

**YOUNG MUSICIANS FOUNDATION AND THE WILSHIRE THEATRE BEVERLY HILLS
ANNOUNCE THE 'BE INSTRUMENTAL' DONATION DRIVE PROMOTING
MUSIC INSTRUCTION TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN**

**The Two Beverly Hills Institutions Combine Forces for New and Used Instruments Donation Drive; Kickoff
at Next YMF Debut Orchestra Concert on
Sunday, January 18th 4pm, at the Wilshire Theatre Beverly Hills**

BEVERLY HILLS – January 13, 2008 – Young Musicians Foundation (YMF) and the Wilshire Theatre Beverly Hills (WTBH) announce the “Be Instrumental” donation drive, the purpose of which is to collect new and used instruments that will be given to underserved local elementary school children that are interested in learning to play a musical instrument but whose schools do not have music-instruction programs. The Kickoff donation drive event takes place at the next YMF Debut Orchestra concert Sunday, January 18, 4 p.m., at the Wilshire Theatre Beverly Hills, 8440 Wilshire Blvd. in Beverly Hills. Those interested in donating a musical instrument are invited to bring it to the theatre that day and attend the afternoon’s free concert. Donors will receive two tickets to the VIP seating section of the theatre.

“Be Instrumental” is designed to provide music-instrument instruction to children that would otherwise not have access through their own school’s curriculum. Gathered instruments will be refurbished and lent out to students. YMF Mentor Artists then provide after-school tutoring to those children receiving the instruments.

YMF and WTBH, two of Beverly Hills’ preeminent institutions, began a partnership this season when the newly refurbished art deco theatre became the new home for YMF Debut Orchestra’s 2008-2009 season. The “Be Instrumental” drive is another step in this relationship.

“We are thrilled with our new partnership with the Wilshire Theatre Beverly Hills, for both providing a beautiful performance venue for the Debut Orchestra, and now for being part of the ‘Be Instrumental’ program, an intrinsic part of our desire to cultivate interest for classical music appreciation in young children,” said Edye Rugolo, executive director, YMF.

“It is a great pleasure for us to be part of the ‘Be Instrumental’ donation drive and YMF’s education endeavor,” said David Baron, president, WTBH. “We are interested in doing all that we can to promote a vital interest in classical music and ensure future audiences for this type of music.”

Both YMF and WTBH believe it is essential to create effective partnerships with the private sector and school districts to create new outreach programs that reach underserved children. Many arts programs have been scrapped due to budgetary reasons leaving children with insufficient opportunities to pursue the study of a musical instrument and voice. The problem is especially acute in minority and low-income communities. Prior to the arrival of YMF mentors at participating schools, enrolled students possessed limited access to classical music study. It was entirely possible that children would never receive instrumental music instruction during their entire K-12 education.

In lieu of attending the January 18 concert, donors are encouraged to call YMF office at (310) 859-7668 to schedule a drop-off time. YMF will have the instrument appraised and issue a tax-deduction letter to the donor. Donors may also make a monetary contribution to support the program.

THE MENTOR ARTISTS PROGRAM

The cornerstone of YMF’s outreach efforts is the renown Mentor Artists Program. Since 1995, the program has targeted underserved and low-income elementary and middle school students who are unable to receive music instruction. Since its early beginnings in just three schools, YMF has grown the program significantly—now bringing members and alumni of YMF’s Debut Orchestra to 26 Los Angeles County schools to conduct weekly

classes, music appreciation assemblies, and private tutoring. Students are given the opportunity to study violin, cello, flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, percussion, harp, and guitar.

The majority of these sites receive their instruction after-school, providing a safe, educational environment for students. Mentor Artist faculty are selected from the senior members of the Debut Orchestra, local university students, and emerging professional musicians who perform across Los Angeles on stage and screen. These pre-professional musicians serve as positive role models to assist in the personal and artistic growth of the students.

Dr. Mieko Hatano, YMF's Director of Education & Outreach, coordinates the Mentor Artist Program. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and University of Southern California, and alumnus of the YMF Debut Orchestra.

Major funders of YMF's Mentor Artists Program and Instrument Loan Fund include the Ahmanson Foundation, The Sirpuhe & John Conte Foundation, The Roberta & Carl Deutsch Foundation, the Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation, Hennings-Fischer Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Stranahan Foundation, and Wells Fargo Foundation.

YOUNG MUSICIANS FOUNDATION

Founded by Sylvia Kunin in 1955, Young Musicians Foundation (YMF) has been a national treasure and the Los Angeles "home team" for more than 50 years. YMF is one of the oldest and most respected youth organizations on the West coast serving young musicians both locally and nationwide by providing performance opportunities, financial assistance, and music education programs to thousands of young musicians at all stages of development each year.

YMF administers the following youth programs: Debut Orchestra, Conductor-in-Training post, BMI Composer-in-Residence, Scholarship Program, Chamber Music Series, Arts Management Training Program, National Debut Competition, School Outreach Program, Mentor Artists Program, National Orchestra Camp, and Instrument Loan Program. More information is available at www.ymf.org.

WILSHIRE THEATRE BEVERLY HILLS

Originally built to exhibit motion pictures, the Wilshire Theatre Beverly Hills first opened its doors as the Fox Wilshire on September 19, 1930. The building was remodeled in 1980 to become a stage venue and is currently undergoing a new refurbishment to better show off its exquisite Art Deco design by renowned architect Charles S. Lee. For the first 50 years of its life, the Wilshire Theatre Beverly Hills served as one of the premiere movie palaces in Los Angeles and has hosted numerous premieres and special occasions. After its 1980 conversion to house live performances, the theater has hosted such a wide variety of acts, from rock to classical music and stage plays. The theatre is available for theatrical rentals, concerts, television shoots, parties and other events. Information is available at www.wtbh.org or calling (310) 655-4900.

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