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Collier, Lee teens give jazz a voice

Collier, Lee teens with Naples Philharmonic Youth Jazz Orchestra rehearse on April 25.

Ashley Collins Naples Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Jazz music is very much alive in the heart and soul of local teenagers looking to continue the genre's legacy as musicians.

"Jazz is a really great form of music that allows someone like me to put forth their own creativity," said Gulf Coast High junior Blake Sorenson.

The 17-year-old expertly hit two soft mallets against the tuned metal bars of his vibraphone, similar in shape to a xylophone, during rehearsals on a recent Wednesday inside Daniels Pavilion at Artis—Naples.

The ground shook as trumpets, trombones, saxophones, and rhythm instruments like drums came together to play jazz music in the style of Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

The next modern-day jazz star could be part of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Jazz Orchestra.

The traditional big band, which includes about 20 of some of the best high school musicians from Collier and Lee counties, operates under the education umbrella at Artis—Naples. The ensemble, one of several youth programs at the local arts center, grew out of the success of the Naples Philharmonic Jazz Orchestra.

Led by Dan Miller, trumpeter for the adult jazz ensemble, the youth orchestra studies the repertoire and arrangements of jazz greats, including improvisation and composition techniques. Wednesday, Miller pulled out his trumpet several times during rehearsals to help guide students through certain arrangements.

Miller said it's often difficult for young students to learn jazz because they're not surrounded by that style of music in their everyday lives.

"So to learn arrangements done in the '30s, '40s, '50s and '60s by the great bands, these young people can then bring them to life and learn about jazz through that music," Miller said.

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Collier, Lee teens with Naples Philharmonic Youth Jazz Orchestra rehearse for an upcoming show on April 25 at Artis—Naples. PHOTOS BY ASHLEY COLLINS/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

'Fresh Sounds of Jazz' Concert hosted by CAPA

When: 7:30 p.m., May 2

Where: Wang Opera Center, 2408 Linwood Avenue, Naples

Info: To buy tickets, call the CAPA office at 239-775-2800, or visit capacenter.org/



Predators of monarchs and other butterflies

Following up on last week's monarch butterfly article, let's talk predators.

There are many predators of our beloved monarch butterfly. Let's begin with the main predators of not just the monarch butterfly, but almost all butterflies. Our many beautiful birds we have here in Southwest Florida have specific targets in the garden — adult butterflies.

There is a lot of misinformation about monarchs being protected because of the toxins in the milkweed they eat, making the butterflies poisonous. This may possibly have been true at some point, but birds have adapted along the way, and it just does not ring true anymore. Frankly, they are not so much poisonous, but distasteful. This misinformation is not helping with the revival of the monarch. Mother Nature can be brutal at times but I'm pretty sure she knows best. I guess everyone needs a little protein, even the birds.

Ants, which we have more than anyone ever needs here in Florida, will eat butterfly eggs, and caterpillars, no matter how big the caterpillars are. But a garden with a healthy ecosystem can support both. Like I always say, 99 percent of the insects in your garden are good bugs that eat the bad bugs if not bombarded with chemical pesticides. Remember, they say insects will inher-

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GET GROWING

Upcoming gardening events in SWFL

Shelby Reynolds
Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Workshops, sales and other garden happenings.

Native plant sale

8 a.m. to 1p.m. Sundays at Koreshan State Park, 3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero. Volunteers from the Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will sell native plants, answer questions and explain the fertilizer ordinance and invasive exotic plants. FNPSCoccoloba.org

Florida-Friendly Landscaping workshop

12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, May 4, at

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