

YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE AMERICAS · ORCHESTRA JOVEM
DAS AMÉRICAS · ORQUESTA DE JÓVENES DE LAS AMERICAS ·
ORCHESTRE DES JEUNES DES AMÉRIQUES

YOA & Collier County Viola Day
Naples, Florida

Craig Mumm – viola, YOA Music Faculty
Rafael Betancourt - violin, Venezuela
Hector Hernandez - violin, México
Aaron Ludwig - cello, USA
Michael Davis - viola, USA

Youth Orchestra of the Americas musicians and YOA faculty led the 2nd annual Collier County Viola Day on Monday, January 19, 2009 in Naples, Florida. This youth music education program was a tremendous success with students, community members, teachers from around Naples County and YOA teaching artists from across the Americas. The event was reported on the front page of *Naples Daily News* Local Section on Tuesday, January 20th.

The day-long activities culminated in a Monday night concert –a huge success– featuring a world premiere commissioned for this occasion, Richard Sortomme's *Prelude and Dance* for Solo Viola and String Orchestra with Craig Mumm, Associate Principal Violist of Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, as guest soloist. The second half the concert featured a string quartet comprised of members of Youth Orchestra of Americas with Mr. Mumm as a special guest playing one of Mozart's String Quintets.

On January 20th, Adam Michlin – Head of Music for Naples County Public Schools, and former student of Craig Mumm – and the YOA String Quartet gave lecture/performance at both Osceola Elementary and Cypress Palm Middle School. With a mix of Mozart and Latin American classical music, the lecture/performance highlighted the diversity of both the musicians and the music. Playing for the entire fifth grade class at Osceola Elementary School, the students were particularly intrigued when they realized they could ask two of the members of the quartet questions in both English and Spanish (one from Venezuela, the other from México). It was not only a treat for them musically, but a genuine learning experience from both a musical and cultural perspective.

As an added bonus, violinist Mary Ann Mumm gave a violin master class to students from PRMS, NNMS, NHS and BCHS, and both Mary Ann Mumm and Craig Mumm worked with the BCHS and NHS Orchestras during their normal rehearsal time.

Viola aficionados from Southwest Florida gather to celebrate their instrument at the second Annual Viola Day at Barron Collier High School



Florida International University senior Michael Davis, 23, plays a selection of Dmitri Shostakovich's "Sonata" during the second annual Collier County Viola Day at Barron Collier High School on Monday, Jan. 19, 2008, in Naples. Davis was one of six students playing a piece in a master class to be critiqued and instructed by Craig Mumm, violist of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, during the day-long viola event.



Violists from around Southwest Florida gather at the second annual Collier County Viola Day at Barron Collier High School in Naples, Florida.



Palmetto Ridge High School violinist McClaren Hayes, 13, tries out new bows at The Violin Shop's booth at the second annual Collier County Viola Day at Barron Collier High School on Monday, Jan. 19, 2008, in Naples.



Palmetto Ridge High School violinist McClaren Hayes, 13, tries out new bows with Naples Philharmonic member Janie Spangler at The Violin Shop's booth.



MET Opera violist Craig Mumm works with Florida International University senior Michael Davis, 23, in a master class.



North Naples Middle School eighth-grader Kara Gladstone, 13, works with violist Craig Mumm in a master class. At left, Miss Gladstone plays a selection of Georg Philipp Telemann's *Concerto Mvt. 4*. Gladstone was one of six students playing a piece in a master class critiqued and instructed by violist Craig Mumm during the day-long viola event.



Barron Collier High School violist Frankie Vitiello, 13, plays a selection from Johann Christian Bach's *Concerto* in a master class on Monday, January 19, 2009.