

The Newsletter of the Campolindo Instrumental Music Program

Brought to you by Campo Music Boosters

FROM THE PODIUM by Johnny Johnson, Music Director



Having just completed the first quarter of the 2014-2015 school year, it is my privilege to update our Instrumental Music family. Truly, this is turning out to be a season of great collaboration and cooperation among students with no lack of support from Campolindo parents and the local community.

Once again we opened our year with a pot luck dinner complete with delicacies and treats that were both gratifying and satisfying. What a pleasure it is to see the dishes people are willing to contribute to make a simple gathering an extraordinary meal! That was followed by an evening of pops music presented by our Campo Big Band, Symphonic Band, and Orchestra. For me, the preparation of this concert is the first opportunity to see new leadership emerge among our students having just graduated a class the previous May. The feedback we received was generous and positive, and more than enough to make this director very proud.

Our music students were featured prominently at this year's homecoming game. A pep band, organized by Josh Sherman, delighted the crowd with fun and engaging tunes performed with enthusiasm. Not only did these students volunteer for this event, they also met and practiced at lunch



and in the evening to get ready to wow the crowd. Josh spent many hours choosing and arranging music to fit the ensemble. It was a huge success attributable solely to student work and commitment. Thank you Josh and all of our student volunteers.

Meanwhile, the Snack Shack was in full swing. With most of our band students occupied with pep band, we relied primarily on orchestra students to step up and serve our customers. We are most grateful to Ellen Kirmayer and Nikki Brickman for heading up this event, as well as the many parent volunteers who helped make it a success.

Campo music students continue to be of service to our community. Combo C, our advanced jazz combo, provided entertainment at the Town of Moraga 40th Anniversary Celebration. Andrew Wang continues to organize string students for local performances, most recently serenading the residents of Aegis Living. Campolindo's instrumental music program was also showcased at the November 5th AUHSD Board of Governor's meeting. We were represented there by an apt and artistic string quartet and their performance was transcendent!

As we move forward, there are several exciting events coming up on the calendar. This update, which is published in conjunction with our Fall Concert, is usually late notice of the concert highlights. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that we have embarked on a special collaboration project with the choir program. This concert will mark the beginning of that process as the Campolindo Chamber Singers will be featured in the orchestra's performance of Gabriel Faure's Pavane. The collaboration will continue in December as Campolindo string students are featured on the choir's annual Wassail accompanying the singers in Craig Courtney's arrangement of "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and Ola Gjello's wintry creation for women's chorus entitled "Tundra." We're so proud to offer this opportunity to our students and glad that Campolindo High School has instrumental and vocal programs with the strength and depth to make this possible.

Fall Concert is also our first chance to hear and enjoy the Concert Band. I'm particularly delighted with this year's incoming class. They have caught on so quickly to what works and what doesn't in an ensemble setting and well understand the value of mutual support and cooperation as a means to success. Parents, be proud.

Mark your calendars for December 4, our annual jazz concert, this year called "Jazz with Friends." Joining us will be the jazz bands from Dublin High School and Dougherty Valley High School. Additionally, this concert will have a charity component as all donations will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Come and support our students and a worthy cause.

As the weather continues to cool and winter approaches, my heart remains warm from the constant support and friendship provided to me by students, parents, colleagues, and members of this great community. Many thanks to all of you.

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

Each year, all instrumental music students are required to submit four performance reviews (one per quarter). Jazz students must complete an additional two reviews (one per semester). These reviews comprise 10 percent of the student's grade.

The purpose of this requirement is to encourage students to observe professional, semi-professional or otherwise skilled players, preferably those who play the same instrument(s). By doing so, they can internalize the example of excellent musicianship and apply it to their own playing. A secondary purpose is to enable students to experience the cultural benefits of being a consumer of the arts, an experience they will hopefully continue into adulthood.

Since the purpose of this activity is for students to observe exemplary players, not every concert or performance will qualify for a graded review. At www.campomusic.org you will find information about events in several places: by clicking on the "Calendar" tab or the "Community Events" tab at the top of the home page. The form itself is found by following the link along the right side of the page called "Course Materials for Ensembles" or in the "Course Documents" folder in the School Loop locker. Many performances not found on the calendar may also be acceptable. Students can check with Mr. Johnson before attending an event to learn whether or not it qualifies for a graded performance review.

