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A Note from Dr. Tim

Greetings. In this edition of *Touchpoint*, Charlie Brodie, Executive Director for American Youth Ensembles, shares the unique and exciting opportunity experienced by the Youth Ensemble members in Atlanta, Georgia and Orlando, Florida.





The American Youth Ensemble Program was created by Charlie Brodie to provide students the opportunity to grow and develop higher levels of musicianship through quality musical performance experiences.

For more information about the American Youth Ensembles and to explore the possibility of bringing this program to your community, click here.

Our Next Issue Featuring: An article by a Conn-Selmer VIP.

In Our Last Issue: **Becoming a Great Player by** Becoming a Great Musician by **Bernhard Scully** Click here for the full article

American Youth Ensembles By Charlie Brodie Presents Collaborative Concert

American Youth Ensembles, in cooperation with Conn-Selmer, is a network of instrumental organizations offering middle and high school musicians a performance opportunity outside of the school day in organizations comprised of instrumentalists who simply enjoy making music.

Recently, one of these programs, the Youth Bands of Atlanta under the direction of Mr. Freddy Martin and Ms. Erin Cole, traveled to the University of Central Florida. Their weekend was focused on combining with the Youth Band of Orlando, directed by Dr. Scott Tobias and Mr. David Schreier, in a collaborative concert.

A feature element of the weekend was the opportunity to work with guest conductor and composer, Richard Saucedo. The Youth Bands of Atlanta and Orlando each enjoyed rehearsal time with Mr. Saucedo prior to the concert, and then performed several of his compositions individually and in a combined setting. The insight into the composer's intent for each composition and the interpretive elements he brought to the performance enabled the students to present a truly memorable concert.

Of course being in Orlando for several days offered numerous options for the students when they were not performing, and in preparation for the trip, the students were given an opportunity to choose their activities their choices were not what we expected!

Saturday morning several UCF faculty members presented master classes for the students (an activity specifically requested by the Atlanta students), and Saturday evening included a performance by the Blue Man Group. Sunday, following the collaborative concert and dinner, the students chose to attend an outstanding concert by the University of Central Florida Wind Ensemble. (An entire weekend in Orlando without an amusement park, as chosen by the students!)

American Youth Ensembles was founded by Charlie Brodie and Tim Lautzenheiser, two individuals with decades of experience in music education - and two individuals who enjoy creating positive educational and musical experiences for students. Their goal was quite simple – to bring together the most talented, motivated and respected music educators from throughout the United States under one umbrella organization in an environment designed to support, augment and compliment existing school music programs.

Creating experiences such as this for band students is why **American Youth Ensembles** was founded. As we move forward, additional locations are joining the program. If you are interested in becoming involved – or if you know someone who would be interested in becoming involved - contact Charlie Brodie at: charlieb@conn-selmer.com.