

## Sandy's MusicGirls have had a great year!



Hi! I want to share with you all the great things that have happened this year with Sandy's MusicGirl Scholarship Program. Unfortunately, there is just too much to tell it all! So, I'll hit some highlights:

In March we held the 2nd Sandy Ridge Music Festival at Webber College in Babson Park. A monsoon rain tried to dampen our spirits, but we persevered and had a fun event. Thanks to all our event sponsors and volunteers!

The 2nd Summer Workshop for MusicGirls took place at the Lake Wales Arts Center in July. Thirty-three girls attended (see photo above) and took classes in singing, songwriting, fiddling, dulcimer, ukulele and much more. The world drumming and clogging sessions may have tied for most popular! Twelve volunteer instructors from across Florida shared their knowledge and enthusiasm with the girls.

Sandy's MusicGirl Scholarship sponsored Genevieve Printiss, Alelia Ingley and Alma Bamaca Velasquez to attend the Mike Block String Camp in Vero Beach this summer. This prestigious music camp promotes creativity, improvisation and stage performance. Our 3 girls had a great time and really appreciated the unique experience the camp offers.

We also supported the Sager sisters, Phobe and Catherine, to attend the Ami Moses' Fine Arts Summer Academy in Nashville.

Four MusicGirls performed at the Grand opening of the Children's' Garden at Bok Tower Gardens.

We held a series of eight clogging classes attended by eleven MusicGirls.

We hosted the MusicGirl Stage at the Orange Blossom Revue in Lake Wales on December 3. MusicGirls and other local youth performed on the stage in between the main performers.

Five MusicGirls performed at the *"Make It Magical"* holiday celebration in Lake Wales organized by Sandy's MusicGirl parent organization, the Lake Wales Arts Council.

As you can see, it has been an busy and fun year!



The World Drumming session at this year's MusicGirl Summer Workshop led by local elementary school music teacher Maribeth Mundell.

# Pluckin' strings



ERIC HASEWY/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Jada Rolle (from left), 12, of Vero Beach; Alma Bamaca, 14, of Lake Wales; Bunny McDonough, of Vero Beach; and Amelia Ingley, 12, of Lake Wales, practice a rendition of "The Cuckoo Bird" song Thursday during the first week of the annual Mike Block String Camp at the First Presbyterian Church in Vero Beach. "I love it; it's great," McDonough said. "I'm surrounded by people who love music, are passionate about it, and it makes you grow not only as a musician, but as a person." This week, the local and international students will learn melodies, chords, groove and improvisational skills by ability level. An additional week for advanced students will follow the week after. The camp's schedule for public performances, called The Vero Beach International Music Festival, and more information on the camp can be found at [mikeblockstringcamp.com](http://mikeblockstringcamp.com). To see more photos and video, go to [TCPalm.com](http://TCPalm.com).

Three MusicGirls attended the week-long Mike Block String Camp in Vero Beach this summer. The students formed small groups that performed at week's end for a public concert. MusicGirls Amelia Ingley (right) and Alma Bamaca Velasquez (partially hidden, 2nd from left) made the front page of the Vero Beach paper! (not pictured: MusicGirl Genevieve Printiss)



Hi everyone,  
When I started out on this MusicGirl Journey 2 years ago, I had little idea what I was getting myself into. I feel like I have been picked up by a tornado and dropped into a new world. People have come out of the woodwork to help, encourage, and support me and the MusicGirl concept.



My role has really become that of a coordinator of people, mostly women, who want to use their skills to inspire girls with music. And I couldn't have planned a better approach: providing girls with female role models to guide their development, not only as young musicians, but also as individuals. I've come to experience that it really does take a village to raise a child.



I am very excited about the upcoming MusicGirl year and already have a lot of things in the works. We'll be sending more girls to music camps this summer, we'll be holding another summer workshop, and MusicGirl campouts, jam sessions, and lessons are already scheduled.



I so appreciate all the support you have given. I hope you will stay connected and will continue to support this small and local project I've gotten going. Your contributions make it possible for Sandy's MusicGirl Scholarship to have a positive influence in these girls lives. If you are able to make a contribution, please see the information at the bottom.



Thank you so much from the MusicGirls,  
the volunteers and me,

Steve Morrison



From top to bottom:

1. An outdoor drumming session was held at the Ridge Audubon Center
2. Zippora Sanders performing "Going Up Yonder" at a MusicGirl "Hootenanny"
3. A happy bunch of MusicGirl cloggers!
4. The cloggers being led by instructor Krista Tant. Yee Haw!
5. Sarah Ullman and Melody Barker performed an original composition at the recent Grand Opening of Bok Tower Gardens' new Childrens' Garden.
6. Zippora Sanders sang at the Grand Opening.



Sandy's *MusicGirl* Scholarship is a project of the Lake Wales Art Council. Donations to Sandy's *MusicGirl* Scholarship may be made by mailing a check to the Lake Wales Arts Council P.O. Box 608 Lake Wales FL 33859-0608. Contributions are greatly appreciated (and are tax deductible!). Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to anyone you think would be interested in the scholarship.



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