

*Off the Streets & On the Stage*



*Gifford Youth*  
ORCHESTRA

*13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert*

**Saturday, November 5, 2016 at 2:00PM**

**[www.gyotigers.org](http://www.gyotigers.org)**

**Gifford Community Center**  
4855 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32967

# Congratulations Gifford Youth Orchestra & Best Wishes!



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**Our Sincere Note of Appreciation for All of Our Musicians, Staff, Supporters,  
and Board Members November 2015 to November 2016**

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In this program

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Scholarship Given to Two  
GYO Students to Attend  
The Mike Block  
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**2016 Students**

Advanced 1  
Luke Pelt

Intermediate 3  
Jada Powell

Intermediate 2  
Tatiana Wallace

Intermediate 1  
Arielle Reason  
Jada Rolle  
Javier Edmund  
Skyler Outler

Beginner 3  
Pryscalina Douzable  
Rebekah Dougall

Beginner 2  
Christine Dominigue  
Edagent Exatus  
Jalie Coe  
Javaani Grant  
Kasharie Coe  
Rylee Pearce  
Shianne Roman  
Teona Bridgewater  
Trinity Woolfork  
Vivandra Phinizee

Beginner 1  
Dustin Ward  
Lily Ward  
James George  
Robert George

**Parents, Grand Parents  
and Mentors**

Vincent & Angela Outler

Toni Frey Ausby  
Tomasina Phinizee

Tearcka Phinizee  
Sandra Jackson

Regina Edmond  
Michelle Ward

Marie Douzable  
Marie Domingue

Lourdes and Jorge Penagos  
Larrissa Thomas-Pelt

Iva Powell  
Doris Beasley

Clara Chance  
Brittney Palmer

Bevohn Dougall  
Barbara Pearce,

Annette &  
Rev. Vernon Reason

Alyssa Pearce  
Alexis Krasotkin

**2016 Music Staff**

**Teachers**

Joan Haar  
Music Director

Frank and Barbara Wallace  
Volunteer Teachers

**GYO Graduate Tutors**

Zipporah Pelt  
Marissa Rollins

**2016 Student Tutors**

Alex Harrison  
Ashley Portilus

**The Gifford Florida  
Youth Orchestra, Inc.**

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Jonnie Mae Perry

Atty. Fran Ross  
Patti Gibbons

Lisa Jensen

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President, Artistic Director

Rev. Dr. Elaine Word  
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Bob and Barbara Lipton  
Frank & Barbara Wallace

Ronnie Brown  
Don D. Regan

**Gifford Youth Orchestra 2016 Annual Concert Committee**



Annette Reason Concert Chair



Iva Powell Director of Programs



Joan Haar, Music Dir.



Dr. Crystal Bujol, Artistic Dir.

## *The Founder's Vision for the Gifford Youth Orchestra*

*Beware what you set your heart upon. For it surely shall be yours*

*... Ralph Waldo Emerson*

My vision for the Gifford Youth Orchestra is --



A Performing Arts Theater in Gifford, Florida. A place to call home that is really the GYO's own home, with sufficient rooms, closets, filtered water system, practice rooms and performance stage. A place to live with all the right recording equipment, PA systems, studio facilities, and movie theater capabilities. A home with fabulous bathrooms, kitchens, windows, elevators, and a lobby that is comfortable and chairs that are wonderful, and a perfect air conditioning system. A place that is totally conducive to Orchestra performances, Youth Choir performances, plays, public speaking, drama, dance, and community center rights and privileges.

I have a vision for creating something else that is beautiful in Gifford. An architect's dream. A cultural center that would put us on the tourist map, the chamber of commerce map, and the cultural arts map. A home with the perfect staff to operate such a fabulous facility, creating jobs of pride in the community.

I see this performing arts center as the next jewel in Gifford that brings people across the bridge into Gifford and invites more interaction with the cultural community of Vero Beach and Indian River County and the world. A Cultural Arts Disney World that belongs to Gifford and helps educate people inside and outside Gifford to the beauty of its history, and the history of its ancestors.

I see the walls of this edifice (and the walls of Gifford) being an African American living history book where students and teachers and others can come to study Pan African history in a memorable, interactive, and unbelievably enjoyable manner. A place where racial healings can take place. Where pride in community can be enriched. My dream is that our Mission Statement soar beyond our wildest imagination doing the most good for the most people in a most magnificent manner!

*Rev. Dr. Crystal Bujol*

Rev. Dr. Crystal Bujol, May 2012  
Founder, Artistic Director, President  
The Gifford, Florida Youth Orchestra, Inc.

## GIFFORD YOUTH ORCHESTRA HISTORY ~ THE 13TH YEAR

By Rev. Dr. Crystal Bujol, Founder, President and Artistic Director

In Greek Mythology, the story about Phoenix Bird is that it obtains new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor. I am using this story to talk about this 13th year because, **Like the Phoenix Bird, Still We Rise.**

**The number 13 is connected to the Phoenix Bird in that it represents a test that could either end in death and suffering, or in rising up from the ashes of the past and flying higher than ever!**

In this, our 13th year, the Gifford Youth Orchestra (GYO) faced that kind of test. We were either going to face the suffering and the death of the Gifford Youth Orchestra, or a walk through the passage that would move us on to a higher level of existence. Actually, we faced the same test in 2003 when we nearly died before we got started - - trying to start the program without a teacher! I could take you through the years, step by step of how we met that test and others to give you the entire history of the GYO, as I have in the past concert programs. However, because of the major test we faced this year -- this 13th year -- I am writing about what was the test and what helped us once more rise from the ashes that could have smothered our program.

