FROM THE PODIUM
by Johnny Johnson, Music Director

The close of a school year is naturally a time to reflect and reconsider all the elements of our work. What did we do well? What still needs work? Are we making music at a highly artistic level? Are our educational goals being met? As we answer these questions and propose changes for next year, we draw closer to having that near-perfect program that meets the ideals of our school and our community. It also sets us up to serve future music students with a high level of satisfaction and joy. This time around, I’m struck by those elements of our program that we rarely notice.

For example, the Campo Instrumental Music Program has an important framework that is often taken for granted: our performance schedule. For our major ensembles, the school year is anchored by the Pops Concert, Fall Concert, Winter Concerts, and tonight’s all-important Spring Concert. For our jazz program, it includes the Jazz Dinner Dance and the Jazz Café at Stanley Middle School that keeps our players on their game all the way through the last day of school. This framework provides a timeline for our growth, as we attempt increasingly challenging music with each new event. There are few words that describe the underlying confidence that players are feeling as they present this Spring Concert, a confidence that was tenuous at best when we entered the stage back in October. For me personally, the joy I get from seeing and hearing the students respond intuitively, almost psychically, to my conducting is overwhelming. It is a level of communication that supersedes all verbal and written forms—a true gift to a conductor, and I hope to the students too. This level of mastery can only occur when we look for each upcoming performance to take us up a step.

Another often-overlooked piece of our program is the AP Music Theory class. Before you’re tempted to think that Music Theory is not on the level with other AP subjects, let me give you the briefest of content outlines: clefs, intervals, triads, seventh chords, ear training, keyboard knowledge, sightsinging, composing projects, analysis projects, and historical contexts. Even the most experienced of students find this challenging, and many students tell me that it’s their most difficult AP class. But, they also tell me that it’s their most enjoyable. I’ve been privileged to teach this class for the past seven years with dozens of instrument and vocal students (also pianists and guitarists and even harpists) going through this experience and achieving top scores on the AP Music Theory exam. I’ve been able to tweak the curriculum, adding to the content to make it more meaningful and understandable, and we’ve reached a point now where I am overwhelmed by the interest in the class. Next year, we’ll welcome 25 students in AP Music Theory, the highest number ever. I’m so proud that we have so many students who want this knowledge, and we constantly see how they are using it to arrange music, write original music, or simply enjoy a new level of comprehension of the music they are performing in band, orchestra, or choir.

We take particular pride in activities that enable all elements of the Campo music program to work together. Certainly, the most dramatic of these is our collaboration with the choir on the annual musical. If you didn’t get to see this year’s production of Phantom of the Opera, you definitely missed one of the great moments in our school’s history. I always mention the commitment this undertaking requires from students. For our players, they started working on the music in rehearsals with me back in January, and not always on days that were convenient for them. But they showed up. By the time Mr. Roberts was ready to take over in late February, they were ready. Their playing through the eight performances of this show was mature, expressive, and entertaining, and I must compliment them on their professionalism! It’s amazing

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to see the growth that this one experience provides, and I hope many more of our players will consider exploring this opportunity at least once in their high school career.

Collaboration itself has been one of our critical goals over the past few years, not just with our Campo music partners, but with our music partners in the larger Northern California community and beyond. These activities expand our understanding of how others are exploring the art of music-making: we both learn from them and share our perspectives with them. We enjoyed being the clinic band for a conducting workshop presented by Dr. Eric Hammer at the CMEA Bay Section Winter Conference in San Jose last January. (Dr. Hammer was the Director of Bands at UOP until his untimely death a few weeks after our collaboration with him.) More recently, we enjoyed a joint workshop and concert with the Huron High School Band from Ann Arbor, Michigan, who were touring in the Bay Area in March. All of the many social media platforms available to us today cannot give us the soulful joy of face-to-face interaction with colleagues and peers across the continent with music as our common interest.

