

The Newsletter of the Campolindo Instrumental Music Program

Brought to you by Campo Instrumental Music Boosters

FROM THE PODIUM by Johnny Johnson, Music Director



It is February, and for Campolindo Instrumental Music, it marks the critical midpoint of the school year. It's very pleasing to see our program moving forward and blossoming as we both live out our traditions and add exceptions.

Perhaps the most notable exception this year was the addition of the "Jazz with Friends" concert early in December. What a pleasure it was to host both Dougherty Valley and Dublin High Schools in CPAC for a night featuring combos, each band individually, and then altogether in a rousing finale! We enjoyed the support of a large crowd and received high praise from those in attendance for not only the quality of the performances, but the congeniality among the various groups represented. Adding to the joy was that we raised over \$1200 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and heard testimony from two band members regarding their personal battles with diabetes. It was a night full of creativity and meaning.

The next event is always the most popular of the year. If you haven't attended the Jazz Dinner Dance before, I highly recommend it. This year the event was completely sold out, so keep your eyes out for the invitations next year and get your tickets early. It's a great way to hear all the facets of our jazz program. We've grown this year and have added a third combo, the delightful Froshombo. In addition to their performance, we heard from the other two combos, the Campo Big Band, and many soloists playing a huge variety of music in many styles.

The Dinner Dance will be followed very soon with our annual Winter Orchestra Concert. We are looking forward to presenting Beethoven's First Symphony this year, along with a couple of other surprises. This is not one to miss!

We will round out our February activities with the Winter Band Concert. The Winter Concerts are opportunities for us to sometimes feature guests artists, and this year,

you'll hear a concerto's worth of music from three young professionals in the early stages of their music careers. A former student of mine, Courtney Wise, will play a spectacular work for flute. You'll hear John Speers on the oboe, and our own Case Wiseman will be featured on trombone. Guests artists are a special feature of the Campolindo program, and we're most grateful to our booster organization for making this experience possible.

Looking ahead to another exception, we expect to attend the California Music Educators Association festival in May. This will be an opportunity for our ensembles to be heard by judges and receive feedback as well as ratings and possible awards. I ask that all parents take special note of the date—Friday, May 1, 2015—and be careful not to plan any weekend activities that would interrupt attendance for Symphonic Band or Orchestra students. As with all of our scheduled performances, this is a required activity. Attending an adjudicated festival provides students with a unique perspective on music performance. For the most part, we try to stay away from perceiving music as a competitive event, but it is beneficial to experience this pressure for excellence even as we strive to maintain sincere artistic expression in our performances.

As we proceed through this series of events, we know that there will be challenges, disappointments, and victories. This is all part of the joy of living and learning. I appreciate that I have a host of committed students and parents to help make the joy possible. Thank you all for your ongoing support for this program.



MUSIC BOOSTER NEWS

by Boosters President Sonja Schoenwald

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Music Boosters Newsletter. Although we are well into the second month of 2015, I'd like to begin by sharing a few "high notes" from December of 2014.

"Jazz with Friends" Raises Funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). The December 4th *Jazz With Friends* Concert featured the jazz ensembles from Campolindo High School, Dublin High School, and Dougherty Valley High School. The event raised spirits, laughter, cross-community solidarity in music, awareness about the experiences students have of living every day with Type I diabetes, and funds for research to help eliminate the disease. Thanks to the outreach efforts of the Brickman family, Kevin O'Scanlon, Walk Manager with JDRF, attended at the event and spoke briefly to all gathered there. The morning after the event, he wrote to the Music Boosters to say:

"Thank you so much for inviting me along, and for supporting JDRF. It really was a wonderful evening. The music was fantastic, and the stories between songs really added a special touch. Kudo's all around! We have \$1,231.66! That's so amazing! We're so thankful for your support! I would love to write a blog post for our local site and Facebook page. Thanks again. Please let me know if there is ever anything that myself or JDRF can do to support your efforts."

Mr. O'Scanlon did indeed write that blog. Here's the link: <http://bayarea.jdrf.org/blog/music-for-a-cure-2/>

Pep Band Contributes to Football State Championship at StubHub Center. At 4:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 20, the intrepid student musicians of the Pep Band boarded a bus for Carson City, CA. The band returned to Moraga very late that same night. Between the long bus rides, the band was in fine form at the Division III California State Championship football game at StubHub Center. Lead by Josh Sherman (cape intact), the band stirred enthusiasm and confidence among the players and fans even before the kick-off, inspired the team and fans when the going got tough, and contributed a rousing musical finish to the post-game celebration in the stands. Members of the Pep Band also enhanced the Town of Moraga's celebration of the state championship, which was held on Monday, January 26 in the Campo Student Center, Courtyard, and Gymnasium. It has been wonderful to experience the synergy of sport, music, family, friends, and fans!

Turning now to 2015: The Campolindo Open House on Thursday, February 5, provided the Music Boosters an opportunity to talk with incoming freshman and their families about the instrumental music program and the Boosters. If you know students who play an instrument in one of the Lamorinda middle schools (Joaquin Moraga, Orinda Intermediary, and Stanley), please let them and their families know the Music Boosters look forward to welcoming them to Campolindo. Meanwhile, students and families can check our website, www.campomusic.org, to get a feel for the program and its links to community events.