In 2003, when we were ready to start our first class, the teacher who agreed to teach our students dropped the ball when 15 instead of only 5 students signed up. We were rescued by Joan Haar. From that 1st day until today, Joan has taught over 160 students in our program. Of those students, 122 performed in one or more of our prior 12 annual concerts and the 229 other performances. That is the foundation for the 2013 test we faced.

Continued on page 6







For 13 years of commitment  
and perseverance.

You are an inspiration to many.  
You are true heroes and sheroes of  
the Community.



Remember, always do your best  
What you plant now, you will harvest later.


Dr. Elaine Word, Berkeley, CA.—VP GYO Board of Directors

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**Continued from page 5**

Since our last annual concert, we suffered the loss of thirteen students most of whom performed at a superior level of musicianship. We grieved over those losses. Five left because they felt they had received all they needed

**Congratulations! Jada  
And Good Luck on all your  
Hard Work  
Best Wishes—Calvin Bethel**

A photograph of a young woman with dark hair, wearing a blue jacket over a purple shirt, playing a violin. She is smiling and looking towards the camera.

from our program. Four left because they were moving to another state. Four left because they had the nerve to graduate from high school and go on to such institutions as: Javan Crosdale at Florida State University, Zipporah Pelt and

Lanaya Wesley at Indian River State College and Marissa Rollins at University of South Florida! I can't tell you how much Joan Haar and I agonized over these departures. We lost our violist, our cellist, and our entire team of trained student tutors. OMG. These losses represented "the test" that could cause the "suffering and the death" for the Gifford Youth Orchestra ... or they could be viewed as part of "the test" that moved our program up to a higher level of existence. So let's see what actually occurred in 2016 after this mass migration nearly overwhelmed us.



Larrissa Thomas-Pelt,  
Program Book, Design and Layout  
Cover by Stevon Dean

**Continued on page 7**

To Gifford's young and aspiring musicians, Congratulations and Much Success on your journey as professional musicians...have fun, enjoy life, and make beautiful music!



Freelance Photography by Yours Truly - Ronnie Brown

**Continued from page 6**

Request for performances continue to come to us. We were not sure what to do because we only had one student barely ready to perform at the level the community had become accustomed to. What could we do when Indian River Estates requested a performance for its Black Culture program in January? Children from the Intermediate group stepped up and said, "Yes! Yes, we can do it!" So off we went with our one advanced student, six intermediate children, and the audience loved them. They became our Performing Artists for 2016. When the request came for the Summit House, the Pelican House, the Environmental Learning Center and other venues including the Parlor Concerts, these brand new performing artists grew in confidence and even included in their troupe several beginning students, some as young as 8 years old. In a magical way, the absence of some created opportunities for others. Neither Joan nor I realized how much audiences would appreciate our beginning and intermediate students. For a minute, we were so caught up in our losses that we almost missed the blessings in the midst of chaos -- The Phoenix Birds.

Last year, our Board was strong and enthusiastic, but sadly, we lost three members. Though we had more work to do, we had fewer hands to serve. Moral began to wane. Ah, but one of those members heard these children perform and was reminded of why she served in the first place. Patti Gibbons returned with robust enthusiasm and brought new resources to us, particularly Debbie Avery who now serves as the Outreach and Development Consultant. Debbie has created more publicity for the GYO than we ever had in the past. This has helped the Board of Directors grow in strength, resolve, and commitment and for first time ever, members even put in writing their vision for the Gifford Youth Orchestra.

**Continued on page 9**



*Congratulating* The Gifford Youth Orchestra on 18 Years

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KYLER!



On your Success so far,  
keep up the good work, and  
let no one steal your glory or  
stop you from achieving  
your dreams. We are so  
proud of you.



Love always, Mom & Dad



# *Congratulations and Best Wishes!*

## *Mr. and Mrs. Horace & Donna Lindsey*

**Continued from page 7**

Patti Gibbon's vision is for the GYO to be "...financially stable and able to play at Carnegie Hall in NYC. Roger Sobkowiak's vision is, "... that we enroll 50 students a year in some kind of music program, create space for graduates returning to help, add more volunteers and the create an on-going scholarship program for those who stick with the GYO program." Larrissa Pelt's vision is that we, "serve more youth, learn new music, have more teachers and include drama as well as other arts." Jim Parks holds the vision for ... "The youthful students to become the next generation of mentors and teachers, with the understanding that they have the power and knowledge to change the climate and perception of their community for the better." Dr. Elaine Word wrote, " I want the Gifford Youth Orchestra to be what its name implies – a youth orchestra for the community of Gifford, Florida. Meaning that every child who wants to join can join and learn without regard to ability to pay. That the community of Gifford sees that it is their orchestra, OF and BY and FOR the community!"

With visions such as these, the Board took bold steps to create a strategic plan that includes all of these visions plus the desire to send all of our children to the Block String Camp next summer. Most importantly, the Board voted to provide scholarships to all families, asking them to work together to raise funds to supplement the scholarship and make it possible for the parents to only be responsible for a small investment of \$10 a month.

Early in 2016, we lost a dear and beloved friend who was a major donor and an avid supporter: Guy Buesing of the Treasure Coast Rotary Club. For years he attended GYO classes, talking with the students, while sponsoring us for an annual grant from a New York foundation that required someone on their board who lived in Florida. With his passing away, we no longer qualified. But his love for the GYO touched the hearts of other Rotarians and other Funders. And then magic really happened. Love for the GYO blossomed in a most unexpected manner. Public donations increased by 12%. Our program received gifts from the Johns Island Community Service League, the Grand Harbor Community Outreach Program, Indian River County Children's Services, and for the first time ever, the Robert Schumann Foundation selected the GYO to be one of its recipients!

