



MICHAEL HALL • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact: Mary Larkin

(239) 418-0996

Youth Orchestra

The **Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra** is an auditioned group comprised of the best young musicians in a three county area. Formed in 1999 after a merger with the Palm Coast Youth Orchestra, the SWFLS Youth Orchestra is an important outreach activity of the Symphony, providing quality symphonic training and performance experience for young musicians. Coached by Symphony musicians, they rehearse weekly and perform during many Symphony events and in their own series. The Youth Orchestra also features the Sinfonietta, our youngest intermediate-level string players.

Coaches and Ensemble Leaders:

Strings: Lani Hamilton, Violin for the SWFL Symphony

Strings: Alex Albanese, Double Bass SWFL Symphony

Woodwinds: Bill Larsen, Principal Flute, SWFL Symphony

Brass: Tom Kracmer, Principal Tuba, SWFL Symphony

Percussion: Todd Betz: Principal Percussion, SWFL Symphony

Youth Orchestra Manager: Todd Betz

Michael Simpson

Youth Orchestra Conductor and Music Director

In his third year with the Symphony, Simpson is also the director of the Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts Orchestra program. Before moving to Lee County, he taught and conducted youth orchestras in Orange County, FL, St. Lucie County, FL, Richmond, VA, Newport News, VA, and Norfolk, VA. Simpson has given numerous solo recitals in Virginia, Florida and the United Kingdom and has held positions in the viola sections of orchestras throughout Virginia.

Nanette Grant

Sinfonietta Conductor

Mrs. Grant has extensive orchestral teaching experience and has taught in seven states, directing the All-County Orchestra in upstate New York. She earned a BS in Music Education (cum laude) from Ball State University and an MS in Music Education (magna cum laude) from the University of Illinois and received the "Outstanding Achievement for Orchestral Development" from her alma mater. She currently teaches strings at The Community School of Naples and is the Orchestra Director at Pine Ridge Middle School in Collier County.