

Manchester Music Festival
For Immediate Release
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Manchester Area Youngsters in Classical Music Recital

More than a dozen area youngsters ranging in age from 6 to 17 are tuning up their violins, violas and cellos for an upcoming recital on Nov. 20 at the Israel Congregation in Manchester.

These budding classical musicians are students at the Michael Rudiakov Music Academy which was founded in 2001 by the Manchester Music Festival in honor of its former director, the internationally-renowned cellist Michael Rudiakov. The music lessons take place at Festival House on Dillingham Avenue in Manchester.

“We have been doing recitals twice a year since the start of the academy,” said Joana Genova, an acclaimed violinist and education director of the Manchester Music Festival. This will be our twenty-third. I think the parents are always more nervous than the kids.”

Appearing in this year’s recital are Holt Bigelow, Victoria Biller, Iren Hangen-Vasquez, Angela and Samuel Kilpatrick, Andrew Loper, Eva Morin, Leah Mowry, Noah Murphy, Emil Qui, Laura Rosenthal, Emily Shaw and Simon Vogel.

Genova, who is also on the music faculty at Williams College, assumed the reins of education director this year from local resident Heidi Johnson who has guided the program from its inception. “She’s really been the driving force over these past 10 years,” Genova said.

The academy’s music faculty is composed of professional, classically-taught musicians. They include violinist Vesela French, cellist Jared Shapiro, Genova and violist Ariel Rudiakov, artistic director of the Manchester Music Festival.

“The recital provides a wonderful opportunity to see all different ages and levels of playing,” Genova said. “And of course everyone looks forward to having punch and cookies afterwards.”

The Israel Congregation is located next to the Manchester Police Department on Route 7A. The recital begins at 3 p.m. and admission is free. Additional information is available at 362-1956 or www.mmfvt.org.