

bravo!

Bravo! music fest provides free educational programs

Daily staff report

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VAIL — If you passed by the Covered Bridge at a recent Farmers' Market in Vail, you might have heard a slew of squeaky violins, a circle of drummers and brass instruments. While it may have sounded like a lot of instruments being played at once, it was actually curious young musicians learning to play music.

The jam session was part of Bravo!'s Instrument Petting Zoo, a traveling exhibit that gives children an opportunity to learn how to play real instruments.

"The Petting Zoo is a program designed to inspire both children and adults to get their hands on real orchestral instruments," said Liz Campbell, Bravo!'s director of education.

This summer, you will find more Zoos traveling to various summer events in the Vail Valley, along with other complimentary education programs. This week, Bravo! hosts free performances for children called Live @ the Library today at 10 a.m. at the Eagle library and 2 p.m. at the Vail library. Live @ the Library continues Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Gypsum library and 1 p.m. at the Avon library with percussionist Dr. John Calm.

The public is invited to an open rehearsal at Vail Mountain School with the Miami String Quartet on Thursday at 11 a.m. Later that evening, there will be a complimentary pre-concert lecture by Artistic Director Anne-Marie McDermott in the school lobby at 5 p.m. On Friday at 1:45 p.m., children will get the unique opportunity to work with Don Luizi, percussionist for The Philadelphia Orchestra, at the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens.

"This is the third year Don Luizi has taken part in this interactive program," Campbell said. "Children will engage in learning rhythms and gain a better understanding of the mathematics of music.

"Being able to go out into the community with these programs provides great exposure for children to meet the musicians and introduce them to different instruments in a casual setting."

Celebrating 24 seasons through Aug. 3, the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival presents the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic and Big Music for Little Bands, under the direction of newly appointed artistic director and pianist Anne-Marie McDermott. For a full festival schedule, visit www.vailmusicfestival.org or call 970-827-5700.