

Pacifica fifth grader participating in Sunset Youth Chamber Orchestra

SF group performing at annual Youth Festival May 19

By Jonathan Farrell
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The popularity of video games and razor scooters leave an impression that kids are only interested in things tech and electronic related. Yet, there are kids in the local neighborhood who like to make music after school rather than listen to it on a CD player.

David Boyden, 10, who is a 5th grader at Cabrillo Elementary in Pacifica, will be performing at the 15th Annual San Francisco Youth Arts Festival on May 19.

Part of the Sunset Youth Chamber Orchestra in San Francisco, "David seems to really love it," said his mom Carol. She does not mind the commute to the city each week, where he meets with more than 30 other kids ranging in age from 8 to 19.

"Kids have so much energy. I want to help them channel that energy into making music not just listening to it," said instructor Tatiana Ganenko.

Ganenko understands that kids especially around David's age (from about 10 to 13 years old) often get bored playing music. "All I do is challenge them. This keeps the group alive!" she said.

Ganenko added, "By doing my own arrangements for students at any level (of playing skill) they can be part of an orchestra. Some children are taught a method where they learn a composition

by ear. I want them to learn how to read music, she said. "This way they learn to play the music as it was written."

Relying mostly on the classics and some contemporary pieces, Ganenko also believes that it is very essential for music students to accompany live singers.

"This is very good for them," she said. "This helps them to understand what it is like to be with an orchestra."

Ganenko is delighted that SF Opera singers Kristin Clayton and Bojan Knezevic have accepted the students' invitation to sing for their performance at the Festival being held at Yerba Buena Gardens.

Since the winter of 1999, Ganenko has been helping students advance in their skills at learning to play music. She is the founder and director of the orchestra and will be holding auditions in the fall.

For more information about SYCO and their upcoming performance and auditions, please call: 415-242-9057.

If anyone is interested in helping Ms. Ganenko form SYCO into a nonprofit organization please send email to info@sunsetyouthorchestra.com or visit the web site at www.sunsetyouthorchestra.com.