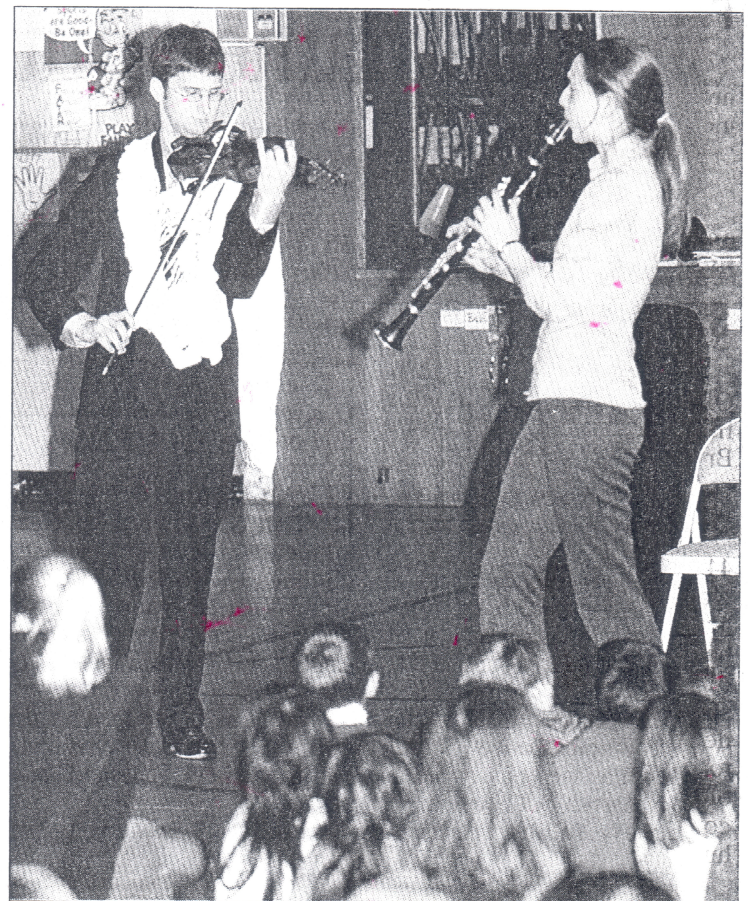


P.6A



STAFF PHOTO/JACK HALEY

Trinity Montessori students David Gibbs, of Penfield, and Ella Ross, of Fairport, clap during the Thursday performance.



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Eastman School of Music seniors Nick Hodges, playing violin, and Adrienne Berry, on clarinet, perform the overture from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" for the students of Trinity Montessori School in East Rochester Thursday.

Students taking note of music

Children at Trinity Montessori got a musical treat Thursday.

By SARAH DANIELS

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Nicholas Hodges took a deep breath and blew through pursed lips into the shiny trumpet. Out came a loud, bright melody.

Dozens of children under the age 6 shrieked and giggled, cramming their fingers into their ears. The trumpet blasts filled the gym.

"That was loud," one little boy said, smiling and rubbing his ears.

Hodges, a senior at the Eastman School of Music, was demonstrating how softly and how loudly a trumpet can be played, as part of a music outreach program at Trinity Montessori School in East Rochester Thursday.

Hodges and Eastman classmate Adrienne Berry taught the children about several musical instruments, including the violin and clarinet, and played short excerpts from works by classical music legends like Mozart.

Pittsford resident Dave Mancini, an instructor at Eastman, coordinated the

program at Trinity. He said programs like this one give children an opportunity to see instruments up close and ask questions.

"It's a way to expose young kids to classical music and jazz - things they may not usually be exposed to," Mancini said. "... It's entertaining, educational and very personal."

Hodges said he feels classical music is often overlooked: it is for this reason that it is especially important to teach others about it.

"Music is a part of our core," Hodges said.

Jen Ryckaert, music

teacher at Trinity, said she asked Mancini to give a program at the school after meeting him at a function at Morgan Middle School.

"I think it's so exciting for the students to hear live classical musicians," Ryckaert said. "I can play guitar for them, but for them to hear these instruments in person is great."

The program seems to have piqued at least one girl's interest in music. Trinity student Abby Frank, 5, of Fairport, said the program was "good."

"I want to play an instrument," Frank said. "I want to play piano."