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Allegro Orchestra Camp artistic director William Stuber conducted philharmonic orchestra students during the camp at Wayzata Community Church. "Summer camp is ...intensive," Stuber said. "And students don't have the school year to distract them."

Leading Allegro at a lively tempo

• William Stuber of Shakopee is the force behind the Allegro Orchestra Camp in Wayzata, which is in its eighth year and has grown from 20 students to more than 150.

By EMILY JOHNS
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Shakopee resident William Stuber has always preferred orchestras over bands.

Sure, he played clarinet in a band in high school, but as soon as he played in his first youth orchestra in 10th grade, he was hooked.

"I much prefer to perform with strings than with winds," said Stuber, 43, who has a bachelor's degree in clarinet performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio and a master's degree in performance from the Juilliard School in New York. "With a band, there's not a lot of variation in sounds and colors. When you add the strings, it brings out separate colors among the winds. It's the most amazing sound."

Stuber is the founder, artistic director and workhorse behind the Allegro Orchestra Camp, which will spend its eighth summer at the Wayzata Community Church in Wayzata. The day camp started Monday and will run through June 29.

Stuber sat down with Star Tribune South reporter Emily Johns to answer a few questions about his camp, the inspiration behind it and how he put it together. Responses have been edited for length.

Q What appeals to you about teaching at the camp?

A Personally, it's really cool to work with young people. They have an enthusiasm about it, something that some professionals have lost. The camp is also something that wasn't really offered around this area before. Summer camp is also good because it's intensive, and students don't have the school year to distract them.

Q What do you do outside of the Allegro Orchestra Camp?

A I used to be a private teacher, but then the demands of the camp got to be a lot. Not only am I the artistic director, but I do a lot of the administrative work, something a lot of artistic directors don't have to do. Also, I conduct the Allegro Sinfonia (an adult community orchestra based at the church), and that season runs from September to May.

ALLEGRO CON BRIO TO PERFORM

Allegro Con Brio will perform Friday at the Wayzata Community Church, 125 E. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata. The concert, called "All That Jazz," will look at jazz influences in orchestra music. With 11-year-old pianist Colton Peltier, the orchestra will perform Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and other selections. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$10 for students, and they are available at the door, by calling 952-258-0394 or visiting www.allegronotes.org.

Q What were some challenges you had to overcome while establishing the camp?

A The biggest challenge was getting the word out. It's an incredible amount of work, sending out thousands of letters to every band and orchestra teacher in the Twin Cities area. Also, creating the right image with these teachers of what the camp is about. One year I visited probably every middle school and high school in the Twin Cities. I took about five minutes of rehearsal time to talk about what the camp was. This year we printed 15,000 fliers. I don't think we used them all, but you never know.

Q You're a clarinet player. What made you want to conduct?

A There's nothing in the world that's greater than playing a clarinet in an orchestra. That said, conducting an or-

chestra is out of this world. There's no instrument like an orchestra, there's just such an incredible amount of power. Not in an ego sense, but in the sense that it's powerful music."

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