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# Youth Orchestra on summer coastal tour

**By Michel Nolan** Staff Writer

Michele Tacchia has her work cut out for her.

Founder/conductor of Symphonie-Jeunesse Youth Orchestra for Strings, Tacchia takes raw talent and molds it into fine musicianship.

The 12- to 19-year-old musicians of the ensemble have won awards and been recognized for their enthusiasm and discipline under her guidance.

On Saturday afternoon, they will perform the kick-off concert for their second annual Summer Tour along the California coast.

"This orchestra has performed throughout the Inland Empire at Disneyland, churches, charity events such as the KVCR Autism fundraiser, and the historic California Theatre," said Tacchia, who founded the ensemble in 2008 with a grant from the Frank Plash Endowment, under the auspices of the San Bernardino Valley Concert Association.

Saturday's kick-off concert is at 2:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, 1900 N. D St.

The concert is open to the public

and free of charge, however donations are welcome.

Next weekend, the orchestra returns to Cambria for its second annual Community Concert, and then travels on to Santa Barbara.

The orchestra will perform a variety of works from contemporary pieces to classical works, including the Concerto in G Minor for Two Cellos by Antonio Vivaldi.

Next weekend's concert is at 7:30 p.m. June 30, at the Santa Rosa Catholic Church, 1174 Main St. in Cambria.

At 3 p.m. July 1, the Symphonie performs at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1500 State St., Santa Barbara.

Symphonie Jeunesse, formed to meet the needs of serious middle and high school students of string instruments, provides advanced training and study in orchestral and chamber music, said Tacchia, a teacher and professional cellist.

"Much of the music performed is at the collegiate level," she said.

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