

The Newsletter of the Campolindo Instrumental Music Program

Brought to you by Campo Instrumental Music Boosters

FROM THE PODIUM

by Johnny Johnson, Music Director

The early months of 2018 are proving to be active and enriching for members of our Campo Instrumental Program. It's a period of time in which each ensemble is preparing for a challenging performance, even while some players are pursuing individual musical achievements. Our classroom is rarely empty, with students buzzing in and out throughout the day, before school, after school, during brunch and lunch, in the evening, and yes, even on the weekend. But, the joy of working together toward artistic goals makes the struggles seem benign, and the days go by very quickly.

This year, in a shift to earlier dates, we presented our Moraga Area Concerts in early January. The reason for this shift was to relieve the pressure we'd been feeling getting these concerts together during the busier time around Spring Break; to be more accommodating to our Drama Department colleagues who were also mounting their Spring Play around that time; and we also wanted to see if it would affect enrollment numbers to have the concert prior to the middle-school students making their schedule selections for the upcoming school year. Both Area Concerts—Orchestra on January 4 and Band on January 9—were a great success so we will see if the earlier dates had any impact in the coming years.

A favored activity of many players is participating in the all-student pit orchestra for the annual Campo musical, a production of the Choral Department. We've already begun preparing the music for *The Addams Family*, set to open on Thursday, March 16. This is a singular experience among our many offerings in that it is a collaboration with singers. It is also a major commitment of time and energy as the rehearsals heat up in late February, followed by tech and dress rehearsals in early March, concluding with two weekends of performances, a total of nine shows. Our students always report that this experience, while demanding, is an incredible boost to their confidence and musicianship.

Speaking of collaboration, our Big Band was pleased to be an integral part of the Drama Department's annual production of *Campo Night Live*. Students have a unique opportunity to study the show, analyze the content, create, compose, and design musical effects to accompany the on-stage action. When students of various departments work on projects such as this, the impressive breadth and depth of the Campo Visual and Performing Arts Department is on startling display. This year's show was no exception as students stepped up to the plate with their input and suggestions, making this another extraordinary collaborative experience.

(continued on page 2)



“From the Podium” (continued from page 1)

The Jazz Program was a hit at our annual Jazz Dinner Dance. Students, parents, and community members alike love this event as it combines the joy of food, music, and dancing, not to mention proving to be a successful fundraiser. It’s the perfect couples event and occurred just in time to celebrate Valentine’s Day with special ones. The audience was charmed by the hours of continuous music provided by our jazz ensembles and combos. A very special thank you to Shelly Muray who chaired this event, with help and guidance from former coordinators Barbara Williams and Stacy Giglio. It was a beautiful evening!

As of this writing, our Winter Concerts are upon us. Every year, we feature special musical guests. This is an important part of our instrumental music curriculum—the opportunity to observe and perform with outstanding artists. The example that these working musicians provide to our students take us beyond the classroom into the world of professionalism and virtuosity. We see our guests’ dedication to the art form and the high-level skills they have honed that give their music-making an effortless quality that thrills and moves emotions. For the upcoming Winter Orchestra concert, our guests are the members of the multi-Grammy-nominated Quartet San Francisco led by Jeremy Cohen. That will be followed a week later by the Winter Band Concert featuring an alumnus of the Stan Kenton Band, trumpeter Mike Vax. I think you’ll agree that these experiences are worth the effort, funds, and energy to produce.

The Contra Costa County Honor Band met for rehearsals on Feb. 1-3 and presented their annual concert on Saturday, Feb. 3. Students auditioned to be selected for this honor and were rewarded in getting to work with conductor (and former Campo director) Harvey Benstein, as well as other very talented students from within the county. The roster of Campo students includes:

Carissa Zhu (11th grade), flute
 Isabel Hinchliff (11th grade), oboe
 Joseph Cherayil (12th grade), clarinet
 Ian Cumming (12th grade), clarinet
 Daniel Warner (12th grade), clarinet
 Justin Xiao (9th grade), clarinet



Corbin Strong (9th grade), trumpet
 Connor Johnson (9th grade), trombone
 Marc Schultz (12th grade), trombone
 Russell Bradley (10th grade), 1st Chair euphonium
 Adriana Derksen (11th grade), tuba
 Lucas Moore (11th grade), percussion

Also that same weekend, four Campolindo students played in Carnegie Hall as part of the International “Honors Performance Series”:

Kevin Deng (12th grade), trumpet,
 Honors Symphony Orchestra
 Brigitte Jia (12th grade), violin,
 Honors String Orchestra
 Aman Malhotra (11th grade), viola,
 Honors Symphony Orchestra
 Andrew Torres (11th grade), clarinet,
 Honors Band

It’s no coincidence that our Campo students are able to achieve so much. There is a direct link to their practice, dedication, and determination. But, it is also made possible through the remarkable parent support that we enjoy which includes donations, volunteerism, honest feedback, and attendance at our concerts. Thank you, parents, for your ongoing encouragement and support!