Every year is different, and it is the variations from year to year that allow students to enjoy a rich experience over their four years with us. This depth has produced steady growth in recent years. I mentioned in a previous newsletter that we needed to address this growth next year, perhaps by breaking up the larger groups into two classes. The updated news is that it looks like we’ll maintain our groups in their current configurations for another year and that is a great relief. If you haven’t heard, the school calendar next year will be quite different, and that will affect our performance schedule and other elements of our work together. We’ll be able to focus on adapting to that newness and have another year to consider how we’ll address our growth plan.

Thank you to the Campolindo Instrumental Music Booster Board and all the parents who have helped us raise funds this year. These funds enable us to purchase music; purchase and maintain instruments and keep them in good repair; provide lessons for our instrument switchers; secure guests artists, clinicians, and artists-in-residence; provide for staff development; and print our concert programs. As we move forward, we hope that many more parents will volunteer to continue this work and ensure the future stability of the Campolindo Instrumental Music Program. More funds create more experiences and reduce overall stress, so we appreciate whatever you can do.

Once again, we are saying goodbye to a talented group of seniors who have dedicated four years of their lives to making our program a wonderful place to be. Their contributions have been unique gifts, singular in their quality, never to be brought to us by another group of students. As always, I trust that we’ve provided them with the skills, knowledge, poise, sophistication, and sensitivity that they can use to generate successful and worthwhile careers.

I’m continuously amazed by the ability of music education to expand our brains, improve our well-being, and revolutionize our social and team skills. Every year we welcome new students whose souls connected them to music at a young age, and we have the task of nurturing that connection as they participate in our program over their high school years. It’s a responsibility and a privilege. It’s also an honor and a necessity. We need music! Our students need music! This is every bit a service to them as would be a medical clinic or a fire rescue plan. I hope we never lose sight of the value of this service, and I know that our students, parents, and community-at-large support us in preserving what we’ve built.
THE BEST OF TIMES
by Jennifer & Mel Gilmour, Booster Presidents

Is it just me or do we all have a soundtrack in our heads marking the significant moments in our lives? “The Best of Times” by Styx will always transport me back to Freshman year of high school when I met my lifetime BFF and had the best school year ever! “American Pie” by Don McLean was the song that my siblings and I sang over and over on rainy days, wishing we could go outside. We play so many different genres of music in our house (“Alexa, play R&B”) and from our Spotify lists (“NeoSomething”, “Oregon drive”, “Tahoe playlist”) and we often ask one another, “Where were you when you first heard this song?” Many of the significant moments in our lives are marked by a certain song, album, or soundtrack from a movie or musical. It doesn’t change when we start raising kids, it just shifts to THEIR songs. Now I have memories of taking our daughter to her first NSYNC concert and watching our son lead worship music at our church plus so many Campo concerts and musicals in between.

Having raised our kids in the music programs in Moraga, many of our memories are highlighted by moments in their musical education. We were so grateful to move from the hard bleachers in the JM multipurpose room while our students tried to pull sounds from their newly acquired instruments to the comfy seats in the CPAC as we enjoyed the first high school concerts. Because we have four kids spanning 11 years, we have memories of many Pops, Fall, Winter, and Spring concerts as well as fantastic musicals including Beauty and the Beast (TWICE!) and finally… Phantom of the Opera! Our family will always reminisce about these events that we shared together regardless of which child was on stage or in the pit at the time.

In this newsletter, we have asked parents of Seniors to submit their “Parting Thoughts” about how music has impacted our students’ lives. Being involved in a strong music program has done so much for our children from teaching them about the history, geography, and cultures of the pieces they play to giving them the confidence that they can produce something beautiful with enough care. But what it has given our family is SHARED MEMORIES. The four years of high school may be a short time for a parent but they are formative years in the development of our students; and they experience so much of it without us even knowing about it. These shared memories of concerts, musicals, and special trips are markers of these years that our family will talk about forever. Remember these moments!

