

Students get in tune with JOMPATHON

By Richard Duckett TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF
rduckett@telegram.com

It's a full day of music with a serious intent behind the notes. The day may even help "jomp-start" some musical careers.

The Joy of Music Program (popularly known as JOMP) at 1 Gorham St., Worcester, will hold its annual JOMPATHON from 8:10 a.m. to 8:35 p.m. Saturday to raise money for the music school's financial aid fund. More than 200 students who have sought pledges from family and friends will be performing non-stop at the school.

The musical menu will feature a bit of everything, said Richard Ardizzone, JOMP's associate director. Performers will include soloists of all ages playing a variety of instruments, children accompanied by their teachers, jazz ensembles, an early music ensemble and a creative dance group, Ardizzone said. Admission is free.

JOMP is in its 21st year. Regular class activities held throughout the week include dance, music and movement, private instrument lessons, voice, and participation in classical, jazz and chamber music ensembles. The school, which is for children and adults, was founded by Wendy Ardizzone, JOMP's director and wife of Richard Ardizzone.

Ardizzone said the goal Saturday is to raise \$10,000 that will go toward the \$105,000 the school is hoping to raise this year for its financial aid program.

"It's a huge commitment," Ardizzone said of the school's financial aid efforts for its students. Requests for assistance are going up, he said. "And unfortunately we have not been able to meet the entire need. We have people on waiting lists. Our task always is to raise more so we can take in more students, but we don't take in more students until we can raise more."

One new development on the fundraising front has been the "Hanover Scholars" program sponsored by The Hanover Insurance Group Inc. Under the program, six students from the Thorndyke Road Elementary School and Worcester Arts Magnet School have been taking music lessons at JOMP, Ardizzone said.



Joy of Music students will perform in this year's JOMPATHON Saturday. Photos courtesy of JOMP

