

STARTING YOUNG

Music education is an important element of LGSO's mission.

"The board really made educational outreach a priority from the earliest days of the orchestra," says Anderson. "It's our goal to enrich the music education in the area, and we're lucky to have such a strong music education program in our area schools in the first place."

Once a year, LGSO performs in several community schools. Players are asked to take off work for this, and "we always find plenty of people willing and eager to do that in order to share music with kids," Anderson says. LGSO usually goes to three schools that day and teaches students about the instruments in the orchestra, their sounds and how music works. On one piece, the students are invited to walk through the orchestra, look at each instrument and pay attention to the sounds they make up close. "We hope this will inspire them to try learning a new instrument through their school program."

Last year, Anderson involved the local schools in LGSO's winter concert. During that concert, the orchestra planned to play "Pictures and Exhibition" by Mussorgsky, a piece originally inspired by paintings. LGSO worked with local art teachers and made it a music and art project to teach the many ways the two art forms can be related. Anderson created a workbook guide and provided a recording of the piece, and the kids created works of art based on the sounds they heard.

"There were quite a few schools involved in this, and we were able to compile a multimedia presentation of student art that was exhibited at the concert," says Anderson.

Along with the Lake Geneva Rotary Association, LGSO is reviving a local scholarship contest for aspiring musicians this year: the Neal Heffernan Young Artist Scholarship. High school students will audition before LGSO members for the scholarship, and the winner will be invited to play with the orchestra in a concert.

Brandon Kreuder of Burlington, a former student musician who now studies violin



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