Even better, PARTICIPATE in these important years! Our Music Booster positions are filling up for the 2019-2020 school year, but we always have room for more parents to join in and work on various projects throughout the year to prepare for the following years. For example, we have a great team in place to plan the 2020 Jazz Dinner Dance, but they are all upper-class parents. We would love to have some Freshman and Sophomore parents shadow and help a little so they will be ready to manage the event the following year.

Please consider how you would like to share these very significant years with your student and contact current President, Jennifer Gilmour at jennifergilmour6@gmail.com or 2019-2020 presidents, Denise Nomura at denise.nomura@gmail.com and Stacy Giglio at thegigliofamily1@gmail.com.

Parting Thought: Participate, enjoy, and make memories! Let’s take a bit of advice from the Styx song; “We’ll take the best, forget the rest, and someday we’ll find… these are the best of times.”

Nominated Music Boosters Board and Committee Members for 2019-2020

Presidents: Denise Nomura and Stacy Giglio
Vice President: Amy Kikugawa
Treasurer: Bill Doherty
Concert Attire: Tina Donovan
Homecoming Concessions: Ellen Cho and Michelle Clancy
Hospitality (Band): Cheryl Evans, Jari Hazard, and Reena Malhotra
Hospitality (Orchestra): Kim Sutherland and OPEN
Jazz Dinner Dance: Shelly Muray, Stacy Giglio, and Tina Donovan
Newsletter Layout: Tina Riepe
Photography: Vadim Mikulinsky
Pops Potluck: Amy Kikugawa and Laura Smyrl
Publicity: OPEN
Senior Gifts: OPEN
Webmaster: Nanci Thomas
Welcome Back BBQ: Cynthia Granicher and Laural Smyrl
PARTING THOUGHTS
Thank you to the parents of graduating Seniors who shared their music memories and reflections on the role of music in students’ lives. Their comments, in no particular order:

Andrew Torres – We never dreamed music would play such an outsized role in Andrew’s life. It took Johnny Johnson to deepen his dedication to the arts. If it hadn’t been for Mr. Johnson’s encouragement, Andrew would not have auditioned for the County Honor Band his freshman year; which led to Diablo Wind Symphony the past three years; and last year to the National High School Honor Band and Carnegie Hall! As parents, of course we relish Andrew’s performances, but his interest in music has also given us a chance to share personal and meaningful experiences together. For example, we love SF Symphony’s annual summer concert at Stern Grove, and a recent trip to London found us mesmerized by a chamber ensemble playing by candlelight at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. We have so many special memories, and are grateful to Mr. Johnson, the Maltesters, and everyone who has influenced Andrew. We’re excited for him to take his clarinet with him to Northwestern University in the fall, where he will keep playing while determining his (as yet undecided) major.
– Kathi and Jorge Torres

Aman Malhotra – Aman’s musical journey started when he was a toddler. He loved tapping on Indian tabla drums and started learning piano and music theory at age seven. Through elementary and middle school he played violin and later picked up viola in high school. Performing at Chicago Symphony Hall and Carnegie Hall were unforgettable experiences for him. Being part of the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra since tenth grade has further reinforced his passion for music, and he loved playing in the pit orchestra for Phantom of the Opera this year. Thanks to Aman, we have come to appreciate different genres of music and feel blessed to have witnessed some remarkable concerts with him. He is going to study applied mathematics at Stanford and plans to continue playing music. We are grateful to all his music teachers—Mr. Noel, Mr. Gleason, Ms. Freund-Striplen, and Mr. Johnson—for their continued support and encouragement throughout his musical journey.
– Reena and Ish Malhotra