**Continued on page 12**

### *Jonnie Mae Perry's Vision:*

**"My vision for the GYO is that 20 years from now, there will be a Gifford Youth Orchestra in this community serving the youth of Gifford and Indian River County.**

**A GYO that includes students being trained in all performing arts. Being recognized on a national level for the students and service of the organization.**

**"Less Violence, Better Tomorrows!"**

*Joan Haar's Vision:*

“My hope for the GYO is for more children and youth in the Gifford area to have easier access and opportunity for music lessons in their own community on a scholarship basis. This should be available more than one day a week. This area has been underserved for too many years. I would like to see a teacher for advanced students who could work with them in private lessons and advanced performing groups. Ideally, having our own building would help to expand the program.”

*Congratulations and Much Love to*  
**Tatiana Wallace**



*Love, Papi, Alexis,  
Grandma, Papa and Mommy*



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**With Love,**

**From Your Family**

Continued from page 9

With the funds from Children's Services, we were able to promote last year's excellent Program Manager, Iva Powell to the position of Director of Programs and hire an Administrative Assistant, another one of those "first time ever" events. Courtney Godwin came to us for this position and brought a desire, skill and experience to help us develop a new GYO program: The Gifford Youth Orchestra Community Choir. That program will help us attract more students beginning in January, 2017. It is a response to some of the visions held by the Board, and certainly is part of our mission statement.



Larrissa, Alexis, Tomasina, Tearcka, & Annette

## Congratulations Little Miss Trinity Woolfork!



Whereas the Parents Association was also suffering the loss of parents from the migration, this year their name changed from that of an association to: The Parents Action Committee. What a difference we experienced from their action. They have grown in number, reached out for public donations for students' polo shirts, and are extremely successful in raising funds through their bucket-drop events to offset the remaining cost of their child's music lessons.

Continued on page 35

### Marissa Rollins Vision:

2015 GYO Graduate 🎵 USF Student of Music

**"My vision is that the Gifford Youth Orchestra be exposed to new experiences that create a greater sense of community. From playing side-by-side with a collegiate ensemble to traveling to another nation to fuse musical ideas, I envision the GYO being more closely connected inside and out."**

CONGRATULATIONS E!!  
On your success playing the



violin!  
Love,  
Uncle Pimp



Congratulations! EJ



From Mr. John Swanigan



*Congratulations to My Sweet Princess **JADA ROLLE***

*I Love You Baby and am so Proud of You!*



*Love Always,*

*Your Loving Mother – Toni Ausby*

**Edagent Exatus... Awesome Job! Well Done!**

"Music is soothing  
to the soul; it  
gives you peace"  
Lucy Fontalina



**Congratulations EJ! and  
Best Wishes to the Gifford  
Youth Orchestra**



**From "Miss Lucy"**

**Vero Beach Opera Congratulates the Gifford Youth Orchestra on 13 years of Magic!**



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*Photos by JPR Images*



**Congratulations Luke & Javaani and all of the Gifford Youth Orchestra Youth!**



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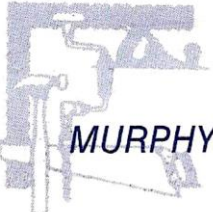


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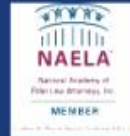
**Carolyn Butler Norton, Elder Law Attorney** has been practicing law for more than 30 years. Her passion as an advocate for the senior population and their families is unparalleled. Carolyn believes that the practice of elder law should be comprehensive, focusing on a Life Care Planning Approach.



Carolyn works closely with her clients educating and assisting them with all long-term planning options including healthcare and financial choices, asset protection, and end of life decisions.

In addition to drafting legal documents, Carolyn takes a holistic approach with her clients and families, many from out of state, by providing assistance with the information necessary to make informed decisions regarding living arrangements, care providers and related issues.

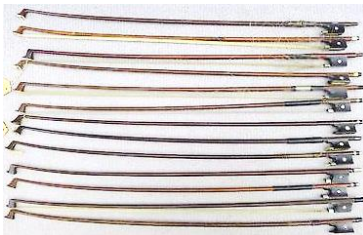
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## Congratulations

