COLONIAL CLUB COLUMN

SUN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

## tudents perform Indian DISNU

BY TAMAR MYERS
Lifestyle Editor

Beethoven or Bach. But through a musical residency, Sun Prairie High School stunts got a glimpse of a new nd of classical: music in the n traditional orchestra music, "classical" often

"It's pretty fun," said SPHS violinist Noah Zezulka. "It's just really different and it's def-

and instrumentation of symphony orchestras in the West.
For 10 months, Middleton and Sun Prairie High School Zezulka is one of many orchestra students participating in a residency with Chitravina N Ravikiran, one of India's most awarded musi-Melharmony, a composition method fusing the ancient cians and composers.
Ravikiran is the creator of music with the notation

worked with Ravikiran and learned his compositions.

As a finale to the program, Middleton and Sun Prairie orchestra students will "Perform with the Maestro" on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. in the SPHS Performing Arts Center. The evening will also feature joint performances between the students and Ravikiran as well as other traditional music and dancing. The event is free and open to the public.

SPHS and Middleton Orchestra instructors Chad Whalley and Steve Kerr partnered for the residency, at Kerr's request. Grants from the Sun Prairie and Middleton

cation Foundations helped

fund the program.

It also received support from the Madison Community Foundation, American Family Insurance, Azur Global, Dane Arts and the Creative Communities grant from the Wisconsin Arts board.

Unlike the classical music

most commonly heard throughout the Western hemi-sphere, the Indian Raga is made up of a pattern of notes with characteristic intervals, rhythms, and embellishments, used as a basis for improvisa-

"He's taken the melodic lines which are unfamiliar to us and he's written them in a musical structure we're used to



Ravikiran Above: Spencer King and Veronica Magsamen. Right: Cathy Conover and Kendra Vertz Students in the SPHS Chamber Strings orchestra are participating in a program with Indian composer Chitravina N

reading," Whalley said.
Cellist Maddie Shipley said
she's benefited from the resi-

To have this really great opportunity to play a piece that's so reflective of a completely different ent style of music - different "I think an experience like from your classic pieces that you'd expect from an orchesthis is such a rare one for a school orchestra," she said. ".

opportunity to play music that reflects her heritage. Senior Lakshmi Vemuri is Indian and said she's had the

"This experience has been pretty cool because being Indian and being in Orchestra you don't really play a lot of eastern music," she said.

Students began the project in April 2015. SPHS hosted a large music day where Ravikiran performed and taught students about Carnatic Music, classical music from Southern India. Students performed and the India. piece composed by Carnatic composer Tyagaraja, who lived from 1767-1847. formed Ravikiran's re-created version of "Sheltered" off of a

work on it, 'I'm learning right along with you," he said. "...I've appreciated ... just being able to grow as a professional and hopefully pass it down to future students."

Through a video chat, students worked with Ravikiran and got his feedback on their

performance. The composer was "extremely nice", said cellist Cathy Conover.
"I personally felt like we could have done better, but he

was like 'you guys are doing great," she said.

Senior Kyle Boardman, who plays upright bass, said he enjoyed learning from the composer how to play in a new style. Like any composition, he said, "you have to think about a lot more than just what's on the page."

#### The following activities take place this week at the Colonial Club: Mertes speaks Breakfast Bund plays at 1 p.m. Feelin' Aerobics starts at 4:30 At 6 p.m., Mayflower 1 sentative Kim Hoffma present about exciting to Mexico and Hawaii ing Sept 2 and Oct 6. I Dancing meets at 7 p.i intermediate and advi

#### Monday, Feb. 15

ries and poetry. Qi Gong class begins at 11 a.m.
Sheepshead and 500 start playing at 1 p.m. Skat meets at 1:30 p.m. Low Impact Aerobics begins at 4:30 p.m.
Euchre players meet at 6:45 Foot care appointments with George Daniels, RN begin at 8:45 a.m. Contact the main office at 837-4611 a.m. and join others inspired to write memoirs, short stoto make an appointment The Joy of Writing is looking for new members. Stop in at 9:30

#### Tuesday, Feb. 16

schedule an appointment.
Crafts with Sally is a at 9:30
a.m. Covance will provide
FREE Health Screenings
today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30
p.m. Stop in to have your
blood pressure, blood sugar
or stroke risk assessment
done. Glacier Mobil Mart
and Hyland Park Assisted
Living are our bingo sponsors today at 1 p.m.
Computer tutor, Sheila, is in
the computer lab from 3 to
4:30 p.m. The Alzheimer &
Dementia Support Group
will have a sharing session at
6:30 p.m. Call Melody at 8:374611 to airange respite care
for your loved one while you
attend the meeting. A FoodShare representative will be at the Colonial Club from 9 am to 2 pm. Call the Helpline at 855-366-3635 the Helpline at 855-366-363 to learn if you qualify or to

Wednesday, Feb. 17

Join guest speaker Chris Mertes, managing editor of The Star, at 8 a.m. for Breakfast Bunch. The cost is \$4 for breakfast. Please call 837-4611 by Fri, Feb 12 to RSVP. Join Beva and friends for coffee and conversational Spanish at 10 a.m. Euchre

#### Thursday, Feb. 18

Sun Prairie High Scho Band at 1:30 p.m. to pe for the Day For Senior Don't miss this top-nc group of musicians! Jo Sherry at 4:30 p.m. for Impact Aerobics. Learn how to play from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. are delighted to welco

Beginning Euchre 1 at 9 a.m. American Maplays at 9:30 a.m. Wii ling. Bean Bag Toss an Dominoes all start at The Chorus and Band performing their Valer play at Prairie Garden Friday, Feb. 19

sentatives from organ tions including Gilda's Total Wellness, Alzhei Dementia Alliance, Supporting Active Independent Lives (SA Independent Care Hee Plan (iCare), Sweet Sou Hearing, Ager Chiropr Agrace Hospice & Pall Care and many more. cial thank you to our f Gold Sponsor: The William Sun Prairie. Free hee snacks, giveaways, scrings and presentations be part of the day.

For a more comple of activities for the mopick up a Courier new or contact the main of 837-4611. Mark your calenda the 3rd Annual Health on April 6, 2016 from 9 to 12 p.m. Visit with re

### EVENT UPDATE

The Boxes of Balloons fundraiser Feb. 13 has changed locations to Board and Brush, located at 104 E. Main Street in Sun Prairie. Boxes of Balloons

and #whitecouchproject hold photography sessio \$5,plus any photos they to purchase.. The event riftom 10 a.m.- 6p.m.

# TAMAR MYERS PHOTOS

Students from Middleton and Sun Prairie also attended a large-group music day in Middleton, went to the Melharmony Festival at UW-Madison and had rehearsals with the composer in February Dikshitar-Beethoven

Whalley said he wanted the experience to expose his students to new music.
"Hopefully, they have a little appreciation when we do

music from another culture — why it sounds that way instead of just 'stop it; it sounds different,'," he said. "This is really pushing them out of their compushing them out of their compushing them."

The program has been a rning experience for him

"I tell the kids every day we

## **LEARNING KINDNESS**



Fourth grade stu-dents participate in the Eastside Ele-mentary kindness retreat, an annual

