



NCCO 'MUSIC MAGIC' STRING EDUCATION PROGRAM

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Nelson County Community Orchestra (NCCO) continues to grow!! As part of its mission, the NCCO has offered since the fall of 2014, the highly successful "first ever" in-school **String Education Program, (SEP)** in Nelson County. Our dream is for everyone in our community to have the opportunity to make music part of their lives. Hands-on, in-class exposure to musical instruments, instruction by professional musicians and opportunities to perform in concerts can offer our area youth life-long enrichment.

The SEP offers violin classes for students who are third grade and up using a music SOL based curriculum. Classes are 45 to 60-minutes long, in small-groups (2 - 8 students depending on registrations), and held weekly after-school at Tye River and Rockfish Valley Elementary, and North Branch School. All area students (public, private, home-schooled) are welcome. Middle School and advanced students are invited to participate in the String Bridge Program offered on Monday evenings.

The program is under the instruction of Michael Tyree and Laura Owens, both highly qualified and experienced teachers. Mr. Tyree is a violinist, pianist, composer and conductor from Southwest Virginia. He has a Bachelor of Music in Composition from James Madison University and is currently the conductor/music director for the Nelson County Community Orchestra and music director of the McGaheysville United Methodist Church Chancel Choir. Ms. Owens, is an experienced teacher of violin, piano, voice, flute and guitar, mandolin, chorus, and drama having taught in public schools, area colleges and her own private studio for over 30 years. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Music Composition from Kirkland College, Clinton, New York, Masters of Arts in Music Composition from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York and Virginia Teacher Certification, K-12 from Lynchburg College. Currently, in addition to teaching in our program, she teaches students privately and is an online instructor of a web-based Music Appreciation class at Patrick Henry Community College, Martinsville, VA.

The tuition for each weekly class is \$18.75, which includes professional instruction and some materials. Limited financial assistance based on need is available. Additionally, students need an instrument, a music stand, and the beginner book, all of which are available through the program. Instrument and stand rentals are available for a nominal \$1.25 per week maintenance fee. (Details on the music book are on the registration form.)

Music education is a life-long gift. But it is expensive, and often beyond the reach of families. NCCO is committed to providing financial assistance so that all interested youths can participate. Until this string program is firmly established, however, our ability to offer financial aid will be limited by and dependent on the generosity of community residents and assistance from the Nelson County Community Orchestra.

Interested students should complete the application for the course and, if needed, the financial assistance and instrument rental applications, available on our website: www.nelsoncco.org. For more information, see our website or contact us at StringEdProgram@nelsoncco.org or by phone at 434-361-1311.