

Encourage your miniature maestro to make music

By S. Derrickson Moore
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LAS CRUCES — Is there a musical child in your household? Take note of the tune that kid has been whistling. It could lead to a chance to appear and record a CD with a symphony orchestra.

The Hey, Mozart! New Mexico child composer project, now in its third year, is seeking original melodies composed by New Mexico children age 12 and under.

Children born on or after Feb. 28, 1995, may submit their original melody for 2008 in music notation or in a recording, singing or playing their piece. For an application form and parental letter of agreement, go to www.hey Mozart-nm.org. Melodies submitted

must be postmarked no later than Feb. 29.

"The focus is on the creativity of the child composer, not his or her technical musical skills. The statewide program had an exciting, successful second year in 2007 when 16 young composers were recognized. Their works, selected from over 100 entries, including tunes from two Las Cruces kids, Quintin Dean, 12, and Phillip Miller, 11, were

About Hey, Mozart!

► What:

Winning composers have melodies performed by an orchestra and recorded on a CD

► Who's eligible: Kids born on or after Feb. 28, 1995

► How: Kids submit original melody in music notation or in a recording, singing or playing their piece

► Deadline: Feb. 29

► Info and applications: www.hey-mozartnm.org



Above is poster art for the Hey, Mozart! child composer project. Las Cruces kid composers Quintin Dean, 12, and Phillip Miller, 11, are among Hey, Mozart! winners featured on the group's 2007 CD.

arranged for orchestra,

recorded on a CD and on Sept. 7, 2007, they performed their melodies and heard for the first time a live performance of each orchestral version played by members of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. A sold-out audience attended the concert and reception held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque," said Hey, Mozart! program volunteer Brookes McIntyre of Albuquerque.

Local 2007 winners Dean and Miller will have another chance to shine when they perform their works with the Las Cruces Symphony at NMSU at the symphony's annual "Pops 4 Kids" Family concert at 3 p.m. April 19 at the NMSU Music Center Recital Hall.

"Last year, the kids brought the house down when the Hey Mozart! winners performed with us. It's a neat program. It's gotten really popular and the Hey Mozart! people do such a good job working with school professionals and the kids," said Las Cruces Symphony conductor Lonnie Klein.

In the spring of 2008, 16 melodies will be selected by a team that includes 16 musicians, the project's music director, David Felberg, associate concertmaster of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and the project's artistic director, Alejandro Rutty, a conductor

and faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the originator of Hey, Mozart!

The children's melodies will be arranged for orchestra and recorded on the 2008 CD, released at a free concert Sept. 12 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, where each young

composer will play her or his melody and then the orchestral version will be performed by the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra under the direction of David Felberg.

The nonprofit effort is a partnership among Hey, Mozart! New Mexico, the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, the National Hispanic Cultural

Center, the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra and is supported in part by grants from the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, the ASCAP Foundation and donations from the public.

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