

THE SOUND OF VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE
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What does Victory Over Violence sound like? It sounds like the roar of delight coming from an audience of 1,000 inside the Friendship Auditorium at the Florida Nature and Culture Center. On May 14, participants of the FNCC Arts Division Conference came together with SGI-USA members of South Florida, their friends and dignitaries of the neighboring communities for their first-ever VOV concert.

Many youth and numerous local guests were unaware of the range and power of the Arts Division, but they quickly found out. “Awesome! I mean not just the music, not just the performances, but the whole message was incredible,” one young spectator said.

The program was divided into two distinct segments. Part one featured a variety of performances—break dancing, taiko drumming, opera singing and more. Part two starred Super Sounds, featuring Miami’s own Nestor Torres on flute, Wayne Shorter on saxophone, Shunzo Ono on trumpet, Kenwood Dennard on drums, Buster Williams on bass and Onaje Alan Gumbs on piano.

“Having a concert for the purpose of mitigating violence is a wonderful idea,” said Dr. Ijya Tulloss, a Barry University professor. “What made it especially moving was so many people of different backgrounds working closely together. It brought everything back to the diverse community in which we live.”

Please see pages 6–7 for more on the first VOV concert.