



# The Becker Family Foundation

Becker Family Foundation Quarterly Newsletter

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## A Year in Review

The Becker Family Foundation was founded in 2018 to expand awareness of and appreciation for stringed instruments. The BF Foundation allows young artists to benefit from the use of high-quality instruments that otherwise would not be available to them. The goal of this program is to unite talented students and young professional artists with instruments and instructors of a quality that encourages their growth as musicians and enables them to communicate more effectively through their music.



Since the beginning of 2019, something extraordinary has been happening in the Midlands. Created by the Becker family, The Becker Family Foundation and Play it Forward have been providing talented children of all backgrounds with the opportunity to learn and experience playing on fine string instruments. As a non-profit organization, The Becker Foundation provides string lessons and access to exceptional instruments to local children free of charge, giving them a chance to excel in an art form that, for many families, would be otherwise out of their reach.

Classes began in February, where once a week students are given high level lessons in playing fine string instruments.

February also saw a trip to Bob Jones University, where student Katie Johnson was given use of a Paul Becker violin for a year and a half. "It's so important that these students have access to fine instruments for competition. A high performance instrument like those created by Paul Becker just allows for greater expression. With these instruments, students like Katie have the ability to compete on a larger scale and pursue her goal of joining a music conservatory," says Marilyn Becker, founding member of the Becker Family Foundation. About her instrument, Katie says "This violin feels like a friend and speaks to me. The message I am hearing is that together, we will learn to make wonderful music".

On June 6th, the group performed its first ever concert at St. Francis Episcopalian Church in Chapin, SC, treating the community and allowing the students to show off their newly acquired skills.

On December 7th, a quartette of players from the program performed Vivaldi for the Chapin Women's club event. The event was a success and gave the quartet invaluable experience playing Becker instruments for a hired event.

Next year will bring even more opportunities for learning, performance, and more. The Becker Family Foundation looks forward with passion to the opportunities they will continue to provide for aspiring musicians in the area.

Want to know more about the foundation? Read [this article](#) published in the Chapin Magazine.

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Want to Get Involved?  
**Here Are Some Upcoming Opportunities**



# Stringing & Singing with Sonia Lee & Friends

## Newberry Opera House

January 9, 2020

[The Becker Family Foundation joins with The Newberry College Department of Music School Performance](#) to bring this violin performance to Newberry S.C. A Dufford Institute for Cultural Diversity Event in conjunction with Newberry Arts For All (NAFA), The Becker Family Foundation & Newberry College Department of Music School Performance.

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### Becker Family Spotlight Carl G. Becker

**Carl G. Becker** (1887 – 1975), whose active career spanned 73 years and encompassed every facet of the luthier's art. After graduating grammar school at age 13, he apprenticed under a music store owner, William T. Lane, and made his first violin at 14 years old. Soon after, he began to work with Lyon and Healy, under the direction of John Hornsteiner. Once Hornsteiner opened his own violin shop in 1908, Carl G. joined him.



In 1924 he accepted an invitation from William Lewis & Son, a leading Chicago violin dealer, to become master luthier and instrument appraiser, with the understanding that

they would allow him to spend summers up in Northern Wisconsin to make instruments.



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## Student Spotlight Noe Garnica



Noe joined Play It Forward, the group of players sponsored by The Becker Family Foundation, in February. Noe has struggled in the past with certain aspects of communication and education. Through the Play It Forward Program, he has blossomed. Noe has seen tremendous improvement in reading comprehension, advancing several grade levels in addition to increased self confidence, proving that the act of creating music changes lives even outside of the performance hall.

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## Testimonials from Families and Donors

“Everything about the program has been incredibly positive. It has opened up a whole new world for my three children. Being able to actually play the music they love has been incredible.”

- Pamela Garnica

“We have enjoyed every session of violin classes with Playing It Forward. Our daughters look forward to class and learning new skills with their violin.

Learning with Play It Forward has provided our daughters skills in and outside of violin class. We have noticed that they are even more attentive in their other school classes and activities and they have grown to have great listening skills. We do believe that Play It Forward has been a part of their overall academic improvements this year.

We are looking forward to finishing up the second half of their first year of violin classes and hope to have many more years learning with Play It Forward.”

- Taborus & Takiyah Green

“The generosity of the Play It Forward program and the knowledgeable and patient instruction of Mr. Lynn have made it possible for all of my children to learn to play violin, something we never thought possible as it wasn't in our budget. We are grateful for the opportunity provided by Play It Forward and excited to see it expand.”

- Kathryn Graham

“We have been so blessed to have music in our home and lives because of the Becker Family and their charity! We so appreciate the instruments and their quality sound that we would not have otherwise. I appreciate that Mr Lynn makes sure that my children form good habits and hear good tunes and learn and to love music. We are ever grateful for the good foundations that are being built in my three sons lives. They are gaining discipline and commitment, good characters and respect, and joy and appreciation in music. Thank you sincerely to the Becker's and Mr Lynn and Mrs Ying!”

- The Beebees

“The opportunities provided by the Becker Family Foundation and the Play it Forward Strings Program are amazing. This program has fostered and nurtured a love for music for my son and has provided him with the unique opportunity to learn on amazing instruments that may not have been otherwise available to him. We are so thankful and blessed to be a part of this program.”

- The Brazell Family

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## Donate and Help Us Support Young Musicians

**\*\*For more information or to donate via PayPal or a credit card please visit [www.beckerfamilyfoundation.com](http://www.beckerfamilyfoundation.com). A link to our PayPal can be found on the home page.\*\***

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## A Special Thanks to Our 2019 Contributors

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## Instrument Donations

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Jennifer Becker Violins

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## Moments with the Becker Family Foundation



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Becker Family Foundation

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The Becker Family (BF) Foundation, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was founded in 2018 to expand awareness of and appreciation for stringed instruments. It provides services and funding for violin, viola and cello stringed instrument education, research, performances, and artists, to benefit listeners and learners alike.