

## PRESS RELEASE: Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra

Children of all ages are invited to experience a Musical Instrument Zoo at the "Committed to Kids Expo" at MTSU's Murphy Center on Saturday, April 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. As in a conventional zoo, a number of fascinating creatures--in various shapes sizes and otherwise exotic forms--will be on display for children to admire and in some cases to "pet." Our musical menagerie includes all the major species of the family of musical instruments: brass, strings, woodwinds, and percussion Children are invited to pick up one or more of the instruments and try on their own to coax musical sounds from them, as well as to feel and admire their textures, shapes, and forms. On hand will also be the trained handlers of the creatures of our zoo, members of the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra. They will demonstrate some of the amazing tricks these musical creatures can be taught to perform. In his well-loved orchestral work "Peter and the Wolf," Sergei Prokofiev charmingly demonstrated how the imagination can discover marvelous resemblances between animals and musical instruments. Come and experience these resemblances for yourself at our Musical Instrument Zoo!

Since its foundation in 1997, the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra has earned a respected and valued position in the cultural life of middle Tennessee. The MYO provides an exciting venue for young musicians to grow musically and to have fun as well. The orchestra plays a wide repertoire of classical and contemporary orchestral music. Each season includes three subscription concerts. In addition, the orchestra performs at outdoor festivals and at special school programs, and occasionally plays alongside other orchestras. The MYO especially benefits from the unique program Strings Alive!!, which supplies stringed instruments to students interested in playing with the MYO. Led by executive director Ellen Gassler and conductor Susan Mullen, the MYO currently includes over fifty musicians between the ages of nine and eighteen. Affiliated with the MYO is the Preparatory String Orchestra, which provides younger, less advanced string players the opportunity to refine their reading and ensemble skills with the goal of eventually playing with the MYO. The PSO performs in concert with the MYO three times annually and performs in special school programs as well.

The Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra is supported by the Tennessee Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information on the MYO, visit our webpage, <[www.myorchestra.org](http://www.myorchestra.org)>, or e-mail the orchestra at [MYOPSO@AOL.com](mailto:MYOPSO@AOL.com), or call the MYO office at (615) 895-4513.