



MICHAEL HALL • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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## Community Outreach & Education

The Southwest Florida Symphony Organization is committed to supporting, encouraging and providing the very best in youth educational opportunities in Lee, Hendry, Glades and Charlotte counties. By allocate over \$100,000 annually to music education programs, the Symphony fosters young musicians' skills and strengthens their appreciation for the classics while providing a wide spectrum of social and academic benefits.

Through the **Ensembles in Schools** program the Symphony provides a trio of musicians to elementary schools, introducing students to the instruments, answering questions and performing for them right there in the classroom. This program started in 1997 visit over 40 schools throughout the year reaching over 4,500 students.

Each year, the Symphony gives thousands of dollars in prizes and scholarships to area students. Annual competitions include the **Young Artist Competition**, the **Van Sickle Award**, offered every other year for post-secondary education voice majors, and the **Donald M. Haag Music Scholarship**, offered annually for a college-bound music student.

Creative ticketing programs provide the opportunity for students to attend concerts at discounted prices. The **Campus Chord Club** offers discounted concert tickets to full-time students (K - 12) and their families. Discounted **Student Rush** tickets are available to college students. Free tickets are available to **Disadvantaged & At-Risk Students**.

The **Instrument Petting Zoo** is a traveling interactive display that allows children and adults to try out a variety of instruments.

The **Symphony Youth Orchestra** and **Sinfonietta**, our youngest intermediate-level strings players, are an important outreach of the organization. The Youth Orchestra was formed in 1999 as the Palm Coast Youth Orchestra merged with the Symphony to form the Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra. These groups offer quality symphonic training and performance experience for our community's young musicians. Coached by professional musicians, these groups

rehearse weekly, perform their own series throughout the season and many times perform with the Symphony orchestra throughout the season.

The **Symphony Children's Chorus** is the area's premier children's chorus and is a truly special opportunity for our youth. Emphasis is placed on good vocal production, dynamic and rhythmic unity, and personal growth and confidence building. The Children's Chorus performs with the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra for the annual Holiday Pops Concert, the Stained Glass Concert Series and throughout the community. The Children's Chorus was invited to perform in the prestigious 2007 Children in Harmony Choral Festival and has been featured on two CDs.