

Concert: Youth Participate

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"The band's been good to the theater for a long time and the theater's been good to the band," Arts Council Executive Director Philip Morris said before the music began at 8 p.m.

He also thanked the Chautauqua Regional Youth Orchestra and the Youth Gospel Choir from Immanuel Baptist Church for performing in the first part of the show.

At the request of the Maniacs, the young musical groups set the scene for the Jamestown band, which performed during the second part of the holiday program.

"I think it's great," Ann Castellano said of the band's efforts to include area children and support local arts initiatives.

In the foyer before the performance, Michelle Lolacono of The Resource Center's "Doors Program" said she was surprised the

ticket prices were so reasonable this year, at \$12 per person.

She had been to all the previous Christmas events the past four years and had brought some of The Resource Center's clients Saturday.

Normally, the Doors Program operates Monday through Friday, she said.

But "This is a special event where we could come on a weekend," she said of the Saturday concert.

"The program is designed to get people who suffer from mental illnesses out into the community," she said.

"They are really excited (to come)," she added about her fellow attendants.

As for Ms. Lolacono, she declared herself a die-hard fan, from the first years of the band's success.

"I'm an even bigger fan now," she said.