If you are attending a concert listed on the calendar, you can send Mr. Johnson an email and he will add your name to the list of confirmed attendees in the calendar event details section. This may facilitate some ride sharing. If you find an event not already listed on the calendar, send Mr. Johnson the information and he can add it.

CAMPO STRINGS SHARE MUSIC WITH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY by Andrew Wang

Inspired by last year's Veteran Day trip, where we bonded with the LA veterans through music, a group of Campo Orchestra members and I decided to bring music outside the bubble of our classroom and to the streets to share music at community events. Soon we spread music across Lamorinda: at the Rheem Shopping Center on Halloween, we played Willy Wonka and Lady Gaga tunes to the clapping hands of little princesses and vampires; at the Moraga Junior Women's Club's garden tour, we performed Dvorak's lively G Major quintet to accompany the bright colors of tulips and roses; in front of Whole Foods in Lafayette, we played Capriol Suite to the smiling shoppers to raise funds for local literacy charity Be The Star You Are.

Most recently, we had a rewarding and memorable experience playing for the seniors at Aegis Living in Moraga. Before the performance, we were a little nervous facing the roomful of seniors, but soon the music made everyone feel at home. Mr. Johnson's nicely selected repertoire was a perfect fit for the performance, with the old Western tunes of Go West!, as well as songs from classic plays, conjuring up memories for the seniors. We also introduced and shared our understanding of every piece. It is very satisfying in the small intimate room to watch the audience tapping and swaying along with the music.

Music is a collective experience with a great power to unite, creating a connection that breaks time and space, race and generational barriers. Studying music becomes much more fun when it is applied to enrich our community. The enthusiasm of the group to reach out to the community reflects the dedication of our orchestra members.

HONORS ENSEMBLE OPPORTUNITIES

Serious young musicians may want to take advantage of opportunities to audition for honors ensembles at a variety of levels. While the process varies for each, the experience is similar: students play with other talented high school musicians while under the direction of a noteworthy conductor, usually from the university or professional arena. Any audition for such a group requires players to demonstrate strong, confident playing ability and solid musicianship skills. Participation in an honors ensemble adds significantly to a student's musical résumé.

At the county level, students can opt to audition for the Contra Costa County Honor Band or the Contra Costa County Honor Jazz Band. The CCCHB auditions are live and will be held at San Ramon Valley High School on Saturday, December 6, 2014. Registration took place on November 13. Rehearsals and the performance are January 29-31, 2015 at a location yet to be determined. The County Honor Jazz auditions are also live and take place at El Cerrito High School on Sunday, February 8, 2015. The performance will be at San Ramon Valley High School on Sunday, March 15, 2015.

State level honor ensembles include several levels of All-State Honor Bands, All-State Orchestra and All-State Jazz Band. These auditions are recorded auditions and the deadline for submission is December 1, 2014. Students interested in auditioning for these groups will want to check in with Mr. Johnson for information and guidelines.

If students make one of the California All-State ensembles, they are then eligible to audition for one of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-National ensembles. Last year, one of our own—Nikhil Suri—made the All-National Concert Band and recently returned from performing at the NAfME conference in Nashville, TN. We are so proud of Nikhil!

MUSIC BOOSTER NEWS by Sonja Schoenwald

Welcome, All, to the Fall edition of the Music Boosters Newsletter. By “all” I mean students, family members, teachers, coaches, friends, and members of high school and community organizations that count a Campo student musician among their ranks. The Music Boosters are eager to increase connections, support, and a sense of community *within* the music program, *throughout* Campolindo more broadly, and *across* Lamorinda and surrounding cities. First, a few words about who we are and what we do.

Who Are We?

Booster members. All families of students in the instrumental music program are invited to become members of the Music Boosters. This year, there are 141 students in the program; almost three-quarters of their families are already members. We aim for 100% membership, so if you have not yet joined us, please do. The form can be downloaded from the website (www.campomusic.org) and includes instructions for returning the form to me, Sonja Schoenwald at 1148 Rimer Drive, Moraga, CA 94556.

Sponsors. We are fortunate to attract financial support from some individuals who do not have students in the program and from a few corporate sponsors. We are seeking sponsors for the Jazz Dinner Dance to be held Saturday, February 7, 2015. If you know individuals or businesses that might consider sponsoring that event, please contact one of the event chairs: Donia Gousios (doniagousios@yahoo.com) or Lori Sherman (Lori@stewartandpatten.com). We show our gratitude for the financial support of booster members and sponsors in several ways, including acknowledgment in concert programs.

