

Fallsmead Elementary School

Baltimore Orchestra Creates Symphony for All Ages

Program Allows Kids To Play With the Pros



Katherine Needleman, principal oboist for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, coaches Robby Pine, a fourth-grader at Fallsmead Elementary. (Courtesy Of Baltimore Symphony Orchestra)

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The gymnasium at Fallsmead Elementary School in [Rockville](#) took on the sounds of a concert hall as nearly 85 fourth-graders lifted their recorders to join a trio of oboists from the [Baltimore Symphony Orchestra](#).

The clear sounds of the wind instruments filled the air as the students rehearsed their parts of a song that they had been practicing since last month in anticipation of last week's visit by the musicians.

"Now here's the trick. We're going to have to all start playing together," Katherine Needleman, principal oboist for the BSO and a member of Trio La Milpa, told the students.

"They're going to be playing, and I'm going to be playing," she said, nodding toward each group of fourth-graders, divided into sections based on ability. "How are we all going to start together?"

Needleman made it easy for the students by using an exaggerated nod of her head and oboe as the cue to begin playing. And for those who needed extra help following cues and staying on the beat, Fallsmead music teacher Cheryl Smoker played the role of conductor.

The visit was the second this year by the trio. The other members are BSO oboist Michael Lisicky, playing an English horn, and oboist Sandy Lisicky. The program is part of the BSO On-the-Go education outreach initiative in county schools. The free program, started last April, brings small