

Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Thursday, January 21, 2010

'JOMP' into action

More than 260 students at the Joy of Music Program will be "JOMPING" into action Saturday.

The 19th annual JOMPATION at 1 Gorham St., Worcester, will see students of all ages and levels play their favorite classical, jazz, folk and contemporary pieces in an all-day celebration of music to help raise money for the school's financial aid fund. The event, running from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., is free, although donations are welcome. Students have been raising pledges for their performances.

The Joy of Music Program (popularly called JOMP) is a nonprofit community music school with an annual enrollment of 550 students and a faculty of 40. While enrollment at the school is up by 10 percent, the number of students seeking financial aid has also increased in these tough times, said Richard Ardizzone, the school's associate director. Families are applying who never sought financial aid before, while others who had previously asked for a little are now seeking more, he said. "Job loss is what most people are experiencing."

Ardizzone said the goal of JOMPATION is to raise \$8,000 to help meet this year's total financial aid need of \$100,000.

For more information, visit www.jomp.org. (Richard Duckett)