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## Harbor Springs Street Musique hosts Archipelago

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By Noah Fowle News-Review Staff Writer

Thursday, July 31, 2008 3:03 PM EDT

**HARBOR SPRINGS** — Practicing with a professional musician a student may find out what it takes to play at an advanced level. But let that same student play side-by-side with a professional and they may learn that what it takes is already inside them.

That idea is at the heart of the **Archipelago Project**, a music organization created by a pair of Northern Michigan natives, enjoying its third year with the popular summer series **Street Musique**.

"We put kids in our setting and they learn through osmosis," said Dan Trahey, the project's executive director and **ORCHkids** manager for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. "If you put a pure beautiful sound in their ear, they are more apt to develop that same ability. That's how the human voice works."

Although the summer program is more intense and challenging than a typical public school program, it generates a lot of excitement and inspires a younger generation of musicians. Blissfest founder and Street Musique organizer Jim Gillespie, said Trahey's hands-on approach offers students a valuable mentoring relationship.



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"It's rare that students get that real world experience playing a venue," he said. "Pairing them with a professional is the quickest and best way to learn and it might inspire them to become a professional themselves."

The Archipelago Project, named after the string of islands that run along the northwest coast of Lake Michigan, was created by Trahey and Garrett Mendez, the band director for the **King Low Heywood Thomas School** in Stamford, Conn. The two wanted to create a music education ensemble dedicated to advocating musical arts through performance. Each summer the two return to their childhood homes in Traverse City and bring in an array of professional players from across the United States and Europe to run a two-week schedule of instructional seminars and public performances around the region.

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Connor Brady, a 13-year-old junior high student in Traverse City, began studying the guitar and percussion a couple of years ago. He performs traditional marching numbers with his school band about three times a year, but he anticipates playing in twice as many performances this summer with the Archipelago Project — dabbling in styles from blues to polka.

“Performances are the best part of music because I like to show off my skills,” he said. “They teach us all about different music and theory. It’s a challenge but it’s also a lot of fun.”

The Archipelago Project will perform at the corner of State and Main streets from 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. today, Thursday, July 31. Other performers include the Bay View Brass Quartet, McKinney Washtub Two and David Youngman.

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