

The Newsletter of the Campolindo Instrumental Music Program

Brought to you by Campo Instrumental Music Boosters

FROM THE PODIUM by Johnny Johnson, Music Director

This year, once again, our ensembles have begun to emerge as living, breathing, and vibrant organisms. Although each year unfolds similarly, the experiences we have together in any given year will only happen once. It's an important perspective to keep in mind as we go through the usual routines of operating an Instrumental Music Program. This year is special and unique and we should make the most of it.



Most music programs save the Pops Concert for the end of the year. I love that we use ours as a joyous kick-off for the season, with all parents and students coming together for good eats and good music. Our concert was well-attended and very well received. Positive feedback came from a variety of sources including

our students, other Campo students, parents of Campo musicians, administrators, and even a few students and parents from other area schools. The program was quite varied and included risk-taking selections by each group. From the jazz version of the National Anthem to the serenity of Solace to the lights-out of "Electricity," the students demonstrated that plenty of styles fall within the category of "pops."

Many thanks are due to individuals who helped make our Pops Concert a success. Parents were generous in providing great food and desserts. Student leaders designed and ordered unique t-shirts for the band (black) and orchestra (pink). Our usual team of sound and light techs were on hand to make sure all were seen and heard, making our students' efforts worthwhile.

Snack Shack was a huge success this year. In fact, this was the highest grossing, exceeding all previous records. We're fortunate to have the opportunity to operate the Snack Shack each year on Homecoming, but it does require a lot of work on the part of many people. A huge debt of gratitude goes to Ellen Kirmayer and Nikki Brickman who organized and managed the event. We are most grateful to the many parent and student volunteers who turned out to keep our customers happy. It seemed that everyone had a great time.

Meanwhile, this year's Pep Band managed to keep fans quite happy in the stands. Eli Kirmayer and Hunter Wheeler did an amazing job of organizing the band, getting volunteer players and holding rehearsals. They spent many hours selecting music, getting parts copied for players, and re-arranging parts when needed. Eli also directed the band at games, which I can tell you is not an easy task. What an accomplishment! Thank you Eli, Hunter, and all the student musicians who helped to make our home games special.

For those involved in the Chicago International Music Festival, our trip plans are well underway. As we continue to grow musically throughout this year, we look forward to playing for the distinguished adjudicators in an amazing concert hall and getting to hear and interact with other high school ensembles from around the country. And if you haven't yet heard, the Campolindo Orchestra was selected to be the "commission ensemble" for the festival and will have a new piece of music composed just for us. We will get a 90-minute clinic with the composer, where he will rehearse the group and talk about the process of creation that led to the piece, and we'll also get extra time on stage at the festival to perform the work in its World Premiere. This trip just keeps getting better and better!

I never dare think about where we would be without the support of the Instrumental Music Boosters and all our parents. This program belongs to you, the students and the community. Thank you very much. I trust that your support means we are living up to your expectations.

CAMPO ATTENDS SFS OPEN REHEARSAL

by Johnny Johnson

November 4 was a noteworthy day for Campo Instrumental Music students. Once again, we made our annual trek into the city to hear an Open Rehearsal of the San Francisco Symphony. This year the orchestra was conducted by Yan Pascal Tortelier.

An “open rehearsal” is one in which the public is invited to watch the conductor and orchestra at work. Sometimes, it’s more like a dress rehearsal during which the orchestra simply plays through the music that they will perform during that series of concerts, usually three performances. This year, we were treated to observing an actual rehearsal take place. The conductor came out and right away began working with that group of professional musicians in a way that was fascinating to watch. He was exacting in what he wanted to hear from the orchestra, and it was great for us to hear him speak of so many of the concepts that we work on in our own rehearsals. We saw the principal violist suggest a new bowing and watched as the entire string section first marked it in their parts and then incorporated it into their playing. We heard the principal trumpet ask the maestro to play from letter N instead of letter O, as maestro had suggested, so that the brass section could “get another run at that passage.” And we even saw a

bit of drama as the orchestra manager came out near the end of the first rehearsal session to send the orchestra to their break precisely at 11:15 am. The conductor hadn’t quite finished the piece, but it’s the manager’s job to enforce the union rules for the players. She began waving her hands for them to stop playing, but the conductor kept waving his baton until the piece was finished. It was a bit of a scuffle, but everyone survived and all was well after intermission.

We began with coffee and donuts and then heard a pre-concert lecture by the Symphony’s program annotator. After a short break the rehearsal got underway, and we listened as the orchestra shaped to glorious effect the music of Bizet’s *Carmen Suites*, Ravel’s *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand*, and Saint-Saëns’ towering *Organ Symphony*. We ended our time together bonding over lunch, a bit of shopping, and the bus ride home.

It’s critical for young players to hear and see professionals at work. It’s doubly rewarding to have a chance to do this together as a group. The discussions and observations shared jointly on this day provide lessons that inform us throughout the year. Many thanks go to the parents who chaperoned the event and to the students who gave up the time, demonstrating their devotion to the art of music.



FROM BOOSTER PRESIDENT STACY GIGLIO

“What keeps our kids playing music?”

