

MUSIC: THE RETURN OF FLEETWOOD MAC — 5D

LIVING & ARTS

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SECTION D



CARMEL ZUCKER / Daily Camera

Malva Tarasewicz calms her son Benjamin, 8, who is autistic, as they rehearse in their Boulder home. To hear excerpts of their practice, visit: www.dailycamera.com. Below, Hannah Rowinski, 10, rehearses with the Junior Youth Symphony.

Beyond words

Story by Susan Glairon
Camera Staff Writer



JONATHAN CASTNER / For the Camera

Music connects two autistic children to the world



JONATHAN CASTNER / For the Camera

Music Director and Conductor Paige Vickery works with young musicians during rehearsal of the Boulder Youth Symphony Orchestras.

They were unprepared for the diagnosis. They never suspected.

"Autism," the doctor said. A lifelong disability.

How could they help their child? At age 3½, their daughter, Hannah, recited lines from Robert Louis Stevenson poems. But she didn't have meaningful conversations. She didn't point to objects that interested her like other pre-schoolers did.

Her parents, Boulder residents Carolyn and Paul Rowinski, thought about lots of things. How she was a happy, cuddly baby. About the movie, "Rain Man," the story of an autistic man who smacks his head on walls and screams uncontrollably.

A second Boulder family. The same diagnosis: autism.

At age 2, Benjamin Tarasewicz was obsessed with strange objects. He would spin wheels on toy cars and sprinkler heads for hours. He flapped his hands in excitement. He rocked his body, banged his head, walked on his toes, tensed his body.

There was disappointment, utter despair: What will become of Hannah? How will I know my son Benjamin?

IF YOU GO

WHO • The Boulder Youth Symphony Orchestras Season Finale, Featuring concerto competition winners. Alex Kommodore, classical guitarist, guest artist. Concierto De Aranzue by J. Rodrigo

WHEN • 3 p.m. today

WHERE • Grusin Hall, on the CU Campus

TICKETS • \$5 students, \$6 seniors, \$7 adults; children 5 and under free

CALL • 303 503-5111

The parents were not familiar with autism. But they instinctively, and independently, turned to what came naturally to them. Music.

"The violin was an ideal therapy tool," says Malva Freymuth-Tarasewicz, Benjamin's mother and a violin teacher, who plays in the Boulder Philharmonic.

Paul Rowinski, a Boulder Suzuki violin teacher, also taught his daughter Hannah to play the violin. Both children began learning to play when they were about 3 years old. They are now accomplished musicians.

See MUSIC on 3D