

# Music in the Air at CJDS

Charlotte Jewish Day School fourth, fifth and sixth graders dressed in their finest to enjoy a spring morning with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra at Ovens Auditorium. This educational program was geared toward school aged children, who perhaps were attending the symphony for the very first time in their lives.

The conductor took the children on a journey through American favorites such as patriotic works by John Philip Sousa and 20th century classics such as the breathtaking *Fanfare for the*

*Common Man* by Aaron Copeland. Each composition was introduced to students and musical themes were pointed out. Students were delighted to pick out that distinct donkey sound in Grofe's *Grand Canyon Suite*, as they were whisked away for a brief moment in time to the stunning landscape of the desert-like terrain.

Reactions to this moving program were positive. CJDS student Ben Slane whispered, "That was great," after hearing Copeland's *Fanfare*. ZJ Gamlin summed it up by stating "That (concert) was

really lovely." Indeed it was!

A memorable day was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Richard Osborne for making this experience possible for our students.

### Letters written to Mr. Osborne:

Dear Mr. Osborne,  
Thank you so much for giving me a chance to see my first ever symphony! It was so much fun. I loved it! I am asking my mom if I can go again. You inspired me so much. Thanks again!  
Sincerely,  
Jack Gorelick

Dear Mr. Osborne,  
Thank you so much for letting me go to the symphony. I listen to them every day on the way to school, but to go to a real symphony was cool! I really enjoyed listening to all of the great American composers. Once again, thank you!  
Sincerely,  
Ethan Sorell

Dear Mr. Osborne,  
Thank you for allowing my class and me to go to the symphony. I loved seeing all of the instruments and also hearing them all work together to create some enchanting melodies.  
Sincerely,  
Caleb Usadi

Dear Mr. Osborne,  
Thank you for the tickets to the symphony so that I could have the experience of going. It was the best one I have ever heard. I liked the piece by Aaron Copeland because there is so much emotion in it. I also liked the "Star Wars" theme song because I recognized it right away. Thank you again for your kindness.  
Sincerely,  
Jake Lavitt

Dear Mr. Osborne,  
Thank you for paying for us to go to that excellent symphony. I particularly enjoyed looking at the different integrations of the instruments they were using. I've never been to a symphony before so it taught me a lot. I didn't know that they had 5+ of each instrument. I also didn't know that the United States had that rich of a musical history. The program we went to was songs of America and I really enjoyed learning about our country's musical history in greater depth.  
Sincerely,  
Daniel Cremisi ☆



### Larry Horowitz, CLU, ChFC

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## Learn. Grow. Connect. Life after CJP.

The Talmud says, "Our Rabbis taught: The father is obligated to provide the following for his son: to circumcise him, redeem him, teach him Torah, find a wife for him, and teach him a craft. Some say, to teach him to swim too." Clearly, teaching our children is prevalent amongst our duties to our children.

For many parents at CJP, preschool graduation is both a joyful occasion and a tearful goodbye to a beautiful chapter in their children's lives. At CJP, both students and families have connected easily to their Judaism. But after leaving our cozy nest, many families have a difficult time knowing how to continue keeping Judaism as a rich part of their families' lives.

Many parents aren't comfortable teaching religion to their children; many of us don't feel as though we have a grasp on the information (whether we were too busy flirting during Hebrew school to pay attention, or weren't exposed to it ourselves). Whatever the reason, having a religious

school to aid in Jewish education helps our children navigate in waters we're not comfortable in. Thus, joining a temple and using their education program can help transition our children from the day-to-day environment of our beloved Charlotte Jewish Preschool to a still regular Jewish educational environment. It's worth noting that Hebrew school is available beginning in kindergarten; a continuous education without any lapse can reinforce a child's commitment to learning.

Two of the most important things to maintain a child's connection with Judaism into adulthood are being a camper at a Jewish camp and visiting Israel. Start a camp fund now. In addition to local day camps, there are a number of Jewish sleep-away camps available. Our children will spend most of their lives navigating a non-Jewish world; camp is a wonderful opportunity for them to spend one month surrounded by people just like them (youth groups, which begin in third

grade, are another excellent way to surround your child with other Jews). Likewise, going to Israel as a teenager can be a life-altering experience. To really make the point, in a recent CJP PTO meeting (where we were able to discuss this topic with Susan Jacobs and Rabbi Micah Streiffer) one set of parents in attendance met as counselors at a Jewish camp, and another set met on a trip to Israel.

And, of course, there is the most important place to keep Jewish education going: as a family, in your home. Kids learn by doing. If Shabbat is a weekly occurrence at home, the children will learn the prayers. There's no need to worry about doing it wrong; an informal dinner with tea lights and plastic cups might be what works best for your family. Experiment! Find out what fits your family. You can maintain a Jewish education post-CJP, and your children can continue learning, growing and connecting with our community throughout their lives. ☆

### Autism Every Day

Nearly 80 people attended an evening program sponsored by the Friendship Circle about autism. A video produced by Autism Speaks, "Autism Every Day," was shown and parent advocate, Nancy Popkin, made a powerful presentation about her personal experiences with her son who has autism.



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