

Improvised fundraiser cuts symphony's deficit

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Earlier this year, the Northbrook Symphony Orchestra foresaw a \$35,000 budget shortfall.

Recently, however, the sum was whittled down to \$13,000, due to community support and an unusual, spontaneous fundraiser during a Feb. 22 concert at Glenbrook North High School's Sheely Center.

At intermission, audience members tossed \$10 bills in a musician's tuba, collecting \$3,720, said Edward J. Amrein, president and member of Northbrook Symphony Orchestra. Within two days, two more \$1,000 donations came in.

"It's an outstanding recommendation from our audiences to be so generous. It's very humbling," said Amrein, the orchestra's second oboe player.

"Still, it's kind of a scary time for arts organizations. Contributions are down," he added.

Amrein explained the symphony's 2008 budget was \$343,700; that was decreased to \$250,000 this year.

He said the decision to not hire a professional fundraiser was the budget's main cutback.

Amrein also said the orchestra's outreach program for inviting middle school students to concert days for instruction was reduced.

On March 16, the Northbrook Village Board agreed to give the orchestra \$10,000 for the next concert season. In previous years, trustees allocated \$5,000.

"We felt Northbrook Symphony Orchestra is a very valuable addition to the whole community," said Todd Heller, a Northbrook trustee.

On April 5, the 70-member Northbrook Symphony Orchestra performs at Glenbrook North High School, 2300 Shermer Road, Northbrook.

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Zita Molnar socializes prior to the start of a rehearsal of the Northbrook Symphony Orchestra at Maple School.
(Jerry Daliege/for Pioneer Press)



Director Larry Rapchak leads members of the Northbrook Symphony Orchestra during a rehearsal at Maple School.
(Jerry Daliege/for Pioneer Press)



Carolyn Berger takes part in a rehearsal of the Northbrook Symphony Orchestra at Maple School.
(Jerry Daliege/for Pioneer Press)



Larry Rapchak leads members of the Northbrook Symphony Orchestra during a rehearsal at Maple School.
(Jerry Daliege/for Pioneer Press)

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