



New Jersey Symphony Orchestra musicians Debra Biderman and Jonathan Storck entertain residents at NCC Commons Senior.

## The Symphony Comes To NCC Seniors

Two members of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra performed a mini-concert for NCC seniors recently as part of the orchestra's community outreach efforts.

The musicians, violinist Debra Biderman and Jonathan Storck, entertained residents of NCC Commons Senior in the building's community room before packing up their instruments and heading up South Orange Avenue to the Adult Medical Day Care located in NCC's Extended Care Center.

"I loved it. It took me back," said James Dobson, a resident of Commons Senior, who said he really enjoyed the hour-long program the musicians performed in his building.

Biderman was playing a violin made in 1740 in Italy that is part of a collection of vintage instruments owned by the New Jersey Symphony. It was while attending public school that she began playing the violin, explaining, "it changed my life."

"I wanted to do it. I enjoyed playing for people," she said.

Storck explained to the seniors that his instrument was a double bass made in England around 1880. Together, the musicians combined their sounds, treating the seniors to a number of selections, some of which sounded quite familiar. Their repertoire included Pomp and Circumstance, the song customarily played at graduation ceremonies, Shakers Hymn and Irvin Berlin's Alexander's Ragtime Band.

"It was nice, beautiful music," commented Bernice Williams, a resident of Gardens Senior who attends the Adult Medical Day Care program.

"I love it. It's so entertaining," added Otis Williams, another participant in the Adult Medical Day Care.

At Commons Senior, resident Henrietta Myrick said she recognized a few of the selections, including the old lullaby Hush, Little Baby. Rondeau, the theme song from the PBS program, Masterpiece Theatre, also elicited a lot of smiles.

"It was nice. I enjoyed it. I like old music," Myrick said.

Kate White, a New Jersey Symphony official who organized the outing and accompanied the two musicians, said she was glad to see such an overwhelming response.

"It's great to see so many people," she said, looking around at the room full of residents who turned out for the morning program at Commons Senior.