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FREE TIME

Everybody gets to play in concert at LSCC

The Youth Orchestra's 'Spring Serenade' presents a wide range of expertise.

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LEESBURG -- In the annual spring concert of the Central [Florida](#) Youth Orchestra, "Spring Serenade," all the people in the music program will get the chance to perform.

From beginning string players to the most experienced musicians on all types of instruments, most of the 66 students will perform in five ensembles at 7 p.m. Saturday at Lake-Sumter Community College.

The program's artist-in-residence, Jesus Alfonzo, who is a professor of viola at Stetson University, will be the guest performer.

"You can see everything in our [concert](#)," said Lois Hawk, the program's executive director. "The professional component rounds our program out."

The orchestra, which had its beginning in 1994 as a string program only, now includes students in woodwinds, brass and percussion. Led by Jonathan May, the group holds classes at the college where May is an adjunct professor of [music](#).

Beginning students in violin, cello, viola and bass make up the String Explorers. They will be joined by the Lyric Consort, advanced beginners who will open the concert with traditional folk [songs](#) and an arrangement of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight."

Eight string or string-and-piano solos follow. The first half finishes with the Philharmonic, an all-string group of intermediate students, who will play pieces by Beethoven and Grieg.

Alfonzo leads off the second half of the program with "Elegy for Viola and Piano" by Alexander Glazunov. He will be accompanied by Michael Neas. May leads fellow violincellists Kristin Neas and Oksana Pankiv with "Requiem Opus 66" by David Popper.

The Chamber Symphony, the more-experienced string students, will play two pieces by Respighi before students of all instruments join together as the Symphony, playing works by Gounod, Mendelssohn and J.S. Bach.

"Our program is about kids playing music, [learning](#) to perform and learning about music," Hawk said. "Whether they go on to study music or not, we are raising the music consciousness in Lake County."

A reception will follow the concert. [Tickets](#) are \$10 at the door at the college's Paul P. Williams Fine Arts Auditorium.

For more information, call 352-787-4838.