

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra Will Play Again

The Orchestra Has Topped The List Of Special Requests For The Symphony Series.

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GROVELAND — Back by popular demand, the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra will make its fifth appearance as the featured performers for the next offering of the South Lake Council for the Arts Symphony and [Songs](#) series.

Now in its 38th season, the 90-piece [Florida](#) Symphony Youth Orchestra has repeatedly topped the list of special requests for the arts council series, said chairman Howard Stockton.

"It's the one group everyone has wanted us to deal with and bring back," said Stockton.

First established in 1956 as a string group by Alphonse Carlo, concertmaster emeritus of the Florida Symphony Orchestra, the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra program has thrived over the years, even as the Florida Symphony Orchestra itself met its demise.

The young orchestra is now composed of middle and high [school](#) students representing 45 schools from eight Central Florida counties. Aspiring symphonic musicians must earn their orchestra positions through auditions, then maintain a grueling schedule of rehearsals culminating in a series of performances throughout Central Florida.

The Feb. 25 performance at the South Lake High School Auditorium is the only south Lake County appearance the youth orchestra will make this year.

In 1989, the orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall. The highlight of the 1990 season was a performance at the International Music Festival at Harvard University. A European tour, with stops in Basel, Switzerland and Barcelona, [Spain](#), marked the 1993 season.

Currently under the direction of Jonathan May with Andrew Lane conducting, the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra will perform a wide assortment of selections featuring the music of Khachaturian and Rimsky-Korsakov.

"Most people won't recognize the works until they hear them," said Stockton.

[Tickets](#) for the 8 p.m. performance are \$7 for adults and \$1 for students and may be purchased in advance at the Clermont Area Chamber of Commerce or at the door the night of the event, if available.

For additional information, call the chamber at (904) 394-4191 or South Lake Council for the Arts secretary Anne Cardinal at (904) 394-5140.