

## The Newsletter of the Campolindo Instrumental Music Program

Brought to you by Campo Instrumental Music Boosters

### FROM THE PODIUM by Johnny Johnson, Music Director

As I near the end of my fourth year at Campolindo, I find myself reflecting on what a privilege it is to work in a community that values and supports the arts. When the community values music, students feel supported in their studies. Through inspired public performances students demonstrate to the community how music is transforming their lives, and the community is re-inspired to continue its support. It's our own "circle of life," and it's what keeps our Campolindo arts programs thriving and growing.

Yes, our instrumental music program is growing. We are already preparing to welcome a larger group of incoming freshmen next year. Of equal importance is that our current students are staying with us and keeping music a part of their four-year high school experience. Our success is palpable and observable, and we all have a stake in it.

We've made an important addition to our recruitment and retention plan with the addition of the Moraga Area Concerts last year and this year. This is an opportunity for instrumental students from 5th grade to 12th grade to see the musical continuum that exists within our community. It is at this concert that students and parents get to observe, in brief, how a beginner playing simple folk melodies one year advances to playing music of great complexity and depth over time. Our younger players need that eye-on-the-prize moment to inspire them to practice and develop their individual and ensemble skills. It also gives us teachers at the different levels an opportunity to collaborate and communicate, creating a streamlined process through which these students are moving.

This school year has had quite a few highlights, some of which I've mentioned in previous newsletters. I particularly value the activities in which we collaborate with other departments, activities, and schools. This was the first year that our jazz program partnered with the drama department to bring "Campo Night Live" to the stage. For the second year in a row, we had a viable and energetic pep band that provided inspiration at our home football games, once again supporting the team all the way to the championship game in mid-December. Our

Winter Orchestra Concert was enriched by the inclusion of the relatively-new orchestra program from Dublin High School. Not only did we enjoy their individual performance on our stage (as we hope they did ours), we ended the evening in a fun and energetic joint performance. By collaborating with these various organizations, students can practice the essential life skills of cooperation, appreciation, and service.

Our Jazz Dinner Dance was a huge success this year, bringing in more money than any previous year. Once again, our young ones delighted the audience, and the combos were in top form. The Big Band gave a sizzling performance, and throughout the evening there was dancing and heart-warming camaraderie among performers and attendees alike. And I believe I still owe someone a batch of gumbo.

I cannot thank our board, community, and faculty enough for making our dream of a Chicago tour an electrifying reality. It takes more than desire to make a trip successful. It takes planning, budgeting, discussing, deciding, and meeting tight deadlines. For the students, getting ready requires setting aside the initial excitement to do the hard work. The music must be prepared, and it needs to be the best preparation we've done all year. The concert circumstances can be overwhelming, and we have to think through that and be prepared to get past

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the jitters to give compelling performances. Mixed in with all that is my personal worrying, second guessing, getting annoyed by the deadlines, and the occasional moment of “Wait a minute. Why are we doing this? I can’t remember.” Fortunately, once the experience begins, it becomes clear why a pursuit like this is worth the energy and commitment. This trip was rich in every way—musically, socially, and culturally. We have been changed by the experiences we had in Chicago, and we are in debt to all those who made it happen.

As we prepare for our final concert of the year, it becomes clear that our seniors are spending their final days as Campolindo students. This year’s seniors have seen me through all four of my years here. These years have been jam-packed with memories . . . good times, tough times, major challenges, major successes, and tons of great laughs. For most seniors, the Spring Concert represents the conclusion of their high school music pursuits, but I hope they will continue to enrich their lives through the arts as they journey toward careers, families, and other adventures. It is, after all, music and the arts that add soulfulness to all of life’s other joys. We will take time to honor their contributions on this final concert.

While my goal in this writing is to highlight what is unique and changing about our program, I must conclude by noting that it is the mundane and consistent elements that are at the heart of our achievements. Our progress is driven by daily rehearsals, individual practice, regular communication, respect for our art, and respect for each other. Most significant is our booster organization that continually provides the puzzle pieces to form the big picture. Because of your work we have coaches, clinicians, guest artists, refreshments, supplies, working instruments, music, and much more.

