



Leslie McMichael photo

Harpists tuning up for the April 6 YouthCare benefit include (back row, left to right) Sophie Pawlowski, Mia Weber, Emily Brodie, Megan Thorn; (middle row) Bethany Eastman, Una Harris, Sarah Bang, Henry Wend, Masami Cookson; (front) Clara McMichael.

Harpists pluck strings for charity in Seattle center

By **ERIC HORSTING**
Arts Editor

Almost a thousand harp strings will be plucked in unison at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 6, at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center in Seattle when an ensemble of 20 youth harpists presents "From Bach to Rock," a benefit concert for YouthCare in Seattle.

Participating in the concert will be six Island musicians: Vashon High School students Sophie Pawlowski, Megan Thorn and Mia Weber; Harbor School students Katelyn Carter and Sybella Loeb and Chautauqua student Rayna Shinn.

When Vashon-based harp teacher Leslie McMichael gave her students the idea of presenting a spring ensemble concert for a charity of their choice, the harpists voted for YouthCare, a community agency helping homeless and at-risk youth

in greater Seattle.

Because the harp families all chipped in to rent the 285-seat Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, all ticket donations will go directly to YouthCare.

Harp players performing on the concert range in age from 8 to 18 and come from all over the Puget Sound area, from Seattle, Monroe and Bellevue to Vashon, Olympia, Des Moines and Kent.

The benefit, fittingly called "a concert by youth, for youth," will also feature choreography by guest artists from Kaleidoscope Dance Company and a certain classic rock anthem that listeners sometimes request — never expecting to hear it on the harp.

The Hughes Center is at 104 17th Avenue South. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth and seniors. For more information, call 206-898-4972.