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Mr. & Mrs. Percy Perry

~ 13 bows for 13 Years ~

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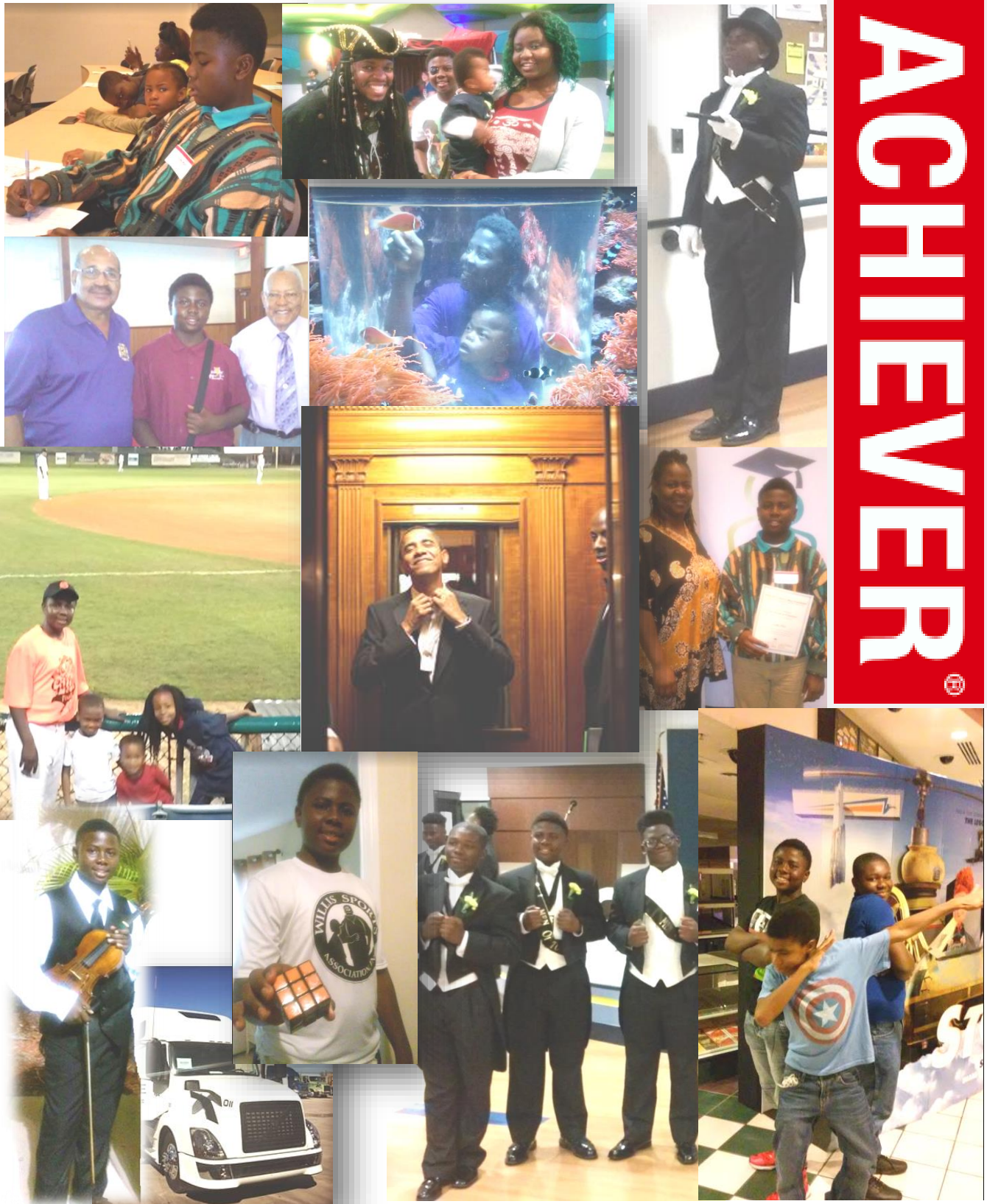
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Congratulations Luke, I only wish for you the very best in life. Work hard, Believe in Yourself, Trust God, and he will bring your Dreams to pass.



With Love, Mom





# *Viviandra Phinizee:*

You know we Love you, Congratulation to you and the

*Gifford Youth Orchestra.*

"The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest"



(Nana) Tomasina  
(Papa) Ted  
(Mommy) Tearcka  
(Brother) Trevin  
(Granddaddy) Tyler

(Cousins)  
Libby  
Debra  
K.P.  
Taja  
Troyce  
M.K.



*"To A Wonderful Niece"*

(Aunties)

Tammy  
Chasta  
Natalie  
Mary  
Jo

# Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church

4221 28th Avenue (P. O. Box 2624) - Vero Beach, Florida

## **Best Wishes Viviandra and the Gifford Youth Orchestra on its 13th Anniversary Celebration**



**Right Reverend Adam J. Richardson, Jr., Presiding Bishop**  
**Reverend Jessie Harvin, Jr., Presiding Elder**  
**Reverend Stanley Dawson, Sr., Pastor**  
**First Lady Pamela Dawson**

Thaddeus Forbes  
Margaret Dawson-Brown  
Robert Temple  
Veronsie Monroe  
Wilmore Butler  
Vergie Spikes  
NeShell Cleare-Butler

Jackye Hudson  
Ralph Hayes  
Willene Hayes  
Debra Hayes  
Venda Burgess  
Ernestine Williams  
Natalie Sanders

*Congratulations Viviandra and all of the Youth in the Gifford Youth Orchestra!*

🎵 *"Music is inspiring for all of us... it lifts our hearts" Publix Shopper*

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# PROCLAMATION

## HONORING JOAN HAAR, Music Director for the Gifford Florida Youth Orchestra

**WHEREAS**, Joan Haar rescued the Gifford Youth Orchestra (GYO) from demise in 2003, when the original teacher resigned and Joan agreed to teach Gifford students how to play the violin during an one-hour class, and now teaches seven weekly classes; and,

**WHEREAS**, for the last 13 years, Joan Haar has not only taught over 160 students something about playing the violin, viola, or cello, she has also driven her car to pick up students, bring them to class and return them safely back home; and,

**WHEREAS**, Joan has volunteered many hours to the Gifford Youth Orchestra and saved thousands of dollars by repairing instruments in her home, and meticulously applying the fine-line tape on at least 130 violins for new students to learn where to place their fingers on the finger board, a skill that takes time and mathematical precision, so the GYO students could experience the Gifford Youth Orchestra Theme: "More Violins, Less Violence and Better Tomorrows"; and

**WHEREAS**, Joan patiently taught many children who came with emotional and mental challenges the same way she teaches all students - with a firm voice, patience, love, a listening ear, and using skittles as a reward; and

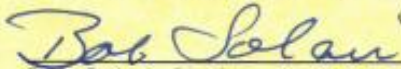
**WHEREAS**, in this, her 13th year, she started 11 beginners who are all eager to earn their skittles; and

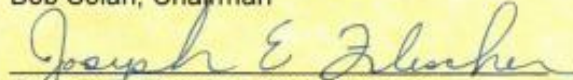
**WHEREAS**, for 13 years, Joan has given over 1,000 volunteer hours preparing students for 229 performances, while she helped develop self esteem, confidence, and teamwork, and trained them to give back to the community through their services and by keeping them "Off the Street and On the Stage," the GYO Motto!

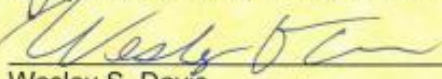
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA** that Joan Haar be honored and recognized for her dedication and exemplary contributions to our community, and November be identified as Joan Haar's Month!

