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# school news



Photographs by JENNIFER SIMONSON • jsimonson@startribune.com

Richard Marshall, left, a Plymouth resident and a viola player with the Minnesota Orchestra, worked with 16-year-old Sara Sneed during a master class at the Allegro Orchestra Camp. He complimented Sneed's playing (she has been playing viola for seven years) and advised her to practice with a mirror to improve her bow technique.

## Students, pros: All together now

• The ninth annual Allegro Orchestra Camp at Wayzata Community Church pairs aspiring young musicians with professional musicians in the Twin Cities.

By PATRICE RELERFORD  
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The students at the Allegro Orchestra Camp know how to read music and many have played one or more instruments for several years.

That's a given.

But what the more than 20 students who worked with Richard Marshall of Plymouth, co-principal viola player in the Minnesota Orchestra, last week received went well beyond reading and playing notes from a page.

As part of the camp, more than 150 students in grades 3 through 12 spent about five hours each day at Wayzata Community Church, learning about how Marshall and other professional musicians from the Twin Cities make music come alive.

Then they worked with the professionals themselves in one of four orchestras based on their age and experience level.

Each day students worked in small group sectionals, attended full orchestra rehearsals in the church's sanctuary, and took part in master classes for each instrument taught by musicians from the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, as well as



One of four student orchestras at the camp practiced in the sanctuary at Wayzata Community Church. The more than 150 participating students practiced in groups and orchestras and took master classes.

various guest artists.

"Bill's always striving for the highest artistic quality," Carley Miller Stuber said about her husband, William Stuber, the camp's artistic director. Stuber founded the camp nearly a decade ago with 20 to 25 students, and it has grown steadily since.

Earlier this summer Stuber arranged for students in the camp's advanced philharmonic orchestra to play with the camp's professional orchestra in residence, Allegro Con Brio, which he conducts.

The camp ended last week, but before it was over students had racked up tons of advice.

"Eighty-percent of string playing is in the bow arm,"

Marshall said as he held up his right hand. "This is where you separate the women from the girls and the boys from the men."

He was working with Sara Sneed, a 16-year-old Wayzata High School student, and critiqued her performance of a sonata in front of a class filled with students of various ages.

She was the first of three students who played for and with Marshall that day. He said she was a good player (she's been playing for seven years), but told her to practice in front of a mirror to make sure that her bow always finds the best point of contact with the strings.

But after she worked with

Marshall for about 20 minutes, the whole class could hear the difference.

"This is where you have to believe the old fogeys," Marshall said to the class. "It's already a much better sound."

Many of the students giggled at Marshall's word choice, but arms went up when he asked the class to recite the "big three" keys to good bowing: pressure on the bow, speed of bowing, and consistent contact with the strings.

Now Sneed and the other students who worked one-on-one with Marshall—16-year-old Wayzata High School student John Samson and 15-year-old Edina High School student Emma Lofthus—have to build

### CAMP TUITION, SCHOLARSHIPS AND DISCOUNTS

This year Allegro Orchestra Camp cost \$400 per student, but discounts are available for those who apply early.

The program also offers the Lucker Camp Scholarship Program, named after Wayzata Community Church's music coordinator and organist Diana Lee Lucker, for eligible students.

For more information, visit [www.allegronotes.org](http://www.allegronotes.org) or call 952-258-0394.

on what they learned by practicing. They've played the viola for nine and six years, respectively.

"I thought it was valuable input," Samson said.

Of the three students who played with Marshall, Samson was the only one who said he may pursue music as a career. Sneed and Lofthus weren't sure about playing professionally but said they're committed to improving their skills and continuing to play the viola as a hobby.

After the class was finished, Marshall said his favorite aspect of being a musician is performing. "But showing someone how to get from step A to step B is worth more than the music."

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