



Youth Orchestra

Spiritoso — St. Cloud's Youth Orchestra

by Cristina Seaborn

Spiritoso is a regional string orchestra for 6th through 8th graders in St. Cloud. Under the direction of Dr. Margaret Schmidt, Spiritoso is part of the Preparatory Program in the Music Department of St. Cloud State University. Each year approximately thirty students audition and perform with Spiritoso.

Area parents requested a youth orchestra. At its inception four ago, Dr. Margaret Schmidt, Bruce Wood, and Dr. Tom Allen, the director of the SCSU Prep Program met with parents and teachers.

Spiritoso encourages students to continue their musical studies throughout their life, and is offered

to students outside of St. Cloud who may not have an orchestra program in their schools.

Music students from the university also participate in Spiritoso rehearsals as sectional coaches and judges in auditions. The college students learn about music education and the inside workings of running an orchestra program.

Annually, Spiritoso performs for the senior citizen's apartments in St. Cloud, Skylight Gardens, at St. Cloud State University, and at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Spiritoso students also experience the Holly Days concert with the SCSU Sonare Orchestra.

Featured soloists, student conductors, and combined concerts with the Cantabile Choir (girls grades 5-8) make Spiritoso concerts a worthwhile delight to attend!

For more information, contact Dr. Margaret Schmidt at 320-255-3223.

Cristina Seaborn is pursuing a Masters in Orchestral Conducting at St. Cloud State University. She is interested in jazz string ensembles, gives workshops on improvisation and writes for string orchestra. Contact her for copies of her self-published arrangements in fiddle, Celtic, Cajun and jazz styles. †