

## Donation Wish List

- **attractive baskets, tote bags, silk flowers**, etc. for packaging and package decorations
- **quilters** who could put in substantial hours in January and early February to complete a quilt with panels decorated by students
- a really nice **beanie baby or doll** to play a 6" wooden toy violin/cello (the toy instrument is already provided)
- an **ebay volunteer** to track and purchase specific collectibles
- **musical toys for small children**. A basket with maracas, harmonica, wooden whistle is already provided; we could use a xylophone, bells, castanets, pictures books about music, etc. (all items should be new or in pristine condition)
- **donations that reflect our parent/family community**: your own artworks or crafts, CDs or DVDs of your own music if you are a composer or performer, books you have authored or products you helped develop, services or gift certificates from your own business or your employer, a theme basket or tickets to share your hobby with someone, parties hosted in your home or at your club. Help us appreciate each other! (and be sure to tell us about it so we can promote it)
- **CDs or DVDs** of music by other members of the Crowden community, including alumni, teachers, and guest performers
- a volunteer to produce one or more **greeting cards or thank-you cards based on student designs**
- **printing services** for the preceding or other projects

You can find lots of other suggestions in the school newsletters. Tickets to sporting events and performances, golf foursomes, vacation homes, and wine always make great auction items. Buying and donating a gift certificate from your favorite business benefits both us and them. Or surprise us—there's plenty of room for imagination!



## The Crowden Gala 2008 Guide for Parents & Friends



(photos from Gala 2006)

*What is it?*

The Gala is our biggest fundraiser, a festive evening of fine food, wine and music benefiting the Crowden Music Center (and its two divisions, the Crowden School and the Crowden Center for Music in the Community.) It includes an elegant dinner with fine wine, a silent auction and a live auction, a special aerial acrobatic performance, and music by students to celebrate Crowden's 25th anniversary year. It happens on Saturday March 1, 2008, at the historic Rotunda Building in downtown Oakland.

*How much does it cost?*

Tickets are \$150 each. Crowden families, many of whom also serve as volunteers, may purchase 1 or 2 tickets for \$100 each. Crowden faculty may attend for free. Look for invitations to be mailed in January.

*Can I request that an invitation be sent to a friend?*

Yes! Contact Mary Lynn Miller, [mlmiller3@pol.net](mailto:mlmiller3@pol.net)

*Who will be there?*

We expect several hundred guests, including luminaries of the Bay Area music and arts communities, distinguished alumni, Crowden parents, staff, and board members, and many other new and longtime Crowden supporters.

*Will my child perform?*

For logistical reasons, not all Crowden students will be able to perform, but certain ensembles will be selected, and we can guarantee the music will be worth listening to!

*How can I contribute?*

**Donate auction items.** Each Crowden School family is asked to make or facilitate two donations. *In addition*, each class is encouraged to put together a theme basket or other group donation and an art project. Donation forms are available in

the school lobby and at the Gala page of the school website. Please get the forms to us before the winter break.

***Volunteer to help on March 1.*** Watch for announcements and the sign-up sheet that will be posted after the winter break. The dinner will be catered, but it is the labor of Crowden parents and staff that makes the auction happen. Dozens of people help plan and set up before the event, and many parents who attend as guests also serve as volunteers during the auctions, check-in, and check-out. In addition, a small number of volunteers work right through the dinner and live auction preparing for check-out (these are not asked to buy tickets). Of course, parents' volunteer hours will be credited to their yearly quotas.

***Attend!*** Plan to celebrate Crowden's 25 years with some of the generous people who have made it possible. Your purchase of tickets helps us cover the costs of the event, and you'll have a chance to bid on some wonderful auction items. Most important, as a current parent you will represent the reality and the vision of Crowden today. Your presence will be greatly appreciated, *and* you'll enjoy a great party!

*How can I find out more?*

Watch for announcements in the school newsletter and from the Crowden Parents' Yahoo group, and watch for updates and auction previews at the Gala web page: [www.crowden.org/CMC/Events/gala.htm](http://www.crowden.org/CMC/Events/gala.htm)

Or contact one of the parents on the Gala Steering Committee:

Barb Altenberg (8th-grade Zoe)  
Joy DiVigal (8th-grade Tyler)  
Cara Hoxie (5th-grader Ben and 7th-grade Phil)  
Fred Konkel (4th-grade Hannah and 7th-grade Oliver)  
Eileen Lee (8th-grade Camellia)  
Mary Lynn Miller (8th-grade Oliver)  
Dianne Pitman (6th-grade Margaret)  
Adrian Talaifar (5th-grade Alexander)