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El Campanil Theatre and California Symphony to co-host Family Concert & Instrument Petting Zoo

April 13 event puts youngsters in touch with their inner musician

Is there a budding young musician in your family? Two special kids' concerts at the El Campanil Theatre on Sunday, April 13, 2008, lets youngsters discover the magic of music through a 40-minute program featuring musicians from the California Symphony's Music-In-The-Schools program. Immediately

following, a hands-on instrument petting zoo, hosted by Best Music Company of Oakland, allows them to experience and play the same instruments themselves. This will be the first time this annual event, which benefits the Music-in-the-Schools program, has been held outside of Walnut Creek.

"Our concert is designed to show kids how instruments in the orchestra work and what they sound like, while having fun with songs and stories and things that kids like to do," says Nicky Roosevelt of Berkeley, one of the five musicians presenting it.

The engaging program includes music from "Star Wars," popular children's tunes, and a musical story about a dog's birthday. There will be fun demonstrations of the violin by Laurien Jones of Martinez, the harp by Dan Levitan of Fremont, the cello by Christina Keller of El Cerrito, the clarinet and flute by Roosevelt, and a glissando performed on the trombone in contrast to how it sounds on a violin. Kids will particularly delight in percussionist Kevin Neuhoff's tour of how all sorts of common junk can be played as orchestral instruments.

Admission is only \$5 per person. Date: Sunday, April 13. Showtimes: 2 pm and 4 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ElCampanilTheatre.com; by phone: (925) 757-9500; or at the theater

box office. The El Campanil Theatre is located at 602 W. 2nd Street, Antioch, CA 94509. For more information, call the California Symphony office at (925) 280-2490.

The California Symphony's Music-in-the-Schools Program was conceived by Music Director Barry Jekowsky, a strong believer in "The Mozart Effect" theory that listening to and playing classical music improves a child's ability to learn other disciplines, including science, math and language. Founded in 1991, Music-in-the-Schools was created to fill the void in elementary schools' arts education curricula.

During the school year, students receive in-depth music education in the form of classroom visits by professional musicians and ensembles comprised of members of the California Symphony. At each school site, grades K-1 are visited three times by musicians working together with an Early Childhood Music Education Specialist. Grades 2-5 receive four visits by Symphony ensembles that focus on the string, brass, percussion, and wind families of the orchestra. Volunteers from the California Symphony Alliance act as assistants for the musicians and classroom teachers and age appropriate handouts enhance the educational experience.

The schools that participated in the program in 2007-2008 were Ayers Elementary and St. Agnes School in Concord, Springhill Elementary and Happy Valley Elementary in Lafayette, Morella Park Elementary in Martinez, Sleepy Hollow Elementary in Orinda, Highlands Elementary in Pittsburg, and Murwood Elementary in Walnut Creek.

The Music-in-the-Schools Program is supported by grants and donations from Bank of America Foundation, Bank of the West, Barclay & Sharon Simpson, California Symphony Alliance, Carolyn Butler in memory of James Butler, Civic Arts League, East Bay Community Foundation, Lafayette Arts & Sciences Foundation, Lisa Long, The Thomas J. Long Foundation, Lowell Berry Foundation, McKesson Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Rotary Clubs of Concord and Rossmoor, The Leshner Foundation, the Mechanics Bank, The Robert & Alice Bridges Foundation, Wells Fargo Bank and the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation.

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