



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Franklin County Violin Program to Perform with Roanoke Youth Symphony String Ensemble

On Tuesday, April 19, 2011 the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra (RSO), in partnership with Franklin County Public Schools, will present a concert featuring the Roanoke Youth Symphony String Ensemble and the violin students of the Franklin County Violin Program. The performance will take place at Franklin Heights Baptist Church and begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission to the concert is free.

Now in its third year, the Franklin County Violin Program, a collaborative effort of the RSO and Franklin County Public Schools, offers a Suzuki-based violin group classes for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students at Boones Mill Elementary, Ferrum Elementary, Lee Waid Elementary and Rocky Mount Elementary and for 6th grade students at Benjamin Franklin Middle School. On a weekly basis during the academic year, RSO Strings Instructor Mr. Geronimo Oyenard teaches 70 violin students in a classroom setting, and class sizes range from three students to 10 students. Participation in these classes comes at no cost to the families.

The Roanoke Youth Symphony String Ensemble, under the direction of Mrs. Joanne Steele, is comprised of beginning-to-intermediate string players, ages 8-16, who rehearse weekly and perform in public concerts throughout the year. Many members of the String Ensemble, after achieving an appropriate level of skill, successfully audition to become members of the Roanoke Youth Symphony Orchestra (RYSO). For many young string players, participation in the String Ensemble is the first and only opportunity to begin playing in an ensemble under the direction of an experienced conductor. The String Ensemble rehearses on Tuesday afternoons in Roanoke. There is a yearly tuition fee for participation in the String Ensemble.

Please direct all inquiries about the performance, the Franklin County Violin Program and/or the Roanoke Youth Symphony String Ensemble to the RSO's Education Director at (540) 343-6221, ext. 231 or liz.lochbrunner@rso.com.

Through all of the education and outreach programs, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra continues its mission *"to enrich lives, to educate, and to entertain diverse audiences in western Virginia with the highest quality instrumental and choral concerts."*