



CUA Violinist gives concerts to help eliminate hunger

Since 1978, Jody Gatwood, a violinist and music professor at The Catholic University of America, has been giving concerts to help eradicate hunger. In 1984 he co-founded Artists to End Hunger and pledged to give 60 concerts during the next five years to eliminate this crisis. He has given 19 so far.

In every concert, Gatwood relates the music to the theme of ending hunger. He performs works like Olivier Messiaen's "Quartet for the End of Time," which was written in 1941 when the composer was starving in a Nazi prison camp.

When he began the concerts, Gatwood knew about only one composition dealing directly with hunger — Bach's Cantata No. 39, "Break Bread for the Hungry." But he soon discovered variations on the hunger theme in works by numerous composers, including Bela Bartok, who derived his music from folk melodies of Eastern European farmers.

(Some music is) "so beautiful it evokes the vision of a world without hunger," Gatwood observes.

Gatwood's concerts have a two-fold purpose: to raise money and to shift people's perceptions of ending hunger from a remote ideal to a tangible possibility.

"Niccolo Paganini did the impossible in 1800 when he wrote his 'Caprices for Violin,'" says Gatwood.

Gatwood joined the campaign to end hunger eight years ago after he attended a presentation and learned that 24 people die from hunger every minute.

"Hunger was not a popular subject then, because it seemed inevitable," he recalls. "The experts told us we had the resources and technology to end hunger, but that we lacked the public will. I saw that I could actually do something about that through my music."

Gatwood organized a marathon Concert for a World Without Hunger last month with the help of students and faculty of CUA's Benjamin T. Rome School of Music.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal
Sharon Michael and her two sons, Tommy, 4, and Michael, 3, listen and participate in the Saturday, Feb. 8, Valentine's Day celebration at Assisi House-Casa Del Amigo.

Valentine's Day at Assisi House

Children shared in a Valentine's celebration of God's love at Assisi House-Casa Del Amigo, 194 Lyell Avenue, on Saturday, Feb. 8.

The children began by cutting out hearts which they later used with a song that rejoiced in the beauty of all that God has given them. They also watched a filmstrip about a woman's discovery of love in the unselfishness of a child and the simplicity of a homemade Valentine.

Music and dance were used to illustrate the wonders of nature and gratitude for the gifts of one another. After reflecting on two scripture passages, the children joined in a dance and song led by Paula Dumont, director of Assisi House.

Jay Lomaglio, a parishioner from St. Theodore's in Gates, provided one final treat — a special Valentine's cake, which was shared and enjoyed by all.



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