



Pam Parfitt



Dear Friends,

**We didn't realize what we were getting into.** When I first sat down with my colleagues and a few parents in the early 1990's, the need for an orchestra serving the students of Northern New Mexico was obvious. There were no youth orchestras in Santa Fe. I was working as a Suzuki violin teacher, and my goal was not only to inspire students to learn to read music, but also to provide opportunities for them to play music together. Without an orchestra program in the public schools, the time had come to create one of our own.

At first, we were teaching during the day while running an orchestra in the evenings--juggling lessons, purchasing music, conducting, and keeping track of tuition payments. We were exhausted! **By the end of 1993 it was clear that a professional conductor was needed to run a full orchestra.**

Parents stepped up, and with the help of Dale Kempter, then conductor of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony, we held auditions in August 1994 and hired Robert Wingert to be our conductor. The Santa Fe Symphony served as an umbrella for us to start fundraising while parent, Elaine Hausman, worked diligently to establish our own non-profit status.

The Santa Fe Public Schools provided rehearsal space at the newly opened Capital High School on Sunday evenings. Rehearsals began immediately after auditions were held. **I will never forget the excitement I felt when Mr. Wingert lowered his baton and a beautiful sound was heard, as if by magic.** It was a Bach Chorale, simple and perfect for our fledgling group of nine to eighteen year-olds. We had violins, winds and brass but only a couple of cellos and no basses.

**The first holiday concert of the Santa Fe Youth Symphony was held in December 1994. It was a thrilling experience, which has been repeated in the spring and winter ever since, serving to inspire more and more students to participate.**

**Now, 25 years later, SFYSA continues to fill a huge need in our community.** We provide music education and performance opportunities for students from 2nd grade through 12th grade in jazz, mariachi, chamber music, orchestra and early string education. Students represent 40 different schools in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico. We are focused on access and inclusion for all members of our community, providing opportunities for dedicated young players age six to eighteen to pursue music education and excellence. Sliding scale tuition, instruments for students in need, a snack program and financial assistance, make SFYSA an important resource for local youth.

**While music is what we teach, community is what we make.** Community support and donations made the origin and humble beginnings of the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association possible. The next 25 years will be just as important as the first 25. Join us today with a gift to our **\$25,000 matching campaign in honor of our 25th anniversary!** Your donation and your impact will be doubled. You will increase access to important programs, expand outreach efforts, deepen partnerships, and add music to children's lives.

Please give today!

Pam Parfitt, Founder  
Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association

*P.S. Your support provides tuition assistance, instrument loans, and lasting impact on the musical and overall development of a child.*

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Yes, I'd like to double my impact and support the next 25 years of SFYSA!

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