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## Franklin County Children's Choir concert set for Dec. 11

JOEL TURNER Staff Writer

Nov 21, 2010

Only \$3 for 13 weeks



The Franklin County Childrens Choir, under the direction of Tara Bouknight and Fair Robey, currently has 41 members, consisting of third, fourth and fifth grade students

Students in Franklin County schools are becoming singers and musicians at an early age -- as early as the third grade.

The young students are learning to play the violin and to sing in a choir.

At rehearsals and concerts, the students are serious singers and musicians who enjoy music. They rehearse regularly to refine their musical talents and skills.

Soon they will put their musical knowledge and skills on display for county residents in a formal concert.

The 2010 Holiday Concert featuring the Franklin County Children' Choir and the violin students of Franklin County schools will be presented on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m in the Franklin County High School auditorium.

Admission to the concert is \$5 for adults. Children 12 and under will be admitted free. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at Hall's Music in Rocky Mount.

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The Franklin County Children's Choir, under the direction of Tara Bouknight and Fair Robey, was started in the spring of 2009. There are currently 41 members, consisting of third, fourth and fifth grade students from 11 of the 12 county elementary schools. The choir rehearses weekly at Franklin County High School.

The violin program, which operates in cooperation with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, is currently offered to 70 third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at four elementary schools -- Boones Mill, Rocky Mount, Lee M. Waid and Ferrum -- and at Benjamin Franklin Middle School. The program is in its third year under the direction of Geronimo Oyenard, violinist with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra.

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## Violin students to perform with youth symphony

JOEL TURNER Staff Writer

Apr 3, 2011

Only \$3 for 13 weeks



Staff Photo by Joel Turner: Rocky Mount Elementary School is one of the schools in Franklin County where the violin lessons are offered to students. Geronimo Oyenard, a strings instructor with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, teaches the students.

The violin students in the Franklin County Schools Violin Program will have a concert with the Roanoke Youth Symphony String Ensemble on Tuesday, April 19.

The performance will take place at the Franklin Heights Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. Admission to the concert is free.

Now in its third year, the Franklin County Violin Program

is a collaborative effort of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Franklin County schools.

The program offers Suzuki-based violin group classes for third, fourth and fifth-grade students at four elementary schools -- Boones Mill, Ferrum, Lee M. Waid and Rocky Mount -- and for sixth-grade students at Benjamin Franklin Middle School.

Geronimo Oyenard, a strings instructor with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, teaches 70 violin students each week. The class sizes range from three to 10 students.

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Participation in these classes comes at no cost to the students' families.

The Roanoke Youth Symphony String Ensemble, under the direction of Joe Kennedy, is comprised of beginning-to-intermediate string players, ages 8-16. They 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.

 1 comment

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# Violin performance set for Sunday

*Students are taught by RSO violinist*

By **JOEL TURNER**  
Staff Writer

The violin students in the Franklin County Schools Violin Program will have their final concert for the year on Sunday, May 6 at Rocky Mount Christian Church.

The performance will take place at 3 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, and free for students under 12.

More than 50 young musicians between third and sixth grade will be performing, di-  
(See Violin on Page 8-A)



Staff Photo by Joel Turner

Middle school students who wanted to continue with the violin program meet every week after school at Rocky Mount Christian Church. The students, from left, are Gabriel Johnson, Caleb Hodges, Risa Philpott, Taylor Nickel, Adam Firebaugh and Carson King.

Page 8-A, Rocky Mount, Virginia

The Frankli

## Violin

(Continued from Page 1-A)

rected by instructor Geronimo Oyenard, and assisted by Fair Robey at the piano.

Now in its fourth year, the Franklin County Violin Program was created as a partner-

ship with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra (RSO) and Franklin County schools.

It is funded by Franklin County schools, Smith Mountain Arts Council, some local sponsors and fundraising efforts, such as the upcoming

concert.

The program offers Suzuki-based violin group classes for third, fourth and fifth-grade students at four elementary schools: Boones Mill, Ferrum, Lee M. Waid and Rocky Mount, and for sixth-grade students at





Courtesy Photo

These local students are members of the Franklin County violin program. They will be part of a holiday concert that will take place Saturday at Rocky Mount Christian Church.

## Violin concert set for Saturday

By **STACEY HAIRSTON**  
Staff Writer

The Franklin County violin program will present a holiday concert Saturday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. at Rocky Mount Christian Church.

More than 50 young musicians between third and seventh grades will be performing.

The concert will be directed by instructor Geronimo Oyenard and assisted by pianist Fair Robey.

The Franklin County violin program was created in 2009 as a partnership between the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra (RSO) and Franklin County public schools.

Oyenard, a violinist with the Roanoke Symphony, moved to the area after being offered a teaching position through the RSO to create and develop in-

school violin programs for Franklin County and Salem.

"One of the wonderful things about this program is that it provides children with the opportunity to develop a relationship with a musical instrument," said Oyenard.

Oyenard teaches group lessons, free of charge, at three different elementary schools and middle school students meet once a week after school at Rocky Mount Christian Church.

The Franklin County Education Foundation provides a limited number of instruments to students who need assistance. Funding for the program is being provided through fundraising efforts, such as the upcoming performance.

"I'm originally from South America, and coming from a third-world country, I can re-

late to how difficult it is to have access to quality instruments and instruction," said Oyenard. "My parents have always been incredibly supportive and made huge sacrifices for my musical career, so I feel like it is my time to give back."

Admission to the concert is \$5 for adults and free for children under age 12.

Rocky Mount Christian Church is located at 120 South Main Street.

For more information or to contribute to the Franklin County Violin Program, contact Geronimo Oyenard at [goyenard@yahoo.com](mailto:goyenard@yahoo.com) or Fair Robey at [fair.robey@frco.k12.va.us](mailto:fair.robey@frco.k12.va.us).

Qualified violin teachers are also encouraged to contact Oyenard or Robey to learn more about how to contribute their skills to the program.



Friday, May 17, 2013



## Students

in the Franklin  
County Violin  
Program will present  
their spring concert  
Saturday, May 18.  
See details on  
Page 5-A.



Courtesy Photo

Students in the Franklin County Violin Program will present their spring concert Saturday, May 18 at Rocky Mount Christian Church. The concert will help raise funds for the program.

# Spring violin concert is May 18

The Franklin County Violin Program will present its spring concert on Saturday, May 18 at 3 p.m. at Rocky Mount Christian Church.

Fifty young musicians between the third and seventh grades will perform under the direction of Geronimo Oyenard.

The program was created in 2009 as a partnership between the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Franklin County public schools.

This year, funding for the program is being provided by

donations and fundraising efforts, such as the upcoming performance.

Oyenard teaches group lessons at three elementary schools throughout the year. Instruction at the elementary school level is free of charge, and the Franklin County Education Foundation provides a limited number of instruments to students needing assistance.

Middle school students who wish to continue with the program meet every week after school at Rocky Mount Christ-

ian Church.

Oyenard has been a violinist with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra for seven seasons and maintains private studios in Roanoke, Blacksburg and Lynchburg.

Admission to the spring concert is \$5 for adults and free for students under 12.

For more information or to contribute to the Franklin County Violin Program, contact Oyenard at [goyenard@yahoo.com](mailto:goyenard@yahoo.com) or Fair Robey at [fair.robey@frco.k12.va.us](mailto:fair.robey@frco.k12.va.us).