

## PUGET SOUND MUSIC FOR YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Hello, my name is Paul Manuel and I am the founder and president of the PSMFYA. We are a Washington State non-profit organization. We are celebrating our one year anniversary on June 20<sup>th</sup>. “We are an avenue for young musicians to meet other young musicians to play music together and enhance their knowledge of music and work as a team and a band through practices, performances, and competition” We started out doing the 2009 Daffodil Parade and took 1<sup>st</sup> place in our division. During the Puyallup Fair in 2009 we did thirteen shows mostly at the Community in School stage.

We have about 30-40 young musicians that come out and play on a regular basis, the average age of our kids is 12-17 years of age and some are 8 and 9. We meet on the second Saturday of the month at the Happy Days Casino and Family Club in Lakewood near Tacoma. It is a great venue and gives the kids an opportunity to play in a professional club atmosphere, with a raised stage, lights and great sound system. We have several bands and solo artists that get together with other musicians and jam, at times we match musicians up with each other to form bands. The majority of our kids carry a 3.5 GPA and spend most of their days practicing music, which is better than sitting around watching TV or playing video games for hours. We held a Kids Got Talent Show and Competition in April and had several bands and several soloists that competed and the winners won gift certificates and recording studio time. We hope to do another competition before year end.

My Bio: I am a musician myself and play Rock and Blues Flute (Jethro Tull) for over 35 years. Stage name is Mariano Silver. I took a break from music for the most part to raise three sons and did not go on the road, but played a lot of music around the house with the kids. My oldest son lives in Monterey Calif. And runs a window installation company. My next son goes to MIT and is working on his PHD in Nuclear Physics and holds four degrees, my youngest son finished UW and is in Italy on an internship. I got involved with some musician a few years ago that hosted a kids jam and then I came on abroad with an idea of having an organization that works with young musician. We have instructors and work close with a few music stores in Tacoma and help kids get instruments if they can't afford for one.

I want to promote these kids and their music and we are going to put on some three hour shows this summer and fall and let 3-4 of our bands perform, we want to do a CD to sell at our shows. If there is anything you can do to help promote our program it will be much appreciated, THE FUTURE OF MUSIC IS HERE TODAY WITH THESE YOUNG TALENTED MUSICIAN. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Manuel President Puget Sound Music for Youth Association

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