On that note, I would like to thank Stacy Giglio for her work as our booster president this year. I appreciate working with someone who takes responsibility to stay on top of our efforts, someone who looks ahead and prepares me for what’s coming, lets me know when I need to re-think a decision, and generally does what a president should do, and that is summed up in the word “serve.” I look forward to working with Marilyn and Jeff Hunt, next year’s co-presidents, and I encourage all parents to volunteer and contribute to our booster organization. I can assure you that our students are making good use of what is being provided to them and your efforts will make a difference.



### **MUSIC BOOSTERS BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

*President:* Stacy Giglio

*Co-Vice Presidents:* Marilyn Hunt, Jeff Hunt

*Treasurer:* Bill Doherty

*Concert Attire:* Dagmar Ortman

*Homecoming Concessions:* Ellen Kirmayer, Nikki Brickman, Sandra Harris

*Hospitality (Band):* Amy Kikugawa, Stacie Coates

*Hospitality (Orchestra):* Cathy Schultz, Reena Malhotra, Claudia Benner

*Jazz Dinner Dance:* Barbara Williams

*Newsletter Layout:* Tina Riepe

*Photography:* Kevin Goto

*Pops Potluck:* Nikki Brickman, Jennifer Gilmour

*Publicity:* Tina Chambers

*Senior Gifts:* Lori Sherman

*Webmaster:* Paul Derksen

*Welcome Back BBQ:* Cynthia Granicher

### **STUDENT INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COUNCIL**

*Co-Presidents:* Cullen Jacuzzi (orchestra), Nikhil Suri (band)

*Co-Vice Presidents:*

Brian Han (orchestra), Hunter Wheeler (band)

*Secretary:* Eli Kirmayer

*Orchestra Representative:* Maya Bulos

*Jazz Representative:* Hayden Hunt

*Sophomore Representative:* Kevin Deng

### **CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

*Principal:* John Walker

*Associate Principal:* Karen Findlay

*Associate Principal:* Erin Pope

*Administrative Assistant:* Carolyn Daughton

*Lead Counselor:* Jake Donohoe

## FROM OUTGOING BOOSTER PRESIDENT STACY GIGLIO

**Inspiration.** The Campolindo Music Boosters Board is ending the school year on a high note (no pun intended) after a busy and exciting season of music. With almost all of our board members returning to the board again next year, Campo Music Boosters will continue its momentum and launch into the upcoming school year as an experienced and energetic team.

What an inspiring group of individuals we have on our booster board! This group of parents generously give their time and talents wherever needed, to make Campo Instrumental Music great and to give our students the opportunity to make music together.

A giant thank you and farewell to Ellen Kirmayer and Nikki Brickman, who have served together on our board for several years, heading our annual Homecoming Football Concessions fundraiser and also the first-ever Jazz Dinner Raffle this year. Nikki also co-chaired the Pops Potluck in the fall and helped measure students for their new long black concert dresses. We will miss your efforts and all you do for the music program, but most of all we will miss your humor, enthusiasm, and new ideas. Best wishes to you and your seniors!

A big thank you goes to Paul Derksen, our webmaster, who managed our website and all of our communications to our music families in an always timely fashion, and also Tina Riepe, who collected the articles and managed the deadlines to produce three very professional booster newsletters. Giant gratitude to Tina Chambers for the publicity before each and every concert, Dagmar Ortman for organizing our musicians apparel, Bill Doherty, still treasurer even with no student at Campo, Lori Sherman for coordinating all of our senior gifts, Sandra Harris for helping Concessions and learning the ropes for next year, and Jennifer Gilmour for running the Pops Potluck (with Nikki) as an incoming freshman parent. The Welcome Back BBQ is always in good hands with Cynthia Granicher, although a broken water pipe got in the way of our fun this year. We can't forget the Jazz Dinner Dance, the highlight of our jazz program, produced by Barbara Williams, who has agreed to chair the event again next year. Thank you to Kevin Goto for his amazing photographs at each concert, and to Chitra Suri for coordinating the fundraising efforts and parent chaperones for the Chicago Trip. To the Hospitality Team, Stacie Coates, Amy Kikugawa, Reena Malhotra, Cathy Schultz, and Claudia Benner, thank you for planning such wonderful post-concert gatherings for our students and families. (And much appreciation to all of you parents who brought treats for

these.) Special thanks to co-vice presidents Marilyn and Jeff Hunt for their continuous support, and best wishes for a successful year next year as presidents of Music Boosters. Also, welcome to Erika Moore, who will be joining the board as Vice President next year.