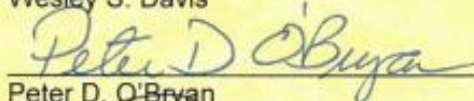
Adopted this 1st day of November, 2016.


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Tim Zorc



# *The Programme*

Welcome and Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies – Ms. Annette Reason

Opening Prayer –

Rev. Dr. Crystal Bujol ~ Mistress of Ceremonies

All Classes Are Under the Direction of Ms. Joan Haar

With her Graduate Tutors: Zipporah Pelt and Marissa Rollins

and Volunteer Teachers: Frank and Barbara Wallace

## *Photo Session ~ 5 minutes*

### *Beginner 1 Class*

*Fresh, Hot Grits* - folk tune

Fiddle Tune #1 "*Boil Them Cabbage Down*" - folk tune

*Twinkle, Twinkle* - folk tune

### *Intermediate Class and Advanced Class*

*Minuet* by J.S. Bach - solo - Tatiana Wallace

Indian Lament - Native American tune - Dustin Ward

*Cripple Creek* - folk tune - Lilly Ward

*Go Tell Aunt Rhody* - folk tune - Rebekah Dougall

*Concertino III* by George Perlman - Jada Powell

*Mozart Serenade* - W.A. Mozart- Pryscalina Douzable

*Ode To Joy* - from Symphony #9 by Ludwig van Beethoven - Arielle Reason

*Yellow Bird* - Haitian Tune - Jada Rolle

*The Chipmunk Song* - Ross Bagdasarian

*Jolly Old St. Nicholas* - James Pierpont

*Gavotte* by P. Martini - Luke Pelt

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* - A. Nettleton, R. Robinson - Javier Edmund

*Shalom Chaverim* Traditional Hebrew folk song

### *Closing*

*God Bless America* – Irving Berlin

Courtney Godwin - Soloist

A Blessing for the Children "Finished in Beauty" Rev. Dr. Crystal Bujol

~ *Refreshments Are Sewed* ~





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13  
Years



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*Music*  
is the voice of the soul

Mother to Son



Well, son, I'll tell you  
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.  
It's had tacks in it,  
And splinters,  
And boards torn up,  
And places with no carpet on the floor--  
Bare.  
But all the time  
I've been a-climbin' on,  
And reachin' landin's,  
And turnin' corners,  
And sometimes goin' in the dark  
Where there ain't been no light.  
So boy, don't you turn back.  
Don't you set down on the steps  
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.  
Don't you fall now--  
For I've still goin', honey,  
I've still climbin',  
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

**"My Vision for the GYO is touring around the world, being broadcast on television, meeting and performing with famous musicians and famous musicians wanting to meet and perform with us!"**



Zipporah Pelt  
2015 GYO Graduate  
IRSC Nursing Student



# CONGRATULATIONS!

Arielle,

We are very proud of you!  
Wishing you all the best in the future!



*In ALL thy ways acknowledge him, He shall  
direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6*

*We love you!  
Mommy & Daddy*



*"Music brings joy to everyone's life" Mrs. Jackie, former 1<sup>st</sup> Chair Violin Student*

*Congratulations  
Missy!!*



*With Love, Granddaddy*



*Congratulations!!*

*Arielle Reason*



We are very, very proud of  
your accomplishments. We  
encourage you to continue in  
the right path.

Keep up the Good Work!


With Love  
Pastor Charlie & Margaret Jones



*Melissa Medlock CPA  
is proud to support  
**Arielle Reason***

**MM**


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772-492-1104 or mpm13@ntrs.com  
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# *Who We Are ~ What We Do ~ Why We Do What We Do!*

## **GIFFORD YOUTH ORCHESTRA MISSION STATEMENT**

As our contribution to replacing the cycle of poverty and leveling the playing field for children in Gifford, our Mission is to provide education, experience and training in various cultural and performing arts, for the youth of Gifford, Florida (and neighboring Indian River County Communities), with a core focus on mastering stringed instruments.

Our slogan is – More Violins – Less Violence – Better Tomorrows.

Our motto is: “Each One Teach One”.

Our students developed their own theme to describe their purpose  
“Off the Street – On the Stage.”

## **IMPACT OF THE GIFFORD YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

Using the violin as our initial teaching tool, we give students specialized training which, along with their home and spiritual training helps them make better choices as they grow. Participation in the Gifford Youth Orchestra (GYO) changes the paradigm of the students such that they have new skills that helps them rise above the expectations of uninformed adults and peers with limited knowledge of who our children really are. GYO children thereafter become more productive members of the community and identify college and career options that heretofore might not have been in their consciousness. At the onset of their entrance into a GYO class they begin to embody the theme, motto and slogan in the above mission message, especially when they play their instruments in their first performance!

## **BEYOND THE ORGANIZATION'S MISSION**

The side-effects of our mission statement are greater than the mission! The children have fun. They prosper. Their grades improve. Their behavior improves. They focus more. They learn a new language (music), and become part of a new cultural group (musicians) and as a result ... these children uplift and empower other young people!

## **EFFECT OF MUSIC ON CHILDREN'S INTELLIGENCE**

There is extensive research on the topic of music and children's intelligence which proves that playing an instrument positively affects educational outcomes, especially as a result of playing and listening to classical music. Children who play a musical instrument are more likely to finish high school and go on to college. They perform better in math and science, and have an easier time learning languages. Music has also been shown to be transformational in creating cycles of success and effecting social change. 100% of the GYO High School Graduates are either enrolled in or have completed their college education!

## **LONG—RANGE PLAN**

Our mission statement states that we offer string instruments as our major element of music education. We have a 13-year history of accomplishments and benefits to our students, but we have other dreams. We want to touch the lives of more children by expanding our Music Education Program for Gifford and Neighboring Communities by offering: a program for children from age 2-6; a program for young adults from age 18-30; and the GYO Community Choir for children age 7-18, beginning in January 2017 under the direction of Courtney Godwin!

