



Lake Worth High School received instruments as part of the *Todd Barron Instrument Donation Program*. PHOTO COURTESY OF PALM BEACH

Putting Instruments in the Hands of Students

Palm Beach Symphony has named its impactful instrument donation program for the late **Todd Barron**, a longtime Symphony supporter and the founder and first president of the **Young Friends of Palm Beach Symphony**.

“Todd was one of the first people who approached me when I joined the Symphony 10 years ago asking what he could do to help,” recalled Palm Beach Symphony CEO **David McClymont**. “I asked if he would start a support group of young professionals. The Young Friends now has nearly 100 members and that is a small part of Todd’s impact on our organization. When we made the announcement at our recent golf tournament that the program would be renamed in his honor, people immediately donated \$16,000 in his memory and to make this program a permanent legacy.”

The Symphony has donated 659 instruments and 1,200 accessories since the program began in 2016. The Symphony accepts donated instruments that are brand-new or gently used from the community. After completing any necessary repairs to ensure they meet performance standards, they provide these instruments along with any accessories such as bows, reeds and mouth pieces to school music programs in Palm Beach County as well as underserved individual students from pre-kindergarten through high school.

In addition to refurbishing instruments, the *Todd Barron Instrument Donation Fund* will also enable the Symphony to purchase new instruments and accessories on an as needed basis as well as the upper level instruments and accessories for the Symphony’s annual *Lisa Bruna B-Major Award* for high school seniors who will pursue music as their major in college.

Barron passed away January 25th after a long battle with Ewing’s Sarcoma, an extremely rare bone and soft tissue cancer. He was extremely active in the community and held the position of president of the executive board of the Boys and Girls Club of Wellington, where he worked tirelessly to bring music into the lives of the club members and lead the creation of a choral program. He also volunteered his time and innate skill as an auctioneer to help raise millions of dollars for local charities including the Maltz Jupiter Theatre; the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County and Wellington; Goodwill Industries; the Transplant Foundation; Mike Schmidt’s Winner’s Circle Charities; and the Sarcoma Foundation of America.

Those interested in donating an instrument may visit the music programs page at PalmBeachSymphony.org or call 561.655.2657 to learn the instruments the program accepts.