps," Mozart's Flute Concerto No. 2 (with soloist Anna Hawkey) and Danish composer Niels Gade's Symphony No. 5, with its prominent piano part played by Sarah Beam.

"It's a terrific concert, and the kids are playing beautifully," Robinson says.





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