

Florida West Coast Symphony, Inc. dba Sarasota Orchestra

sarasota orchestra®

Instruments for Sarasota Orchestra's Educational Programs

Sarasota Orchestra's mission is to engage, educate and enrich our community through high-quality, live musical experiences. Its initiative is for a program expansion: Instruments for Sarasota Orchestra's Educational Programs.

Sarasota Orchestra offers an extensive education program with 325-350 students participating in eight ensembles comprising the Sarasota Youth Orchestras. Summer Music Camp provides music education to an additional 250-275 students. Sarasota Orchestra loans instruments and equipment to students in Sarasota Youth Orchestras and Summer Music Camp whose families cannot afford one. By loaning instruments, they are able to offer the joy of music and benefits of music education to all students. These programs have provided comprehensive after-school and summer instrumental training and performance experience to young musicians at all levels for over 60 years, giving students the chance to study and perform classical music with their peers. Over 50% of the students receive some form of financial assistance. The youth and camp instruments that the Impact100 SRQ grant would fund include twelve violins, two basses, two flutes, two clarinets, two horns, two trumpets, two trombones, and sixteen tubanos. Adding these instruments to the program will allow more students to participate by removing the financial barrier of instrument purchase.

Student musicians in Sarasota Orchestra's Youth Philharmonic have a professional music repertoire and require the use of various specialty instruments. There are professional caliber pieces that they cannot currently play; the Impact100 SRQ grant would address this need. The professional quality instruments the Impact100 SRQ grant would fund include a piccolo, an English horn, four C trumpets, two horns, a tuba, and a bass drum.

Approximately \$90,000 of the \$110,500 grant would fund these instruments. The initiative requests the balance of the funding be allocated to repair and maintain instruments and purchase replacement cases to protect instruments, sustaining their use for decades to come.

These orchestral programs have nurtured thousands of talented young music students who have gone on to careers in music as performers with the Sarasota Orchestra and other major orchestras nationwide. Participants gain a much deeper understanding and appreciation of classical music which they carry for a lifetime, both in their support of the performing arts and in developing an understanding and appreciation of music in their own children.

Even for those students who do not pursue music as a career, the benefits of music education are significant: developing an appreciation of music, which will continue well into adulthood; embracing diversity in musical styles; developing discipline, collaborative and cognitive skills; and enhancing musical knowledge and performance skills. In the words of world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, "Music enhances the education of our children by helping them to make connections and broadening the depth with which they think and feel. If we are to hope for a society of culturally literate people, music must be a vital part of our children's education."