

NEWS

Sisters play piano for ‘pennies’ to help The Symphonia

By Jennifer Shapiro-Sacks

What started out as a recital for friends and family on Zoom, morphed into Pennies for Piano, in which 10-year-old Julia and 7-year-old Daphne Edgarde, of Boca Raton, raised \$500 for The Symphonia.

The sisters each performed seven classical songs on the piano as well as an original song they wrote for the performance. Throughout the recital, they shared how many notes were played for each song, and suggested the audience donate one penny per note, raising \$500 for The Symphonia.

“I feel proud of myself and Daphne for doing that,” Julia said.

Additionally, three donors matched the \$500, raising \$2,000, which will be used toward youth programming, said Annabel Russell, executive director of The Symphonia, which has the mission to “inspire, educate and engage the lives of our diverse South Florida community through extraordinary musical experiences.”

“I thought it was just incredible. I was mind blown. Their mother called me, and I thought it was quite extraordinary. It’s very uplifting that such young girls are doing something so special. You don’t hear about young children doing that, and it all started from having come from a program run through The Symphonia a few years ago,” Russell said.



Daphne and Julia Edgarde learned to play the piano after being inspired by the Meet the Orchestra program offered by The Symphonia. **SAPPHIRA EDGARDE/ COURTESY**

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Donna Klein Jewish Academy students Julia and Daphne Edgarde portrayed composers Schubert and Chopin, respectively, for their fundraising piano concert. **SAPPHIRA EDGARDE/COURTESY**



Piano soloist Lindsay Garritson and Maestro Alastair Willis meet sisters Daphne and Julia Edgarde who had a Pennies for Piano virtual fundraising concert to benefit The Symphonia. **THE SYMPHONIA/COURTESY**

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Sisters

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The Symphonia, recognized as the region's premier chamber orchestra, provides high-quality classical music for the enjoyment and benefit of the South Florida community. Its performances and educational outreach programs feature nationally acclaimed conductors and soloists, enhancing the cultural lives of residents, with special emphasis on the youth.

Julia and Daphne began taking piano lessons three years ago after attending Meet the Orchestra, a program offered by The Symphonia that invites families to attend an orchestra rehearsal and allows kids to interact with the musicians and their instruments.

The sisters have played the piano for over 500 consecutive days and don't have plans to stop any time soon.

Their parents, Seth and

Sapphira Edgarde, both love classical music and always had it playing in the house when the girls were younger, Sapphira said.

They also have Seth's mother's piano in the house and at the time, no one played the piano, so there was another reason to take piano lessons.

"We have this beautiful piano, and someone has to play it. We can't have a house with a piano that no one plays," Sapphira said.

Both the girls and Sapphira all began taking piano lessons three years ago.

Julia likes to watch her

fingers move as she plays and like hearing her sister play, she said. Daphne likes hearing them both play, too.

They both play piano for their family and friends on Zoom and Julia likes playing the first part of Mozart's Piano Sonata No. 16 in C Major, K 545 and a new song she learned from Friedrich Baumfelder. Daphne enjoys playing "Wild Rider" by Robert Schumann.

They'd both like to do another recital that raises money for a cause, although they are not sure if it would be The Symphonia again or another organization, they said.

The sisters are also both part of Philanthropy Kids in Action at Donna Klein Jewish Academy in Boca Raton, where they are finishing up fifth and third grade.

"The program talks about giving your time, your talent. This was a way for them to use their talent to then create the funds, the treasure. So, what started off as just a recital for family and friends, we didn't even make it a big thing, now we can publicize this more. A small thing grew to be something really positive," Sapphira said.

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