Thanks to Music Booster membership donations, corporate sponsors, matching funds, and MEF, (and the careful planning by Johnny Johnson and Bill Doherty,) the Campolindo Instrumental Music Program is in solid financial shape for next year.

The support and logistical help provided by the administration is critical to our success, and our board is grateful to Mr. John Walker, Ms. Erin Pope, Ms. Karen Findlay, Ms. Carolyn Daughton, Ross Wilson, for his dedication to the lights and sound that make our students sound so good, and to the custodial staff who ensure the facilities are set up, and then cleaned up, for our events. And of course, thank you to Johnny Johnson, without whom the Campolindo Instrumental Music Program could not thrive.

The Student Music Council, under the leadership of Nikhil Suri and Cullen Jacuzzi helped with many of the events and brought music to community sites. Eli Kirmayer lead the Pep Band and fired up students and athletes at Campolindo Football games.

All our events and activities require help from many hands, and I thank all who volunteered during this year. It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve as Booster President, and I am inspired by all of your commitment and support.

### **Nominated 2016-2017 Music Boosters Board and Committee Members**

*President:* Marilyn & Jeff Hunt

*Vice President:* Erika Moore

*Treasurer:* Bill Doherty

*Concert Attire:* Molly Ogro

*Homecoming Concessions:* Sandra Harris, Erika Moore,

#### **OPEN**

*Hospitality (Band):* Christine Swihart, Deborah Slaby, Stacie Coates

*Hospitality (Orchestra):* Cathy Schultz, Reena Malhotra

*Jazz Dinner Dance:* Barbara Williams, Stacy Giglio

*Newsletter Layout:* Tina Riepe

*Photography:* Kevin Goto

*Pops Potluck:* Jen Gilmore, Amy Kikugawa

*Publicity:* Tina Chambers

*Senior Gifts:* Lori Sherman

*Webmaster:* Paul Derksen

*Welcome Back BBQ:* Cynthia Granicher

**PARTING THOUGHTS** *Thank you to the parents of graduating Seniors who shared their Campo music memories and reflections on the role of music in students' lives. Their comments, in no particular order:*

**Maya Bulos** — Maya Bulos began playing piano in the spring before entering kindergarten. In February of 2003, we went to a concert of a local orchestra where they featured a concerto by a 14-year-old violinist from Marin County at the Leshner Center. The next day, we asked Maya if she wanted play the violin. Maya responded by jumping up and down, saying, 'Yes!' By the next week, we had rented a violin so she could begin her lessons. She continued playing the violin through 3rd grade, when we offered her the opportunity to go to the Crowden School in Berkeley, which emphasizes string and/or piano music playing for two hours per day. She made some fabulous musician friends as well as becoming an accomplished young musician. After graduating Crowden after 8th grade, she opted to attend Campolindo HS instead of a local private school, a local performing arts magnet high school, or Acalanes HS. She became reconnected with many of her grade school friends in the Campo Orchestra while helping all of the other Campo musicians to break in Mr. Johnson to the Campo music scene. She also joined the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra the same year. She has had a wonderful time during her four years while she was Associate Concertmaster or Concertmaster, which got capped off by the Orchestra trip to Chicago. Getting to play on the same stage as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with her friends was a real treat. She hopes that the final concert for her senior cohort of musicians is the best concert of their four years at Campo. Maya will attend Amherst College in the fall, where she will continue playing the violin in the Orchestra as well as in smaller chamber groups. Thank you to Mr. Johnson and all of the Campo musicians for a great four years!

-Linda Tedjakusuma and Howard Bulos



**Holden Kolner** — We can't imagine a world without music and so we're extremely grateful that our schools have such amazing opportunities for our students. We also know that this would not be possible without a multitude of supporters, through MEF and Instrumental Boosters, for without those contributions we wouldn't be able to have the wonderful program and activities that enrich our students' lives. The Veteran's Day trip to Los Angeles, the Chicago International Music Festival, the shared concert with visitors from Australia (and, yes, Holden ate the Vegemite), all of the concerts in CPAC, and the "performance review" concerts attended are the obvious milestones and will certainly be lasting memories of music at Campolindo, but it is the day by day participation in making music with others, the camaraderie, and hard work to produce something special and unique that is the real legacy and invaluable experience for the future, whatever that future may hold. Thanks to everyone who has made this possible for Holden.

