



*Symphony of the Hills*

# 2015 CHILDREN'S OUTREACH

## *A Pictorial Chronicle*





# Symphony of the Hills

## 2015 CHILDREN'S OUTREACH A PICTORIAL CHRONICLE OF SOH ACTIVITIES

### CONNECTING KIDS AND MUSIC

In keeping with the Symphony's Mission—expanding music appreciation and developing the musical talents of young people throughout the community—we once again visited the schools to introduce 3rd and 4th graders to Symphony music. These activities occurred between the middle of January and the end of February, at every grade school in the Kerrville area. Jonathan Raveneau (picture below) and Josh Younke (picture at right) performed musical pieces designed to fascinate and captivate young people. At every school they visited, a total of ten in all, they were met with enthusiasm and rapt attention. Jonathan played intriguing excerpts from classical and upbeat compositions and spent time with individual students, playing the violin.



Josh Younke plays excerpts & teaches at Starkey Elementary School, Kerrville

### CHILDREN'S OUTREACH—THE 4TH YEAR

#### CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS

This is fourth year of the classroom programming in area schools, again reaching about 1,600 area students. Symphony of the Hills musicians, including Jonathan and Joshua, performed sixteen presentations in ten schools, including four KISD elementary schools, Notre Dame School in Kerrville, Covenant Academy in Kerrville, Harper Elementary in Harper, Fredericksburg Middle School, St. Mary's Elementary School in Fredericksburg, and Hunt Elementary in Hunt, followed with two special Children's Concerts on Feb. 26th, performed in the beautiful Cailloux Theater in downtown Kerrville. A TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) Certified Lesson Plan was distributed in January by which music teachers were given the tools to teach students about the pieces that will be played at the Children's Concerts. An important part of these lessons includes a description of the composers, the era and country in which the music was written, and the emotion and storytelling behind those pieces. These lessons and musical presentations prepare the students for the Children's Concerts, bringing an enhanced enjoyment of classical symphony music and fostering an interest in exploring in-school orchestra programs.



Jonathan playing in front of 3rd and 4th Graders at Nimitz Elementary, Kerrville.

*With acknowledgment and thanks to those who made this happen: Miles Horton, Project Director; Deidra Harmer; Cayce McCormick and Jeff Sirianni, all SoH Board members. And a special thanks to our Sponsors HEB Tournament of Champions, The Texas Commission on the Arts and the McLaughlin-Doty Foundation.*

## 2015 CHILDREN'S OUTREACH

## CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS



Joshua Younke plays and describes cello compositions to Starkey 3rd and 4th Graders

Starkey Elementary School, Kerrville, TX—Over a period of about one hour, Josh performed excerpts from compositions to be played in their entirety at the February 26th Children's Concerts. He demonstrated to the obvious amazement of the children how he can use the cello to evoke differing moods and styles, such as traditional western classical music, rock, country and Latin. He showed differences obtained by plucking various strings of the instrument versus bringing the bow across the strings. This is the first experience many of these children have had with an instrument such as the cello and will help them to understand the roles of the several instruments on the stage during the concert.



In addition to the musical excerpts and cello demonstrations, Josh described for the students what they should expect at the concert, touching on the role of the conductor, the various sections of a symphony orchestra, the basic elements of a musical composition and how they all fit together.

Jonathan (left) invites interested students to come forward and experience the "feel" of a violin during his presentation at Tom Daniels Elementary. It's difficult to imagine the importance of this experience to a young child's view of the world.

## 2015 CHILDREN'S OUTREACH *CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS*



A student at Nimitz Elementary has volunteered to hold a sheet of music for Jonathan (left.) The students learn about the language of writing music and how musicians possess the ability to interpret notes and structure to make a wonderful and pleasing sound.

Below, Deidra Harmer, a member of the Board of the Symphony of the Hills, speaks to the students about Jonathan's background and talent, and assists in answering questions relating to the Children's Concerts.



*From Cayce McCormick, Board Member:*

*"Yesterday I was the Symphony Board representative at Harper Elementary School. Jonathan was demonstrating how music can tell a story or create a mood. He played the music from Jaws. A tiny little girl stood up and hurried to the back of the group where I was sitting, took my hand, and said, "this is so scary." I assured her that all was okay. "It is only in your imagination." She looked at me horror-struck. "IS HE STILL IN THERE?" I quickly asked Jonathan to give that shark a ballet tutu in his music story, and the little girl was able to giggle. But music is powerful!"*



The Cailloux Theater in downtown Kerrville has a seating capacity of 830 and was filled to capacity twice during daylight hours of February 26, 2015. There was a teacher and assistant among every group of 20 - 30 students from each of the 10 Kerrville area elementary schools.

Prior to each concert, musicians from the orchestra interacted with the audience to describe the instruments, play a couple of pieces and answer questions, as shown here.



The musicians enjoy this as much as the students, since it gives them a chance to interact with the students directly, to share stories about how they started on a musical path.



This is the first time for most of the students that they have been in a large theater such as the Cailloux. The kids are gaining a bold new perspective without realizing it.



Plenty of school spirit is in evidence from the brightly colored t-shirts identifying each school.

As the lights were dimmed, Dr. Gene Dowdy welcomed the audience, introduced the orchestra and elaborated on the role of each instrument. He then introduced the program theme (*Romance*) and described characteristics of each composition before it was played.





**Dr. Dowdy engages the audience.**

Each Children's Concert is slightly longer than one hour, representing an abridged version of the adult concert performed that evening. The repertoire for the concert on February 26th included excerpts from:

- ◆ Hanson *Romantic*
- ◆ Tchaikovsky *Romeo & Juliet*
- ◆ Bernstein *West Side Story*
- ◆ Anderson "Blue Tango"
- ◆ Puccini *O Mio Babbino Caro*
- ◆ Brahms *Hungarian Dance No. 5*

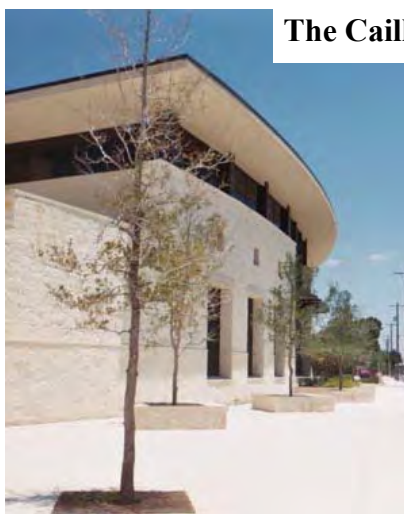
At right, the children file out between concerts.

*From Miles Horton, Board Member and Project Director: "The final presentation [of the in-class presentation] was for the special needs class...the children kept requesting the "snowflake" song. We finally figured out they meant Frozen.*

*There were some children with severe disabilities in the back of the room who we were told did not want us to come close and did not want to directly participate. One boy, the most severe of the group, crawled in on his hands and knees and faced the wall in the back of the room. At one point during the presentation I looked back and he was standing up playing the air drums and dancing with a giant smile on his face. Jon came closer with his box drum and the boy happily sat on it and played a few beats then lovingly grabbed Jonathan's hand. I will tell you that all of this outreach was worth that very moment."*



**The Cailloux Theater**



January - February, 2015

## Outreach Sponsors 2015



## 2015 Children's Outreach

Symphony of the Hills Association, Inc.

PO Box 294703  
Kerrville, TX 78029  
[www.symphonyofthehills.org](http://www.symphonyofthehills.org)  
[info@symphonyofthehills.org](mailto:info@symphonyofthehills.org)  
830.792.7469



JMA.2 May 8, 2015