**Epilog: “I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning” — Plato**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Our Mailing Address is: P. O. Box 691166, Vero Beach FL, 32969**

**Donations can be made through Pay Pal on our web page: [GYOtigers.org](http://GYOtigers.org)**

**For more information about registering new students Future Performances, Performance Requests,  
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**Or Iva Powell, Director of Programs, 772-563-7072, [GYOrchestra@aol.com](mailto:GYOrchestra@aol.com)**

**Congratulations Luke & Javaani and all of the Gifford Youth Orchestra Youth!**

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## Jada Alexandria Powell

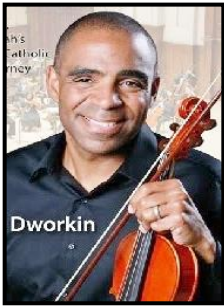
You must know with certainty and understand in depth that you possess all that you need to reach your dreams. Remember, God is in you and always with you. Affirm regularly, "I am strong! I am Loving! I am Capable!" because you are. Go, set high goals for yourself and reach beyond those goals. "We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort," James 'Jesse' Owens is quoted as saying. I love you and may God continue to bless you in your journey.

Wholeheartedly. your proud  
Mommi, ~Iva J. Powell

---



## Gifford Florida Youth Orchestra's 2015/16 Circles of Financial Support Honoring American Musicians



### **Aaron Dworkin Circle: Gifts up to \$49.99**

Dr. Aaron Dworkin is an accomplished acoustic and electric violinist, and a spoken-word and visual artist. Born in New York, his biological father was of Irish descent and his biological mother was African-American, while his adoptive family was Jewish. His adoptive mother, an amateur violinist, sparked his early interest in music. He is the Founder and President of The Sphinx Organization, the national arts organization that transforms lives through the power of diversity and the arts. Dr. Dworkin was President Obama's first appointment to the National Council on the Arts.

**Circle Supporters:** Alfonso Chester, Anders Tanager, Elizabeth Tait, Ernestine Willaims, Jimmy's Tree Service, Kathryn Wilson, Marilyn Brinkman, Marilyn Lewis, Marion And Spiro Vrusho, Total Golf Construction, Venda Burgess, Willis Sports Association, Genevieve & Tim Bradley, Indian River Estate, Frederick Hahn, Gifford Church of Christ, Marian Wenzel, Scott Alexander, Keith Woulard, Natalie Sanders, and St. Elizabeth Church of Deliverance.

### **Regina Carter Circle: Gifts between \$50 and \$99.99**

Regina Carter is a classically trained jazz violinist who began studying the violin in her hometown of Detroit at age four. She is known as the most significant jazz violinist since Jean-Luc Ponty of the late '60s. As a teenager, Regina took master violin classes from Itzhak Perlman and Yehudi Menuhin. As a gesture of solidarity for America, after the September 11th attacks, the city of Genoa, Italy invited her to perform on Niccolo Paganni's Il Cannone Guarnerius, a 1743 violin. She became the first jazz musician to play this priceless instrument.



**Circle Supporters:** Berry Bon Bon, Dana Shaw, Frederick E & Elizabeth W Stewart, Gloria Johnson Scottq, Harry and Susan Schmitke, John And Anne Tschinkel, Kathleen & Rock Tonkel, Rhema Apostolic Church, Shirley Riley, Total Beauty Salon, Victoria And Thomas McCloud, William Slattery, Jane Kreizman, Ceola Evans, Premier Financial Solutions, Woman's Church and Barklie W. Eliot.

### **Beethoven Circle: Gifts between \$100 and \$249.99**



German born Ludwig Van Beethoven is considered Europe's greatest classical music composer. His ancestors were Moors (Black people), North African Muslims who conquered parts of Europe and made Spain their capital for over 800 years. One of Beethoven's homes in Vienna, Austria, the music capitol of Europe at the time, was called "the Schwarzspanierhaus," the "House of the Black Spaniard." Beethoven was one of the most innovative and amazing musical geniuses, ever. His deafness made that genius even more so. His music reveals a cultural connection to his African ancestry. He was the first composer to invigorate European classical music with an inherently African rhythmic trait.

**Circle Supporters:** David & Laura Driver, David And Cherry Bluett, Elwood Holzworth, Frank Christy, Gifford Youth Achievement Center, Jane D. Romeyn, Jeryl S Thompson, Joan Woodhouse, John Maer, Katherine Washington, Kids & Nurses, Marion And Spiro Vrusho, Martha Miley-Kucinsky, Michael Slokin, Nancy And Jack Stiefel, Oscar Brasher, Pastor's Association of Indian River, Robert Huerman, Samuel Hunter, Stanley Winters, Susan Winters, Timothy and Patricia Brier, Patricia Pratt, Roof Repairs Only, Birth Blossoms, Sandra Moccaldi, Our Father's Table, Florida Eye Institute, Art And Rita Maier, Catherine Winzing, Lawrence And Corine Trapp.

### **Joseph Bolonge, Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges Circle: Gifts between \$250 and \$499.00**

Bolonge, born on a small West Indian island, the only child of a black slave and her white master, became one of the most accomplished men in 18th century Europe. He is remembered as the first classical composer of African ancestry. Bolonge was a virtuoso violinist and conductor of the Paris Symphony Orchestra. Known as the "Black Mozart," he was the first musician of color to play for royalty. Before his career in classical music, he won fame as one of the best fencers in Europe. He also served as Colonel of the Legion Saint-Georges, the first all-black European regiment during the French Revolution.



