

YOPBC Receives 2016 Muse Award from Cultural Council of Palm Beach County

The Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County received this year's Liman Excellence in Arts Education Award from the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County. The prestigious Liman award was one of eight 2016 "Muse Awards" conferred. Winners in all eight categories were recognized at an awards ceremony and celebration held at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach on March 31, 2016.

Honoring outstanding individuals and non-profit organizations for their contributions to the cultural landscape of Palm Beach County, the Muse Awards program reflects the Cultural Council's commitment to enhancing the quality of life and economic development through excellence in the arts. The highly competitive nomination process pitted YOPBC against a large field of qualified contenders. What undoubtedly made YOPBC stand out as the winning choice for the Liman Award was not only the organization's exceptional 23-year-old history of introducing to its young members the wonders of orchestral music, but YOPBC's current initiative to make the experience of learning and performing music accessible to greater numbers of interested children, teens and young adults throughout the county.

"In my role as board chair of YOPBC, I am privileged to help our orchestra grow," says Stephen B. Gebeloff, Esq. "To be recognized by the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County for our accomplishments as an organization, has confirmed my belief that music functions as a motivator of positive change in the lives of the students in our program. It is the YOPBC's goal to expose our young members to great works of classical music which they might not otherwise have had the opportunity to learn and appreciate."

"At a time when many cultural arts groups are not surviving, the YOPBC is thriving," says Michael Fraley, YOPBC's executive director, music director and Symphony conductor. "We take pride in our organization's longevity, and look forward to continuing to teach and inspire young musicians from across the county – Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, Lake Worth, Jupiter, Lantana, Green Acres, Palm Beach Gardens and the Glades. It has been

proven by educators and human development experts that music changes young lives for the better. Look at our organizational history, current programming and future plans and know that YOPBC has taken this principle and successfully put it into action.”