Jazz Dinner Dance. On February 7, many of us (156, to be precise) danced the night away at the Jazz Dinner Dance at the Moraga Country Club (MCC). New this year was the opening performance by the Freshman Jazz Ensemble – the Campo Froshombo, led by Case Wiseman. Then, as "The Shorty," "Funky Chicken," and "Hot Potato" were served to dinner guests by the delightful servers at MCC, Kouroshombo (Kourosh Arasteh, bass and combo leader) and Shermombo (Josh Sherman, trumpet and combo leader) took to the stage in succession. As always, the Big Band rounded out the night, and ended with the traditional "Brick House," and the dance floor was completely packed for that number, and the encore performance. The quality and energy of the performances were stupendous, and all evening long on the dance floor, people commented that it is hard to believe these are not professional ensembles. Before the final numbers were played, Johnny Johnson thanked event Co-Chairs Lori Sherman and Donia Gousios, who did a terrific job. This was the best attended jazz dinner dance in history. Donia has been coordinating the event in some capacity for six years, and she and Lori will be passing the torch to other Boosters. Thank you, Donia and Lori! We owe special thanks, as well, to two sponsors of the event: Scott D. Lothamer, DDS - Family Dentistry; and John Ogro, DDS – Orthodontics.

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Music About the Town(s). Orchestra and Band members were scheduled to perform at the Moraga Farmer's Market on Sunday, February 8. The Farmer's Market Association reserves three Sundays each year for performances by the Campolindo Instrumental Music program, one in February, one in June, and one in December. Unfortunately, rain interfered with the scheduled performance, so we will look forward to browsing the Moraga Farmer's Market stalls to the beautiful music of our students on Sunday, June 7.

In January, we were offered some new opportunities to build connections among supporters of the performing and visual arts in Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette. First, the Orinda Arts Council offered to post Campolindo instrumental program events in their monthly public calendar, which appears online at: orindaarts.org/calendar. In addition, a group of individuals from that Council and in Moraga is beginning to consider development of a long term plan to bring more attention to the performing and visual arts and to strengthen the ties of the communities. They invited our

participation in their organizational meeting. Although we were unable to arrange for a representative of the Music Boosters to attend the first meeting of that group, I will stay in touch with them as they move forward to see how we might work together to increase connections, support, and opportunities for our student musicians and their families, neighbors, and friends.

Springing Ahead. Although this is the Winter Concert season, and the Spring concerts and exchange with the Sydney (Australia) Boys High School musicians are still some months away, now is the time when the Music Boosters begin to look in earnest for volunteers for next year's Board and Committee Chairs. The slate is ratified at the May concerts, and the first meeting is held in summer to prepare for the 2015-2016 academic year. If you are interested in volunteering and would like to learn more about the positions, please e-mail me (Sonja Schoenwald) at sksinca@sbcglobal.net.

CAMPOLINDO STUDENTS SELECTED FOR HONORS ENSEMBLES

Congratulations to our Campolindo instrumental music students who auditioned for honors ensembles and have been recognized for individual achievement.

The following students performed in the 25th Anniversary **Contra Costa County Honor Band**:

- ◆ **Daniel Warner**, clarinet (15th of 18)
- ◆ **Joseph Cherayil**, clarinet (16th of 18)
- ◆ **Kyle Lindquist**, bass clarinet (3rd of 4)
- ◆ **Hunter Wheeler**, alto saxophone (4th of 4)
- ◆ **Kevin Deng**, trumpet (2nd of 8)
- ◆ **Nikhil Suri**, French horn (principal)
- ◆ **Erica Wilson**, French horn (5th of 5)
- ◆ **Jacob Brickman**, bass trombone
- ◆ **Eli Kirmayer**, percussion (principal)
- ◆ **Daniel Flaherty**, percussion

Kevin Deng has been selected for the 2015 High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. He will perform on the trumpet with the Honors Orchestra on February 22 at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Partici-

pation in one of the three Honors Ensembles is limited to the highest rated high school performers from across North America and select schools internationally. Kevin auditioned this fall for the Honors Performance Series and was accepted after a review by the Honors Selection Board.

Following his recent experience at the NAFME (National Association for Music Education) All-National Concert Band, **Nikhil Suri** will once again play French horn in one of the California All-State Bands. His placement into one of the three All-State Bands will be determined by the live auditions to be held at the California All-State Music Education Conference (CASMEC) in Fresno. The conference dates are February 19-22.

We are very proud of all of these students. With talent and dedication at this level by so many students, the future of Campolindo Instrumental Music is bright indeed!

Congratulations!

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Unless otherwise noted, events will be held at the Campolindo Performing Arts Center.

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

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

Winter Orchestra Concert*

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

Winter Band Concert*

Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 7:00-8:00 PM

Moraga Area Band Concert

Including elementary and intermediate school band musicians from the Moraga School District as well as our Campolindo High School Symphonic Band

Thursday, April 9, 2015, 7:00-8:00 PM

Moraga Area Orchestra Concert

Including elementary and intermediate school string musicians from the Moraga School District as well as our Campolindo High School Orchestra

Monday, April 13, 2015, time tbd

Concert with Sydney Boys High School
Campolindo's Symphonic Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Band will be rehearsing, dining, and performing with guest musicians visiting from Australia from 3:30-9:00 PM.

Reminder to Orchestra and Symphonic Band Students:

Friday, May 1, afternoon/evening (times tbd) is CMEA Large Ensemble Festival at San Ramon Valley High School

Friday, May 15, 2015, 7:30-10:00 PM

Spring Concert*

Featuring all Campolindo instrumental music ensembles:
Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Orchestra, and Jazz

Friday, June 5, 2015, 6:00-10:00 PM

Jazz Café at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette
Our Jazz Band will perform along with Jazz Bands from Stanley Middle School and Acalanes High School.

*All Instrumental Music students must attend

See our website for the latest 2014-2015 Event Calendar
(revised in early February):

www.campomusic.org/upcoming-events



MUSIC BOOSTERS BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COUNCIL

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Vice President: Jack Stephens

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Associate Principal: Karen Findlay

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**Thank you to Kevin Goto for providing the
concert photos for our newsletters.**

You can see all of Kevin's photographs in full color
on our website: www.campomusic.org/gallery-2