When faced with ACT tests and college applications, AP classes, homework, and daily sports practices, what is it that makes our senior musicians keep playing? What inspires the senior jazz band members to get out of bed an hour early, every school day for four years, to play jazz at 7am? Why do they continue to choose music, amongst their many obligations? I asked some seniors these questions the other morning, and here’s what they told me:

“It’s a great start to my day.... There’s good energy; no one comes in dragging their feet because they choose to be there. ... I’m tired when I get here, but then it energizes you.” Hunter Wheeler, re: Jazz Band

“Music is a way to express myself. Playing my viola is like dreaming but you are awake. It’s a story that you live, like watching a movie. It takes me out of my hardships.... Playing music makes me feel better about myself.” Soha Sadeghinejad

“I’ve liked music since 5th grade. Even though we keep getting better, we are always striving to achieve more.... We don’t give up.... Everybody plays as a group. I like the energy.” Maxim Dossiovkov

“I wake up early for jazz because it is worth it. People make it seem a lot worse than it really is, but you get to go and play music you enjoy with people who are dedicated to it like you are. And stick with it for the same reasons – the experience and the fun that comes with it.” Jacob Brickman

“Orchestra is a good break in my day from my academic classes. It’s a way to relax, have fun, and just play music. I also enjoy the people. We come together from different groups and relate on a musical level. I wouldn’t get to know them outside of school if I didn’t have music.” Cullen Jacuzzi

“Starting my day, it wakes me up. I enjoy making music.... Band is like being part of a team; we are all in it together. You can’t be selfish. Band gets your brain going and gets you thinking of other people, not just yourself because you have to all play together.” Nikhil Suri

The answers I received were inspiring. These seniors play music because of how it makes them feel, the energy they get from the music and their peers, and their sheer enjoyment.

At a time in their lives when stress runs high and daily demands leave students feeling unfulfilled by the drudgery of their routine, finding a passion and something truly satisfying in their day is priceless. And because music can be part of their lives forever, the energy and joy they feel can continue to enhance their lives beyond Campo.

As parents, we know that music is a gift for our students, and we appreciate the benefits music offers. But to hear students articulate how music affects them and to hear them acknowledge music’s tremendous impact on their day somehow increases its value even more.

Our Campolindo Instrumental Music Program, directed by Johnny Johnson, is thriving and growing, thanks to all of you, Music Boosters and MEF supporters. The time and support you give the program is what keeps Campo’s tradition of music alive.

Campo Instrumental Music will perform twelve concerts during the 2015-16 school year. New this year is *Campo Night Live!*, a joint production by the Campo Big Band and the Drama Department patterned after the TV show *Saturday Night Live*, with musical guests and skits. (Shows are December 10th, 11th and 12th. Tickets are \$5 for students/ \$10 parents and will go on sale Nov. 30th.) Also new to the calendar is the Chicago International Music Festival in March, when the Campo Orchestra and several members of Symphonic Band will travel to Chicago to perform, by special invitation, at the Chicago Symphony Center. Back by popular demand, we will host the Moraga Area Band and Orchestra Concerts March 30th and 31st, with musicians from 4th–8th grade joining Campo musicians in concert. Another parent favorite, the Jazz Dinner Dance, will be held on February 27th; ticket information coming soon for this sure-to-sell-out event.

These performances, as well as the rehearsals and class time that accompany them, provide our students with a rich music education, and also the wonderful memories of playing music together with their peers. Thank you for your continued support of the Campo Instrumental Music program. It is because of this community’s commitment to the arts, that our students have the opportunity to feel the sheer joy of making music all four years of high school.





UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

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

Thursday, December 10, 2015, 7:00-9:00 PM

Friday, December 11, 2015, 7:00-9:00 PM

Saturday, December 12, 2015, 7:00-9:00 PM

Campo Night Live!, featuring our Campo Big Band, skits by the Campo Drama Department, and musical guests
Tickets go on sale November 30 (\$5/student, \$10/adult)

Thursday, February 4, 2016, 7:15-8:45 PM

Open Orchestra Rehearsal at Campo Open House
In the rehearsal room (free)

Thursday, February 18, 2016, 7:30-9:00 PM

Winter Orchestra Concert — ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND
*Open to the public; please invite friends and family
 Free of charge (donations gratefully accepted)*

Thursday, February 25, 2016, 7:30-9:00 PM

Winter Band Concert — ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND
*Open to the public; please invite friends and family
 Free of charge (donations gratefully accepted)*

Saturday, February 27, 2016, 6:00-10:00 PM

Jazz Dinner Dance at the Moraga Country Club
Tickets will go on sale soon; contact Barbara Williams at lafnbarb@gmail.com for more information

Thursday, March 24, 2016 - Monday, March 28, 2016

Campo Orchestra travels to Chicago to perform in the Chicago International Music Festival

Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 7:00-8:00 PM

Moraga Area Band Concert, with 4th-8th graders *(free)*

Thursday, March 31, 2016, 7:00-8:00 PM

Moraga Area Orchestra Concert, with 4th-8th graders *(free)*

The full event Calendar for 2015-16 is available on our website: www.campomusic.org/upcoming-events

See all of Kevin Goto's concert photos in full color, including close ups and videos, on our website: www.campomusic.org/gallery-2. Thanks, Kevin!

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Associate Principal: Erin Pope

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MUSIC BOOSTERS DONORS

Thank you to our Music Boosters members and donors for supporting Campolindo's instrumental music program.

Here is a list of our donors, as of November 7, 2015. We apologize for any omissions or misspelled names.

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

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Thank You!