Sincerely,
 Johnny

WHY VALENTINE'S DAY?

by Johnny Johnson

Some of you may be wondering why there is a concert scheduled on Valentine's Day. The simple answer is this: there is a lack of any alternatives. Scheduling the many productions of our very active Performing Arts Department is a challenge. Over the years, we've settled on calendar dates that make that possible. February is our month to present our Winter Concerts and they need to be as late in the month as we can get them so that we can properly prepare for our highest level of performance. The Bands take the last Thursday of the month and the Orchestra takes the Wednesday before that. Why a week apart anyway? So that the wind players and percussionists don't have to play two concerts in one week. Why on Wednesday instead of Thursday? Because the California All-State Music Education Conference (CASMEC) starts on Thursday and if any students make the All-State bands or orchestras, they would have to be at the convention site on Thursday night to play their live auditions. So every 5 or 6 or 7 years, the Wednesday before CASMEC happens to be Valentine's Day. Thanks, Leap Year. And thanks also to you, Pope Gregory. Y'all come on back to the concert on Valentine's Day 2024. Hope to see you there!



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Parents of students graduating this year,

For our Spring newsletter each year we like to include "Parting Thoughts" from the parents of graduating Seniors.



We will email you more details in April, but please mark your calendars with the submission deadline of **Thursday 4/26** so that we can complete the layout and print the newsletters before our Spring Concert on May 11.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

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

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 7:30-9:00 PM

Winter Orchestra Concert — ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND
With Quartet San Francisco, led by Jeremy Cohen
Open to the public; please invite friends and family
Adults \$10 donation requested/Students & Kids free

Thursday, February 22, 2018, 7:30-9:00 PM

Winter Band Concert — ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND
With special guest artist Mike Vax
Open to the public; please invite friends and family
Adults \$10 donation requested/Students & Kids free

Friday, May 11, 2018, 7:00-9:30 PM

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

Friday, June 1, 2018, 6:00-10:00 PM

Jazz Café at Stanley Middle School
Ticket info to be announced closer to the event.

The full event Calendar for 2017-18 is available on our website: www.campomusic.org/upcoming-events

Thank you to Vadim Mikulinsky for providing concert photos for our newsletters.

You can see more of his photos on our website:
www.campomusic.org/gallery-2

FROM OUR MUSIC BOOSTER PRESIDENT

One of the many things that I love about Campolindo's music program is the requirement that students do quarterly performance reviews. These events have exposed our family not only to great concerts by student peers, but to many other wonderful musical offerings available close to home.

My son Lucas's favorite venue is of course tied closely to food, as what could be better than chicken teriyaki followed by an evening of music? We look forward to our regular outings to Yoshi's in Jack London Square, where there is not a bad seat in the house and the performances are always stellar. From world-class percussionist Tommy Igoe to the legendary Pete Escovedo, we've repeatedly left impressed by the quality and fun factor of their shows. One of the highlights for me occurred during a Pete Escovedo concert when he invited his daughter Sheila E to join him on stage (she of course being my hero as a teenager — beautiful, talented, and hangin' with Prince!). I highly recommend checking their calendar for upcoming events that you and your Campo musician might enjoy.

A few weeks ago I attended my first California Symphony performance in Walnut Creek. How nice it was to drive less than 10 minutes to enjoy incredible music in a terrific venue! We enjoyed Pastoral Beethoven conducted by music director Donato Cabrera, and an amazing violin concerto featuring 23-year old Alexi Kenney, someone whose great talent belies his youth. I look forward to returning to another concert there soon.

Speaking of concerts, last weekend I got to enjoy the honors band performance at San Ramon Valley High School. It was so impressive to hear how cohesively and beautifully these students played together after only a few days of rehearsal. The program put together by Guest Conductor Harvey Benstein was fun, upbeat, and thoughtful. I was proud to have a family member up on that stage. It was a special experience for all of us.

Being a part of Campolindo's music program as a parent volunteer is one of the many fulfilling ways that I feel lucky to spend my free time. We are always looking for new families to get involved, so if you have a student in band, orchestra, or jazz, please consider joining our

volunteer crew by helping with upcoming events or joining our Music Booster board. The time commitment is not extraordinary and the rewards are many.

Campolindo's Instrumental Music Program couldn't be what it is today without the support of our Music Boosters donors and volunteers. Thank you for being part of our efforts.

Erika Pringsheim-Moore
epringsheim@yahoo.com

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MUSIC BOOSTERS DONORS

Campolindo's Instrumental Music program relies on contributions from MEF, Parents Club, and its Booster members to continue to offer the highest quality instruction and varied musical experiences for our students. Thank you to all who have contributed to date.

If you have not yet donated, we would appreciate your support at any level. Please visit www.campomusic.org to download the donation form or visit the Campo Webstore to make your contribution.

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*Thank
You*