



Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild

Silver Tea

Huntsville Symphony Orchestra
P.O. Box 2400
Huntsville, AL 35804
www.hso.org

Orchestra Size: Group 5
Metro population: 418,000

Presenter:
Nancy Colin
2702 Trailway Road
Huntsville, AL 35801
ncolin48@gmail.com

Project Overview:

The 47th Silver Tea was held December 6, 2012, from 1 pm - 4 pm at the Crumlish home built in 1826 in the historic Mooresville, Alabama (incorporated in 1818). All the residents of this charming village decorated the exteriors of their homes and several small shops welcomed the visitors with seasonal delights.

As the number of years indicate, this is a very successful and much anticipated annual event. The name *Silver Tea* refers to the use of a silver punch bowl where guests place their generous donations and the “silver” we hope to collect.. It is an invitation only afternoon tea held the first of December to kick off the holiday season and raise necessary financial support for the Huntsville Youth Orchestra. These talented young musicians add joy to the afternoon with their lovely selections. The Huntsville Youth Orchestra nurtures the musical, social, and educational development of young musicians.

Project Timeline:

May 2012 – December 2012

- May – Chairs were selected, the committee formed, the home was secured, and the caterer reserved
- June – Compiled reports of previous year for each committee member and distributed
- August – First Committee Meeting held at the Crumlish home. Attendees toured home to identify rooms to be included and how space would be utilized including space for the Youth Orchestra to perform
- September – Reviewed and updated the card files and addressed 1,700 invitations
- October – Participation of HYO is confirmed.
- November – Deliver traditional silver punch bowl to the appropriate committee chair.
- December – Event was held



Revenue and Expenses:

Tickets were not sold to this invitation-only event. Donations were the only source of income for this project.

Revenue

Total \$27,700

Expenses

Total \$10,600

- Food & Beverage-\$7,840
- Invitations & Stamps-(1700) \$1,750
- Rental of cups & plates-\$487
- Transportation & Security-\$375
- Miscellaneous-\$148

Net Revenue

Total \$17,100

In-kind contributions-The Home hostess paid for all holiday Decorations in her home. The caterer gave us a reduced rate for her catering since she was a guild member. The youth Orchestra members did not charge a fee for playing during the event.

Achievement:

We believe that the money raised from this event, which continues to be a significant amount every year, is the measure of the success of this project. The popularity of the tea is evident by the attendance – almost 500 people who came and supported the Youth Orchestra.

We have been hosting this event for the last 47 years and we always have a guild member who is willing to open her home. The Silver Tea is a much-anticipated event in Huntsville as it ushers in the holiday season and our efforts were rewarded by the positive comments and appreciation expressed for the afternoon of beautiful music and delicious food at our elegant tea. The event showcases the young musicians and reminds the guests of the richness of the young talent in this community.

Volunteer and Staff Involvement:

22 volunteers were needed including the Chairs

- 1 person is a catering Liaison;
- 2 guild members who catered the event;
- 2 Cloakroom Hostesses;
- 2 Dining Room Hostesses;
- 2 Invitation Chairmen plus a committee of 20 guild members who stuff and address invitations to the event;
- 1 HYO Liaison;
- 1 member to assign shifts; for the Past Presidents to pour punch and tea;
- 1 member who handles Publicity;
- 1 member who manages Reservations and Finance;
- 2 chairmen of Room Hostesses;
- 1 member who assigns people who will stand by the *Silver Bowl* for donations;
- 2 guild members who handle Security;
- 1 Transportation chairman;
- 1 member to take photographs;
- 1 Advisor; and the Home Hostess

On-Site Volunteers

- 40 guild members who rotate 1-hour shifts by standing in every room in the home;
- 18 Past Presidents rotate 30-minute shifts to pour punch or tea;
- 2 guild members who help the caterers by refilling dishes and removing used cups and saucers;
- 12 guild members who handle a 30 minute shift and watch over the Silver Tea Bowl for donations to the Event;
- 12 Huntsville Youth Orchestra members who play 30 minute shifts during the event

Staff

- The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra staff were encouraged to attend the Tea. The Huntsville Youth Orchestra staff attended the Tea and provided young musicians who performed.