**Circle Supporters:** Joel Demski, Martha & Stephen Smith, Winston Scott, ACTS, Alexis Krasotkin, Richard Bradley, and Michelle Ward.



### **William Grant Still Circle: Gifts between \$500 and \$999.99**

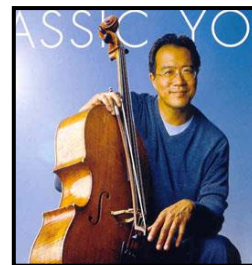
Still began violin lessons when he was 15, and composed music at 16. He listened to his Grandmother's plantation stories and included her spirituals in his compositions. Still was the first African American to conduct a major symphony orchestra in the U.S, directing the Los Angeles Philharmonic in his compositions at the Hollywood Bowl in 1936. In 1955 he became the first Afro-American to conduct a major symphony orchestra in the Deep South, the New Orleans Philharmonic at Southern University. His opera "Troubled Island" was the first Afro-American opera to be produced by a major U.S. company. It was performed at the City Center of Music and Drama in New York City in 1949 and televised over a national network. He wrote over 150 compositions including operas, ballets, symphonies, chamber works, and arrangements of folk themes, especially Negro spirituals, plus choral and solo vocal works.

**Circle Supporters:** Dr. A. Ronald and Jackie Hudson, Academy For The Performing Arts, Alfred And Kathleen Whittet, Carter Hopkins, Community CHurch Missions, Dale Sorensen Real Estate, LINDA BRADLEY, Michaela Scott, Roger Sobkowiak, James & Phyllis Parks, Richard And Sharon Kolor.

**Yo-Yo Ma Circle: Gifts between \$1,000 and \$2499.99**

Born in Paris, Chinese virtuoso cellist Yo-Yo Ma, a child prodigy, began performing at age five. He performed for President John F. Kennedy at age seven, studied at the Juilliard School and Harvard University. He established the 'Silk Road Project' to promote the study of the cultural, artistic and intellectual traditions along the ancient Silk Road trade route. He plays a 1733 Montagnana cello nicknamed "Petunia". Yo-Yo Ma's 75 music albums have earned 15 Grammy awards.

**Circle of Supporters: Environmental Learning Center, Indian River Community Foundation, Melnick Family Fund, Nelson and Gretchen Cover, Oculina, The Community Church of Vero Beach, Wallace Doud, Terry Domino, Elaine Armour Word, Orchid Island Chorus, Homeless Family Center, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach (UUFVB).**



**Nokuthula Ngwenyama Circle: Gifts between \$2,500 and \$4,999.99**

President of the American Viola Society, Ms. Ngwenyama is a solo violist, recitalist, and chamber musician of Zimbabwean and Japanese descent. Born in California, she came to international attention when she won the Primrose International Viola Competition and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions at age 17. She received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1998. As a Fulbright Scholar she attended the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris and received a Master of Theological Studies degree from Harvard University.

**Circle Supporter Is: Holy Cross Catholic Church.**

**Duke Ellington Circle: Gifts between \$5,000 and \$9,999.00**

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was a self-educated American composer, pianist, and jazz orchestra bandleader who gained international recognition through his orchestra's appearances at the famous Cotton Club in New York. Ellington composed thousands of celebrated scores over his 50-year career -- work that has stood the test of time. Pioneering the big band classical jazz world, many of his compositions included elegant parts for violin and viola such as 'Duke Ellington's Jazz Violin Session,' an album his band recorded in 1963. A musical giant among giants, Ellington is generally considered to have elevated jazz to an art form equal to other traditional music genres.



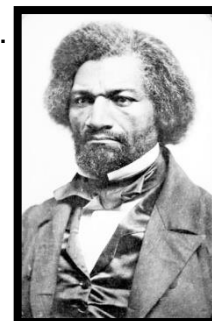
**2015 Duke Ellington Circle of Supporters: Brown Brothers Harriman Trust Fund, The Johns Island Community Foundation, The Grand Harbor Community Foundation, The Indian River Club**

**Frederick Douglas Circle: Gifts \$10,000.00 and above**



Born a Maryland slave in 1818, he taught himself to read and write, escaped to New England, became a preacher, newspaper publisher, bank president, diplomat, musician, fiery orator, and author of hundreds of books and speeches. He spoke seven languages, was an advisor to President Abraham Lincoln, and served as the American Minister to Haiti. His greatest achievements were in the political arena as an eloquent advocate of abolition, women's rights, and racial justice. Called "The Father of the Civil Rights Movement," his life is memorialized at his home in Cedar Hills in Washington, D.C., where the rooms are filled with mementos of Douglass' extraordinary life, including his beloved Stradivarius! Photo: Frederick Douglass teaching his grandson, Joseph Douglass, who became a world-class violinist, performing for many presidents at the White House. A symbol of what we hope our students will do, as well — pass the violin down through their generations.

**Frederick Douglas Circle of Support:  
The Indian River County Children's Services.  
The Robert F. Schumann Foundation**



When you decide to join our Circle of Support,  
Please make your check payable to  
The Gifford Youth Orchestra, P. O. Box 691166, Vero Beach FL, 32969 ...  
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**We thank you in Advance for your Sustaining Support!**  
For more information, Crystal Bujol, 772-778-5118/ GYOrchestra@aol.com.





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For more than 18 years, the GYAC has proudly served children, families and senior citizens in Indian River County. It focuses on five pillars to help mold students and provide access to homework assistance, tutoring, internet-based educational tutorials, field-trips, cultural, social and recreational activities and so much more. From a food bank, bible study to computer classes, the GYAC is meeting the needs of our community.

