

## Carnegie or bust - musicians earn cash to go

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LEESBURG -- If the old saying is right that the way to get to Carnegie Hall is to practice, practice, practice, then some members of the Central [Florida](#) Youth Orchestra soon will be ready to go.

"They even took it upon themselves to rehearse during their spring break," orchestra conductor Jonathan May said.

For a June 15 appearance at the prestigious concert hall, nearly a third of the Leesburg group's members will combine with members of the Florida Young Artists Orchestra of [Orlando](#) and the Flagler Youth Orchestra of Palm Coast to form the Florida Festival Youth Orchestra.

"It's really quite a Central Florida event," May said.

May submitted a [CD](#) of the Orlando orchestra to Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Spotlight Series, which accepted that group and students from the other groups, all directed by May. He then selected the most advanced students from each of the three orchestras for the five-day trip that will schedule museum and attraction visits around the performance.

Orchestra members have been practicing -- and raising money for the trip -- during the past school year.

One of their most important fundraisers will be the BBQ Jamfest at 6 p.m. March 29 at First United Methodist Church in Tavares.

For \$10, or \$5 for children, people can eat a homemade pulled-pork dinner and listen to orchestra members perform solos, duets, as a 10-member string ensemble and as a chamber symphony orchestra.

Lois Hawk, the group's executive director, said that among the [music](#) played during the dinner will be Johann Sebastian Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, works by Georg Telemann and a piece by film composer Daniel May -- Jonathan May's brother -- written for Everest, a film shown in IMAX theaters.

May, who also will perform, said the event is the best way for an orchestra to raise money.

"[Selling](#) cookies is not what we do," he said. "If people wonder why this is a worthy cause, they can come and listen."

Another way to enjoy the orchestra will be to attend its end-of-semester [concert](#) April 26 at Lake-Sumter Community College, when the orchestra will be joined by guest performers.

For tickets to the BBQ Jamfest or for more information, call Marsha Keesee at 352-343-9319 or Hawk at 352-787-4838.