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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
News Release

Who: Williamson County Youth Orchestra
What: Review of Holiday Concert, *Sounds of the Season*, by Jill Fetters
When: December 17, 2010 at 6:30pm
Where: Brentwood Baptist Church, Hudson Hall, 7777 Concord Rd, Brentwood, TN 37027

Friday, December 17th, was an evening decorated with holiday favorites as the Williamson County Junior and Youth Orchestras performed their Holiday Gala, "Sounds of the Season," at 6:30 PM at the Hudson Hall of Brentwood Baptist Church on Concord Road. The evening began with a dessert and beverage reception provided by WCYO parent volunteers and donations from Kroger and Publix. Treasurer, Amy Phillips, opened the evening by welcoming all concert attendees and recognizing special guests from the Williamson County School Board and area senior citizens.

The musical portion of the evening began with the Junior Orchestra performing *Frosty the Snowman* which was aptly conducted by McKenzie Fetters, Student Conductor and Concertmistress. The remaining six holiday favorites were performed under the direction of Conductor Melissa Edgington. *We Need a Little Christmas* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* put the concert attendees in the holiday spirit but *Feliz Navidad*, the most rhythmically challenging piece for the Junior Orchestra, got the audience's toes a tappin'. *Carol of the Bells* (arr. Hopkins) was definitely the most demanding piece for the Junior Orchestra which they performed well in spite of the difficulty level! *Pacem Noel* added warmth to the program with its slower, lovely combination of carol melodies. *Jingle-Bell Rock* was the Junior Orchestra's dynamic closing song which brought the audience to their feet! The students exhibited enhanced ensemble skills in this performance and clearly enjoyed playing all the holiday tunes selected by Mrs. Edgington.

A brief intermission followed while the Youth Orchestra took the stage. Conductor Anna Maria Miller welcomed everyone and opened their portion of the concert, as is tradition, with *the Star Spangled Banner*. The Youth Orchestra's program was full of arrangements that included several medleys of holiday songs ranging from *Jingle Bells Forever* to *A Vaughan Williams Christmas*. With the added brass and woodwinds sections for this concert event, the Youth Orchestra performed with a very full, rich, mature sound. On the lighter side, they performed *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* bringing smiles to attendees' faces as well as a roaring applause. The highlight of the evening was definitely *Sleigh Ride* as the percussion and brass sections shone brilliantly. *Carol of the Bells* by Leontovich/Wilhousky, arrangement by Richard Hayman, was the last number of the evening which the Youth Orchestra performed with great precision bringing the audience to their feet in a standing ovation to close the program.

The WCYO Board made a special presentation to former board member Paul Ross for his 13 years of service



and dedication to support this organization through its infancy to where it is now. There were a several other former board members present who were also applauded for their contribution over the years.

Thank you to concert sponsors, Bottom Line Consortium and Tennessee Lighting Sales! Without the support of the local business community, programming and performances of the WCYO would be severely limited.

Many students in both the Junior and Youth Orchestras were recognized during the evening for having recently auditioned and qualified for Mid-State Orchestra which brings together top performing student instrumentalists in the Middle Tennessee region for 2 days of intense rehearsals culminating in a performance. The Mid-State event will be held in Murfreesboro, TN at Blackman High School on January 14 - 15, 2011. The Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association organizes this annual event. For more details please visit www.mtsboa.org.

The WCYO will continue with rehearsals after the holiday break as students prepare for the upcoming spring concert scheduled for Sunday, May 1, 2011. This concert will be hosted by Lipscomb University in their performance venue, Willard Collins Auditorium. WCYO musicians will be performing favorites from "Music of the Masters."

The Williamson County Youth Orchestra (WCYO) was founded in August 1997 to encourage musical excellence by providing superior musical training and a variety of performance opportunities for young musicians in Williamson County and surrounding areas. We believe that playing music together supports community among diversity enriching the lives of young people while encouraging a life-long love of the arts.

The WCYO is a 501(c)(3) organization. To support the WCYO please visit: www.givingmatters.com.

For more information about the WCYO please visit www.williamsoncountyyouthorchestra.org.