

Release Date: Immediately

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MIAMI BEACH – Clean out your attic and donate your used computer equipment and musical instruments to the Sobe Music Institute to enable its students to fulfill their dream of a high quality music education this summer.

According to Executive Artistic Director Carson Kievman, the Institute was able to meet its fund-raising goal to operate its Summer Music Program but is in dire need of computer equipment and musical instruments.

“We’ll be able to operate the school but we need to have enough instruments for the students to play and to take home for practice at night and on weekends. They need to be able to do that so they can keep up the momentum and enthusiasm they get in class and have a significantly enhanced learning experience,” he said.

The school is also seeking 10 computers for its educational program. All types of musical instruments are needed. Donations of new computer equipment and instruments are also welcome. All donations are tax-deductible.

The Sobe Music Institute runs from June 11-Aug. 4 and offers music lessons and related activities for children, teenagers, adults and senior citizens. Senior citizens and students ages 6-18 who meet income qualifications attend free; others pay a sharply reduced cost for such high caliber musical instruction.

“At a time where there is significantly decreased funding of the arts on a national level, we have a mandate to promote it and a grassroots program like this is the best way of doing that,” said Gail Thompson, chairman of the Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council.

Since opening 18 months ago, the SoBe Music Institute has provided top-quality instruction to hundreds of students, fostering a greater understanding, appreciation and practice of music and the arts.

Classes are taught by the SoBe Music Institute’s 32-member faculty, which is comprised of professional musicians who perform with the Miami City Ballet Orchestra, the Florida Grand Opera Orchestra, New World Symphony and in various chamber ensembles or as touring soloists.

The summer program, run in partnership with the City of Miami Beach, is held at the Carl Fisher Clubhouse on 2100 Washington Avenue, part of CANDO, the city's new cultural district. "The SoBe Music Institute is exactly what CANDO is all about," said Mayor Dermer, referring to the Cultural Arts Neighborhood District Overlay.

Executive Artistic Director Kievman is a composer who has created original music, theatrical and opera productions for major US and international festivals and who served as the Composer in Residence for the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra. Advisors include Edward Villella, Miami City Ballet Founding Artistic Director/CEO; Laurinda Spear, Arquitectonica Founding Partner; Ray Breslin, President, Collins Park Neighborhood Association and Gustavo Matamoros, composer and Director of the Subtropics Music Festival.

The ultimate goal of the Sobe Music Institute is to build a world-class Institute of the Arts on Miami Beach, making high quality education in music and the arts accessible to everyone.

The Sobe Music Institute currently operates under the auspices of Mystery Parks Arts Company, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) organization.

For information on how to make donations, or enroll in the summer program, call (305) 674-9220 or visit [www.sobemusic.org](http://www.sobemusic.org).