-Brian Kolner and Nancy Kendzierski

**Cullen Jacuzzi** — The Jacuzzi Family congratulates all of the seniors and our wonderful conductor, Johnny Johnson. What an incredible privilege it has been to be part of the Campolindo music community for the past four years. Cullen began playing violin at the age of five and played with the Glorietta music program, the Orinda Intermediate School orchestra and with Strings and Keys Music Studio and his teacher Laura Lee. These last four years under the very talented and capable hands of Johnny Johnson have been a wonderful and memorable experience. Cullen has experienced tremendous growth as a musician and as a person. We thank you, Johnny, for your talent, passion, dedication, sense of humor and most of all, your contribution to Campolindo and our wonderful musical community. You have made a wonderful impression on Cullen that he will carry with him as he moves on to the next chapter of his life at Bucknell University.

-Kaye and Marc Jacuzzi



**Eli Kirmayer** — I'm sitting in the CPAC during the final performance of West Side Story trying not to cry. Watching my son in his little corner of the pit – wheeling around from side to side playing four, five, no six percussion instruments in one song. How in the world did he learn all that? To say that I am in awe is an understatement. Of course I wonder if Eli will miss participating in a formal music program in college, but I know that the skills and lessons he has learned up to this point are invaluable and a part of his repertoire. I think back on the 13 years that we have been part of the music programs in the Moraga schools. We are so grateful and thankful to all of those dedicated individuals who have supported, guided and influenced our children including Mr. Noel, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Roberts, Rich Fongheiser and the many guest conductors at school and honors band programs. And thanks to MEF for keeping our music programs alive and vibrant.

-Matt and Ellen Kirmayer



**Austin Mello** — The Mello family would like to express our gratitude to the Lamorinda music community. Our son, Austin, began playing trumpet in 4th grade as part of the LPIE program. He attended Stanley Middle School and had the privilege of working with Bob Athayde, played with the Jazz Messengers, and attended Bob's annual Jazz Camp. Bob connected so well with Austin, providing mentoring both inside and outside of the music classroom. We will be forever grateful for the direction that Bob gave Austin during middle school. At Campolindo, Austin played in the band for four years, and he has appreciated his experience here. We feel so lucky that

**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](http://www.campomusic.org/gallery-2)

or for those who use Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/campolindo.musicboosters>

our child's education has been supplemented with music since elementary school, due to the commitment of the Lamorinda community to the arts. Although our son will not pursue music in college or as a career, he has developed a love of music as a fine art. He will always carry that with him. Thank you to everyone who was part of that process, it is truly appreciated.

-Gretchen and Paul Mello

**Kyle Lindquist** — The Lindquist family is indebted to the Moraga community for providing the funding necessary to support our top notch school music programs. Music has been an integral part of our son Kyle's life for the last eight years. First Adam Noel at LP and JM, and now Johnny Johnson at Campolindo, have nurtured Kyle's talent beyond that which we could have ever imagined. We thank these teachers, as well as all of the dedicated volunteers, who have bestowed upon us the gift of beautiful music, performed by our son and his classmates.

-Eric and Lisa Lindquist

**Nikhil Suri** — "What do you think of when you look back at your child's participation in music in school?" It ushers in a plethora of joyful images! What can we say? Nikhil lives by music – it defines his personality. And we are just so happy that he could indulge this passion throughout high school! Campo music under Johnny's mentorship has created indelible memories for him and for that we are most grateful. It also made it possible for him to venture out and challenge himself with other ensembles. It widened his horizons, allowed him to make friends throughout the country, and made him appreciate music even more acutely. On a personal level, through Nikhil's participation in music, we got to know many parents and talented kids whom we may never have met otherwise. It has been a remarkable and joyous journey for us all and we hope that music will always thrive at Campo!

-Chitra and Anil Suri

