

The Newsletter of the Campolindo Instrumental Music Program

Brought to you by Campo Instrumental Music Boosters

FROM THE PODIUM

by Johnny Johnson, Music Director

Once again, we've reached that critical midpoint in the school year. We're tired. We're cold. The days are getting longer, but not quickly enough. Melt downs are more frequent. We need Vitamin D supplements and venting sessions to survive from one day to the next. But the seconds on the digital clock keep blinking ahead and there's work to be done and experiences to be had. The wonder of it all won't dawn on us for a few more weeks when the weather is warmer or the schedule is lighter. But we instinctively know that these moments are worthwhile and we'll look back on them with satisfaction and joy.

The 2019 agenda was already abuzz the first week back in January. We hosted two Moraga Area Concerts, one for orchestra and one for band. These annual concerts feature our Campo ensembles alongside middle school and elementary players, allowing all of us to get the broad perspective on the instrumental programs offered in our community schools. (The choral programs also get together, a few weeks later.) I always love it when the Campo musicians impress me, and these concerts were prime examples. Who would have thought they would be so on their game after two weeks of relaxation? They were in rare form, more than adequately demonstrating what can be accomplished over years of study on an instrument.

The Moraga area youngsters were definitely inspired and we can expect to see many or most of them in the Campo program in the coming years.

However, the highlight of the Symphonic Band's first week back was yet to come. On that Saturday, we loaded up the buses and headed to San Jose to perform at the Bay Section Conference of the California Music Educators Association (CMEA). Specifically, we served as the clinic band for a session led by Dr. Eric Hammer, Director of Bands at University of the Pacific and revered educator in the Bay Area. Dr. Hammer used the opportunity to give demonstrations of rehearsal techniques to those attending the session, an act that requires that a live band be present in the room. We were that band, hand picked by Dr. Hammer himself! The session included having young conductors serve as guinea pigs while Dr. Hammer offered them direct feedback and invited feedback from the session attendees as well as Symphonic Band members. It was an eye-opening experience for our players as they saw the true magic of conducting in action, and it was clear to them that it is more than just waving a baton.

The San Jose experience was made all the more meaningful when we learned a couple of weeks later that Dr. Hammer had died unexpectedly. It was a real gut punch for me, losing a treasured friend and advisor. His contributions to music education around

(continued on page 2)





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**Thank you to
Vadim Mikulinsky
for providing the
concert photos in
this newsletter.**

You can see more of
his beautiful photos
on the Gallery page
of our website:

campomusic.org

(continued from page 1)

the country, but especially in our area, are too many to list. He was foremost an incredibly inspiring and relentlessly positive person, one of the giants of our profession, and someone who will be greatly missed. I'm so very grateful that our students had the opportunity to partner with him in what turned out to be one of his final gifts to music education.

Another traditional January activity is preparation for the annual musical. Once again this year the show will feature our own band and orchestra members. *Phantom of the Opera* is a challenging show, and the pit orchestra rehearsals are already underway with students devoting several hours on selected afternoons to preparing the score. By the end of February, they'll be rehearsing with the singers, and by March run-throughs and dress rehearsals will be taking place nearly every evening. With a show this popular, you can expect sellout nights. From the Campo Choir website: "Pre-sales run from February 11 to February 22 for Sponsors, Committee Chairs, Cast, Crew, and Orchestra to honor and thank those who have contributed so much toward the success of the production." The pit musicians have been notified about how to get early access to tickets. General ticket sales begin on February 23. Shows run March 15-17 and March 22-24. Check campochoir.com for more information.

This year's Contra Costa County Honor Band was truly a special one. Our students have always enjoyed the opportunity and honor to work with a guest conductor, but this time around we were all very pleased to experience the musicianship and direction

of Dr. Danielle Gaudry from Cal State, East Bay. Students from several county schools auditioned in December and attended a reading rehearsal that evening. They gathered again on the evening of January 30 to begin the process of putting a concert together. Dr. Gaudry engaged the band in high level listening activities designed to engage students' ears and minds. This weekend is always a peek into the world of college-level work for our young musicians, but it was never more the case than this year. After two evenings and a Saturday of rehearsing together, the group presented a wonderfully artistic and satisfying concert to a full house. As always, Campolindo was well-represented in the CCCHB:

Carissa Zhu (senior), flute - FIRST CHAIR!
Andrew Torres (senior), clarinet
Justin Xiao (sophomore), clarinet
Emily Marston (junior), clarinet
Corbin Strong (sophomore), trumpet
Amrita Malhotra (freshman), French horn - FIRST CHAIR!
Michael Evans (junior), French horn
Connor Johnson (sophomore), trombone
Russell Bradley (junior), euphonium - FIRST CHAIR!
Adriana Derksen (senior), tuba - FIRST CHAIR!

When you read this, the 2019 Jazz Dinner Dance will have already come and gone. What a different sort of evening this is when we are able to enjoy our jazz musicians in a relaxed setting! Jazz is truly a unique art, and the many formats it enables—big band, limitless variations of combos, and plenty of solos—make it a

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

rich experience indeed. Perhaps the best feature of the Dinner Dance are the many performances of small combos allowing us to enjoy the individual talents often hidden within our larger ensembles. If you haven't already added this to your yearly calendar, I highly recommend it. You don't need to have a child performing to feel the thrill of jazz tunes you can dance to. It's also one of our few fundraisers during the year and adds significantly to our annual budget.