Gifford Youth Achievement Center

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**Congratulations!**  
**JAVAANI**

**We hope you do well  
on your performance**  
LOVE  
Aunty Shenika, Uncle Reggie,  
Kalla, Reece, & Roman



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
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Thank you for the  
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**Congratulations!**

**JAVAANI**

**We love you and wish you well  
on your musical journey!**

**Love,  
Mom, Dad, and Mj**



Continued on page 12

Then comes the *crème de la crème*. One of our graduating seniors attending Indian River State College decided to give back to the community by offering to tutor the young people who were the new musicians. Zipporah Pelt volunteered and her services were so much appreciated that she was asked to join the staff as a professional tutor. She did. Then came Marissa Rollins -- home for the summer from the University of Florida -- joining the staff, as well. This is the best piece of the history of our 13th year. Nine graduated. Two returned. In their wake, the consciousness of tutoring brought to us two young violinists, Alex Harrison and Ashley Portilus from the Vero Beach High School Orchestra, also tutoring GYO students. So, today, though the music is not as sophisticated as in prior concerts, the Gifford Youth Orchestra musicians perform their solos and duets and other music proving that there is magic in the idea of 13 years of service to Indian River County. Like the Phoenix bird, the GYO has new life by rising from the ashes of its predecessors who were the 122 magnificent and fabulous performers who played in 229 prior concerts and created the ashes (memories) from which rises this year's new 1st string performers and the 2016 concert musicians.



The GYO passed its test. We are Phoenix Birds. Our children remain off the street and on the stage!



**Congratulations Luke & Javaani and all of the Gifford Youth Orchestra Youth!**




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**Luke Pelt and the Gifford Youth  
Orchestra continue to "Praise Him with  
stringed instruments...Let everything that  
has breath Praise the LORD...Praise Ye  
the LORD."**

You will show me the path of life,  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand are pleasures  
forevermore.  
—Psalms 16:11

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**Luke Pelt**

You are destined for greatness,  
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Congratulations Robert & James George!

“Work while it is day for when the Night comes, no man can work”



Deuteronomy 15:10 King James Version (KJV)

“Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

Blessings to you both,

Dr. Samuel A. Hunter, Sister Audrey B. Hunter, & Jillian Hunter



Robert James & James Robert

“We are thankful that God has given you both  
the Victory to Succeed”

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the  
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 15:57

Mr. Ander Taranger and Miss Esther M.  
Taranger



So long, we will miss being in the GYO, but we will continue to do great things in our new home of Alabama.



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## *Iva Powell's Vision:*

I envision the GYO being a nationally well-known and well-respected organization that appeals to families that push their children to master string instruments.

## Congratulations Robert & James

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.



• Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

• When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

• What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

• For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

• O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Psalms 8:1-5,9

Thank you for being sent by God to help me. I love you boys.

Sister Ceola Evans

Dr. Joseph Saul shared, "the joke in New York is how you get to Carnegie hall?" Practice, Practice, Practice



Robert & James

Congratulations and Best Wishes

"Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make You to become fishers of men." Mark 1:17 KJV

Coach William H. & Kathryn A. Wilson

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*Thank you!*

*For sharing in our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Concert*



Greetings to Ms. Haar and The Gifford Youth Orchestra from  
... Jamari Williams, GYO Musician 2003 - 2012  
... now traveling the world Acting, Dancing Singing... off the street and on the  
International World!

I have to give thanks where thanks is due. Just like many of you all, Mrs. Haar has changed my life for the better. The gift to teach is so precious and special and there was never a kinder soul for it to be bestowed upon. She has held strong through all the turmoil and has seen us shine. From hot cross buns to Beethoven. From showing up early to set up the classroom for EVERYONE to driving me and my little brother home after rehearsal when no one else could. I cannot thank her enough for sharing her gifts so that I could realize mine. The GYO will forever be a part of my life.

Speaking of, my vision. I see the GYO going so many places. I would love for it to become the premier orchestra in Vero. Perhaps the world! I would, however love to see the orchestra grow and maybe eventually tour. Having had a great time myself traveling the country, not only would it be excellent exposure, but it's so important for people, especially young ones, to travel and experience different cultures and people. That opportunity is priceless. But at the end of the day, for the organization to not have to worry and be sustainable is a success.



2016 Board of County Commissioners Proclaim  
November as Joan Haar's Month



We were so delighted that you thought this much of us to join us. Please see more about us on the web at [www.gyotigers.org](http://www.gyotigers.org)

### Greetings to Ms. Haar

from The First Woman's Church in the City of Angels  
Pastor Emeritus and Founder Rev. Dr. Crystal Bujol  
Pastor Rev. A. Hasani Pery  
Rev. Erica Byrd  
Rev. Akosua Herbert-Pierce



May the long time sun shine upon you  
All love surround you  
And the pure light within you  
Guide your way on and on and on and on  
As you continue to bless the children of Gifford  
While taking the Gifford Youth Orchestra into the future as the  
wind beneath their wings!

**Best Wishes to the Gifford Youth Orchestra on their  
13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!**



[www.roofrepaironly.net](http://www.roofrepaironly.net)



The Day it all came to past...November 5, 2016



Jada Powell,  
Love who you  
are and be  
great. We love  
you. I am so  
proud of you!  
Love,  
Auntie Dot





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Appeal Donation being received from Jennifer Idlette, IRCSD transportation director



Dr. Crystal Bujol, 1<sup>st</sup> row l-r: Javaani Grant, Edagent Exatus, Tiffany Woolfork, Viviandra Phinizee, Christine Domingue, Dustin Ward, Lily Ward, Mrs. Joan Haar, 2<sup>nd</sup> row l-r: Luke Pelt, Tatiana Wallace, Jada Powell, Rebekah Dougall, Jada Rolle, Pyscalina Douzable, Arielle Reason, Javier Edmund



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Congratulations  
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Youth Orchestra  
on your 13th Anniversary!

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*UP Center* - access to transformational life skills education opportunities.

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or call us at 772-564-9365

