

## Anaheim GATE Orchestra receives \$5,000

*By Loreen Berlin*

The Anaheim Union High School District's Gifted and Talented Education Orchestra just received a \$5,000 grant from the Leo Freedman Foundation of Anaheim.

"We are so grateful to the Foundation," said GATE Orchestra Director Julie Metz. "With the grant, we will be able to expand our program to more children in the community."

The GATE Orchestra provides beginning-through-advanced instruction on a string instrument such as violin, viola, cello and bass, to public-school students grades 4-12, living in and around the city of Anaheim.

Through the two-hour after-school program, those who might not otherwise have access to a musical education are actively prepared to participate in school and community orchestras as well as perform in public venues.

The GATE Orchestra, a 501(c)(3) organization's mission, is to instill a lifelong appreciation and enthusiasm for music.

"The Orchestra recognizes the importance of music education on the student's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development and that the Anaheim community has embraced the GATE Orchestra program, helping to continue to raise money through a variety of programs including snack-bar sales," Metz said. Former student Anthony Truong studied the violin in the Savanna School District as well as the GATE Orchestra and has returned as a teacher's assistant to give back to his community.



One young member, Riley Yazdi, 10, of the Gifted and Talented Education Orchestra in the Anaheim Union High School District smiles Proudly in his GATE T-shirt during practice

At the secondary level, Truong learned to play viola and cello and began creating compositions; one of which was performed by the GATE Orchestra a few years ago.

"Last year, Anthony started college as a composition major and came to me saying he wanted to volunteer his time to the GATE Orchestra program in order to pass-on to the young students what he has learned," Metz shared.

"These music programs," Truong said, "Were the reasons I came to school." The GATE Orchestra trains 200 students per year.

"Unfortunately, because of the success of the G.A.T.E. Orchestra program, we had to turn away children last year due to full enrollment in the beginning class," said Metz. "Our goal for the 2013-2014 school year is to make two separate beginning classes in order to lower the student-teacher ratio."

To accomplish that task, they needed to employ a second beginning strings teacher and assistant. "With the help of more specialized teachers and assistants, we will be able to make a larger impact on our students through smaller group lessons, more concerts for the community and level-appropriate repertoire."

With the 5,000 grant from the Leo Freedman Foundation this year, Metz's dream will become a reality.

For AUHSD GATE Orchestra information, visit [www.julielmetz.com/auhsdgate](http://www.julielmetz.com/auhsdgate)  
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