

CORAL GABLES

Keeping classical music alive

■ Allegro Music may be the local classical scene's Alamo - the last place artists can help fight to preserve Miami's classical music scene.

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Inside, it resembles a small warehouse, decorated with dozens of violins and acoustic guitars lining the southern wall. But outside, Allegro Music is unostentatious, surprising for what some call a vital center for Miami's classical musicians.

"Everything we need, they have," said violinist Nicole Berriz, a 15-year-old student at Killian High School who will soon play with the Greater Miami Symphony.

Like her, thousands of Miami's classical musicians visit the store in Coral Gables since it opened 46 years ago. It is one of the county's only full-service violin shops and has one of the largest collections of sheet music in the state — 22,000 titles, imported from three continents and sold internationally.



ALEXIA FODERE/FOR THE MIAMI HERALD

SWEET MUSIC: Manuel Berberian, right, owner of Allegro Music on Ponce de Leon Boulevard in Coral Gables, with store manager Leo Waltz. The store is helping keep Miami's classical music scene alive.

