

## Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras Partners With Wehner School of the Arts for Clay County Site

Jacksonville, FL (October 17, 2016) --- The Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras (JSYO) will partner with Wehner School of the Arts at 430 College Dr. in Middleburg to provide a Clay County site for students seeking involvement with the youth orchestras. JSYO is under the direction of Scott C. Gregg, Youth Orchestra Music Director and Principal Conductor. The Clay County site conductor is Symphony Teaching Artist and violinist Naira Underwood-Cola. This will be the second practice site for JSYO and is designed to serve young string instruments musicians who are not yet enrolled in the program and who are brand new to instrumental study or in the beginning to intermediate stages.

The JSYO served 285 young musicians ages 7 to 21 last year and has grown to well over 300 students this season. They are admitted through a competitive audition process (or interview for Foundation Strings I) and placed in one of the six levels of ensembles based on their ability. JSYO performs several concerts each season including the Festival of Strings and the Major-Minor concert with the Jacksonville Symphony.

"We believe that this expansion is just the first step in bringing JSYO's top level of music education to many more children in Northeast Florida and continue our leadership role in providing symphonic music education," said Kathryn Rudolph, Director of Education and Community Engagement for the Jacksonville Symphony. "We are grateful to the Wehner School of the Arts for their commitment."

"We are very excited to host the JSYO at Wehner's School of the Arts," said Kyle Wehner. "As a JSYO alumnus from the inaugural season of 1993, I never imagined how large and successful this organization would be after over 20 years of service to the North Florida community."

The JSYO will hold an "interest" meeting at the Wehner School of the Arts on Saturday, October 22 at 10am. Attendance is not mandatory to sign up for JSYO but parents must make an audition appointment for their child by visiting [jaxsymphony.org/jsyo](http://jaxsymphony.org/jsyo). Auditions and interviews with perspective students will be held on November 5th at the Wehner School of the Arts from 9am to noon with audition placement announcements made by November 8th.

Those selected will attend an orientation day on November 12th with the first rehearsal scheduled for November 19th from 9am to 12:30pm. Tuition for the program is \$279 and scholarship funding is available.

The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Hall in the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts and other venues

throughout the area. For more information about the Symphony, visit [www.jaxsymphony.org](http://www.jaxsymphony.org), like them at [www.Facebook.com/JaxSymphony](https://www.facebook.com/JaxSymphony), follow them on Twitter @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at JacksonvilleSymphony.