

Suzuki is Cornerstone of Community Music Program Dream at AU

1/19/99

Alfred, NY -- If you're wandering the third-floor hall of the Miller Performing Arts Center at Alfred University, you'll likely hear two ends of the musical spectrum. In one room, the AU String Orchestra is rehearsing Vivaldi's Gloria for a holiday performance. But from out in the hall, you can also hear violins rendering "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and "Mississippi Hot Dog" in quite a different rehearsal. Three students who are just about old enough to learn to read (age 5 and 6) are taking violin lessons from Ray Mills, an Ithaca resident who works as a free-lance musician and also teaches privately. "Bringing Ray Mills here to teach Suzuki Violin and various other string instruments is one of the steps the Division of Performing Arts has taken in trying to provide quality music education to the children and adults of our community," said Luanne Clarke, assistant professor of voice and chorus at the University. In Alfred, Mills, who holds a bachelor of music in violin performance from Ithaca College, also teaches violin, acoustic and jazz guitar, double bass, and electric bass to older children and adults. "The Alfred Community String Program is just the beginning of a dream of creating a community music program at Miller Performing Arts Center," said Clarke. Someday, she hopes the program will offer group and individual lessons on all string instruments, plus piano and movement classes for children. Anyone who wants more information about the Alfred Community String Program may call Luanne Clarke, (607) 871-2572.