Speaking of our budget, your contributions to our program this year have allowed us to include area professionals as part of our daily music classes. The orchestra is benefitting greatly from the instruction of Jeremy Cohen who is serving in residence with us this year. Jeremy, you may recall, is the leader of Quartet San Francisco, a group we featured on the Winter Orchestra Concert last year. His vast experience with strings, combined with his wit and bottomless bag of tricks, has added a level of playing confidence beyond what we have had in the past. During a recent class, Jeremy brought two other QSF members— Joseph Christianson and Andrés Vera—who coached the viola and cello sections separately providing a much needed boost in technique for all players. Eric Price guides our bass section and has also been in residence with us these past few weeks as we have intensified our concert preparations.

We've benefitted from the talent and vast experience of Ross Wilson who is partnering with me in teaching The Jazz Academy. Ross is a monster player but he's also a really great guy so our mornings are always a little brighter when he joins us. Edward Evans, a trumpet player and USC graduate in Jazz Studies, has

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 **Friday 4/26** so that we can complete the layout and print the newsletters before our Spring Concert in early May.



visited us on several recent mornings to play alongside our students providing excellent observations and suggestions, as well as providing an important model for our trumpet section.

Finally, we've enjoyed a mini-residency with John Maltester. Mr. Maltester taught at Los Medanos College from over thirty years and is now teaching at St. Mary's College. He also conducts the Diablo Wind Symphony, of which many Campo students are a part. His help in negotiating the many different configurations of groups performing in the Winter Band Concert has been invaluable. His wealth of knowledge along with his good humor and bright disposition have made the time he's spent with us so delightful.

Every school year is filled with bumps, bruises, and imperfections, yet each is also perfect in its own way. The only sign we need to understand the value of our musical traditions is the continuous personal and artistic growth of our students. I am always profoundly aware that our accomplishments are made possible by

our parents, not only by contributions of funds and acts of volunteerism, but also by being there for students on a daily basis, seeing them through the rough times, and urging them to make good decisions and be good people. Thank you for your all-important, behind-the-scenes work. We depend on it!



A NEW SONG

by Booster President Jennifer Gilmour

My mother used to say that change was the only thing you can count on. And that was fine with me! In my experience, changes bring new opportunities, new adventures. I am the type that is perfectly happy with radio stations that play one random song after another. Maybe I will like it, maybe not, but it will be an adventure! Changes in life usually mean the end of something, which can be difficult, but the new beginnings are so exciting that I rarely feel a sense of loss.

As our children have grown from one phase to another, Mel and I have felt pretty good about letting go of the old phase and embracing the new one. Because we have four children, we've been able to enjoy the new phases while still having a child in the previous phase. So by the time the fourth child was moving past that old phase we were usually more than ready to leave it behind. However, looking back, there is something about each phase that will forever pull at our heartstrings. The funny thing is, we don't always know which detail it is that keeps hold of our hearts. I could have danced (maybe I did) when we gave away that last package of diapers because we no longer needed them; but what I wouldn't give to read each child one more bedtime story. We were ready to say goodbye to elementary school ... but weren't the Halloween parades sweet? Once in a while, I still wake up on a Saturday morning and try to remember how many soccer, football, basketball and volleyball games we have and how to hit them all before I have a sense of ... is it relief? ... that we no longer have that dilemma.

Now that our youngest is moving through his senior year at Campo, I have to admit that I am thinking twice about each "last thing" that we experience. While the Pops concert and potluck has always signaled a new year of music, I was aware this year that it would be our last. At the Fall concert, I found myself staring at our son in his tuxedo and remembering having it fitted his freshman year. However, I don't think it is just because it is our final year at



Campo. Every year my family looks forward to the Jazz Dinner Dance with an enthusiasm and anticipation that would rival an invitation to the Oscars. And why wouldn't we? What an experience it is to enjoy a great dinner with our closest friends while dancing to fantastic jazz music played by our own students!

The Campolindo music programs have provided our family with some of our favorite memories. Our daughter loved cutting loose in the Choral Pops concert with her friends and our sons will never lose the swagger they learned from Ross Wilson teaching them to "play loud!" As a family graduating out of the Campo programs, we encourage all of our music family friends to enjoy every moment! Cherish the hours of practice that lead to the few minutes of perfection. Treasure the crazy schedule juggling that means your children need you!

As I anticipate the next year for our family, I am reminded of our favorite play list on shuffle. As each song ends we wait for the next one, not knowing what it will be but knowing it will be great! Although some of us will no longer have students at Campo next year, we are still part of the community and invited to enjoy what the Campolindo Music Program has to offer. The Fall and Winter concerts will still produce amazing music and the Jazz Dinner Dance will still be a great night out. Maybe it is not the end, but the beginning of a new song. Let's continue to enjoy the music!

Save the Date

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

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

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 7:30-9:00 PM

Winter Orchestra Concert — ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND
Open to the public; please invite friends and family

Thursday, February 21, 2019, 7:30-9:00 PM

Winter Band Concert — ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND
Open to the public; please invite friends and family

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 7:30-9:30 PM

Symphonic Band and Huron H.S. from Ann Arbor, MI
All are invited!

Friday, May 10, 2019, 7:00-9:30 PM

Spring Concert — ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND
Open to the public; please invite friends and family

Friday, May 31, 2019, 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 2018-19
is available on our website:
www.campomusic.org/upcoming-events

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