What Do We Do?

Focus on students. In addition to the instrumental music ensemble concerts, groups of student musicians also come together to perform in chamber concerts, the high school musical, for audiences in other community venues, and to show by example the students in elementary and middle schools the proficiency, synergy, creativity, and fun that blossom when students continue to play their instruments at the high school level. The Music Boosters contribute funds and elbow grease to support ensemble concert performances and these smaller group events.

Booster funds support: Master classes; rehearsals and performances with professional guest artists; performances in juried music festivals; lessons for individual students; instrument purchases and repairs; and, when compelling opportunities arise for ensembles to study and perform in other cities, states, or countries, a significant portion of student travel expenses.



Elbow grease supports: Everything else! The Back-to-School Barbecue; Pops Potluck; running the Homecoming Snack Shack; post-concert receptions for musicians and audience members that feature desserts and good conversation; publicity materials; keeping the website current and getting announcements of upcoming events to e-mail boxes everywhere; the annual jazz dinner dance; and more. Many thanks to the Board, Committee Chairs, and volunteers who make this all happen!

Toward a Greater Sense of Community: Some Small Steps

Who's going? So that student musicians (and families and friends) can more easily identify and attend together performances of mutual interest, Mr. Johnson will add an event, and a “who's going” line to the Performance Review Opportunities calendar (on the Calendar page of our website: www.campomusic.org). If you are planning to attend a particular performance for performance-review purposes, or just for the sheer pleasure, you can e-mail the performance information to Mr. Johnson, and he will post that information to the calendar.

Post-concert receptions. These provide opportunities to chat with the musicians, their families, the maestro, and other audience members (who often including Campo teachers, coaches, and administrators), all while nibbling on delicious desserts provided by booster families. Please stop in to the Campolindo Student Center across from the CPAC after the concerts!

Connecting across communities. Our first cross-community event of the year is the Jazz With Friends concert (Dec. 4), which will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. In April, we will host Australian students for a rehearsal and performance exchange, with a potluck meal provided by the boosters. Between these events we will look for more ways to connect people and activities within and beyond the instrumental music community at Campo and Lamorinda. Have some ideas? Let us know! Please email me at sksinca@sbcglobal.net.

MUSIC BOOSTERS DONOR CIRCLE

Thank you to our members for supporting Campolindo's instrumental music program.

If you have not yet donated, please join us. Visit www.campomusic.org for donation forms.

We apologize for any omissions or misspelled names.

Maestro's Circle

Adobe
The Arasteh Family
Mark and Angel Barba
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The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation
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Natalie Smolkin
Chitra and Anil Suri
Bill and Carrie Svozil
Dan and Martha Wenzel
Steve and Barbara Williams
The Yee Family
Kevin and Jenny Zhao

Thank You!





UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Concerts are open to the public and free of charge.
Donations are gratefully accepted.

Thursday, December 4, 2014, 7:30-9:00 PM

Jazz with Friends (our Campo Big Band with the jazz bands from Dublin High School and Dougherty Valley High School)
Donations benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Thursday, February 5, 2015, 6:00-8:00 PM

Open Jazz Rehearsal at Campo Open House

Monday, February 9, 2015, 7:30-9:00 PM

Chamber Concert*

Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 7:30-9:00 PM

Winter Orchestra Concert*

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 7:30-9:00 PM

Winter Band Concert*

*All Instrumental Music students must attend

The full event Calendar for 2014-1-2015 is available on our website: www.campomusic.org/upcoming-events

**Buy your tickets today for the Jazz Dinner Dance
on Saturday, February 7, 2015, 6:00-10:00 PM
at the Moraga Country Club**

Enjoy an evening of great music, food, and dancing at the most popular Music Boosters fundraiser of the year. Tickets make excellent holiday gifts for family and friends.

Contact Donia Gousios (doniagousios@yahoo.com) or Lori Sherman (Lori@stewartandpatten.com) for tickets and sponsorship information.

See more of Kevin Goto's beautiful concert photos as well as videos from this year's Pops Concert on our website: www.campomusic.org/gallery-2

MUSIC BOOSTERS BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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