



Ginger Lagemann  
Music and Arts Administrator  
(772) 562-9088  
ginger@firstpresvero.org

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**YOUTH ORCHESTRA FROM FLORIDA TO TOUR, PERFORM IN COLORADO**  
**First Presbyterian Church Music and Arts Department**

June 13, 2021, LITTLETON – The First Presbyterian Youth String Orchestra will present the final concert of their Colorado Tour at Grace Presbyterian Church in Littleton, Colorado, on Friday, August 6, 2021, at 7:00pm. Admission to these concerts is free to the community; a suggested \$10 donation will be accepted to directly benefit the Youth Music Scholarship Program at Grace Presbyterian. The church is located at 9720 US-85/Santa Fe, in Littleton.

During the Spring of 2020, Dr. Jacob Craig was approached by a patron of the Aspen Music Festival who just so happens to be a part time resident of Vero Beach and attendee at First Presbyterian. She suggested the group attend the prestigious festival for Summer 2021 and, without any hesitation from Dr. Craig, plans for organizing the trip were put into motion. The group will fly into Denver on July 31, 2021, and head to Aspen for three days of master classes from world-renowned musicians and educators, to include their first tour performance at their host church, Christ Episcopal. Following their educational experience in Aspen, the group will make their way through the mountains back to Denver. On the way, this group of young

Floridians will have ample opportunities to experience the wonder and beauty of the Rocky Mountains through hiking, whitewater rafting, visiting historical mining towns, and even a chance to explore the famous Red Rocks Amphitheatre. The concert at Grace Presbyterian will be their finale before heading back to sunny Florida on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Their concerts will feature *Serenade for Strings, Op. 6* by Josef Suk, *Triptyque* by Yasushi Akutagawa, and *Appalachia Waltz* by Mark O'Connor. "These works have incredibly contrasting styles that aren't usually programmed together", says Dr. Craig. "I believe this will give our clinicians a fresh experience as well as showcase the variety of talented musicians we have in our ensemble."

Dr. Jacob Craig is the Director of Music and Arts at First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach. Jacob received his Bachelor of Music Education and Piano Performance degree from Shorter University in Rome, GA before moving on to Tallahassee, FL to receive his M.M. in Choral Conducting and Literature under Dr. Andre Thomas at Florida State University. As of 2019 Jacob completed his Doctorate of Sacred Music in Performance at the Graduate Theological Foundation and Oxford University. As Director of the ACTS Choristers, Sea Oaks Chorus, John's Island Singers, and Silver Tones community choirs, Jacob is also a competitive Highland Bagpiper.

The First Presbyterian Youth String Orchestra consists of thirty-five high school and college-aged string musicians who love to perform and learn. Their ability levels range from intermediate to advanced, and some of them are studying in college to become professionals on their chosen instrument. They have earned first place wins and superior ratings at performance competitions throughout Florida, and traveled to South Africa in 2019 for a mission trip, where

they were the featured performers for the opening ceremonies of Liggiefees, a South African festival of holiday lights during the Christmas Season.

*The FPC Orchestra performs during services on Sundays at First Presbyterian Church, 520 Royal Palm Boulevard, Vero Beach. During special performances, the String Orchestra is joined by professional wind and percussion musicians from throughout the Treasure Coast.*

For more information, please contact Ginger Lagemann, Music and Arts Administrator, at (772) 562-9088 or [ginger@firstpresvero.org](mailto:ginger@firstpresvero.org).

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## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STRING ORCHESTRA**

### **Captions for Photos**

Left to Right:

Orchestra1.jpg	The First Presbyterian Church String Orchestra, Directed by Jacob Craig
Orchestra2.jpg	“
Orchestra3.jpg	“
JacobNew1.jpg	Dr. Jacob Craig, Director