Alex Mangoba – Alex has been instructed or taught himself to play the piano, guitar (classical, bass, and electric) and saxophone (alto and tenor). Alex’s relationship with music started early, as he began playing piano in first grade and participated in recitals and honors competitions throughout grade school. These early experiences performing solo gave him the confidence he has carried with him throughout his school years. In 6th grade he added the alto sax and played in the JM jazz, concert, and symphonic bands. Throughout middle school he learned to collaborate with others to create beautiful music in several different styles. Alex switched to tenor sax in high school and enjoyed mastering more advanced pieces through the jazz program and four years of band. We are so grateful to Adam Noel and Johnny Johnson for keeping Alex’s love of music alive and teaching him to share it with others. Attending the JM and Campo concerts has been among the highlights of our move to Moraga, and we have been fortunate to be able to share these events with his grandparents and other extended family. Alex will be attending UC Berkeley in the fall. Alex, we are so proud of you! We hope music continues to be an important part of your life!
– Cecilia and Leo Mangoba

Isabel Hinchliff – Isabel is as much a musician as a bookworm. She started piano in Kindergarten and choir in 1st grade, continuing both to this day. She played violin in 4th grade, then clarinet in 5th and 6th, before being won over with the oboe when Mr. Speers (later her teacher) visited JM. Oh, the foibles and temperaments, the nuances of reeds, tuning, and pitch that is the oboe! We much encouraged, and Mr. Noel always inspired. By Campo, first rewards and new challenges came fast with County Honor Band in Freshman year, but practice and progress were exponential. We admired how Mr. Johnson and Mr. Speers shrewdly coached, giving just the right nudge or boost. We’ve relished every concert. It was a tremendous joy seeing Isabel play “Gabriel’s Oboe” with Campo orchestra, and magical when she accompanied at Campo Choir concerts. All along, we’ve seen Isabel’s musical journey give her escape from daily stresses, and invaluable wider benefits - discipline, camaraderie, creativity, self-confidence, to mention a few. It’s been phenomenal to witness and we’re profoundly thankful to Mr. Noel, Mr. Speers, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Roberts, and the many professionals and volunteers who’ve given their time and talent. You’ve instilled a lifelong passion we know will continue in college!
– Ruth and Giles Hinchliff

Samuel Lum – Sam, we are so proud of you! You chose to make music a big part of your high school life and have been richly rewarded with wonderful relationships, experiences at the Chicago International Music Festival, SF Orchestra and Gold Cost Chamber performances. You’ve enjoyed Mr. Johnson’s leadership, classes, and sense of humor. Your performances have not only been enjoyed by your immediate family but thoroughly appreciated by your extended family (grandparents, uncles, aunts, family friends, etc.). Good luck at UO!
– Darien and Laura Lum
John Brouhard – The Campolindo music program allowed John to play music with a great group of peers, led by an inspiring conductor and teacher. John’s experience in music gave him an appreciation for the arts. He loves attending musicals and he is quite content spending hours in an art museum. John will be attending Santa Clara University, studying computer science. We know that art and music will continue to influence John throughout his life. We would like to thank everyone who influenced John in his school music programs. And we would like to thank John for being tall (so we can easily see him on stage during performances). We want John to know that we think that he looks stunning in a tuxedo and that we love him so very much.

– Kristina and John Brouhard

Adriana Derksen – We are grateful to Adam Noel for encouraging Adriana, then a young clarinet player, to try the tuba. Despite her initial uncertainty (“I just wish it had a reed!”) Adriana quickly abandoned treble clef and grew to love the instrument that she learned is “like the bass guitar in a rock band—it brings out the sound of all the other instruments.” Adriana, we will miss your (more or less) daily tuba warm-ups that we have by now memorized. We fondly remember choosing a new car based on whether the tuba would fit in the trunk. It’s entirely fitting that a primary criterion in your college search was music performance opportunities. May music (including guitar and ukulele) continue to provide you a comforting community and friendships beyond the classroom. Much gratitude to all of the supportive music educators in Adriana’s life: Becca Burrington, Tommy Davidson, Jay Lehman (BYO), John and Diane Maltester (DWS), Alexis True and all the Cazadero staff, the CMEA, numerous guest conductors, and Johnny Johnson. You are all such positive role models! Adriana, good luck as you forge your unique path in neuroscience and public policy at THE Ohio State University. Remember to keep your mouthpiece warm when playing at the hockey rink. We hope to see you dot the “i” one day.

– Papa & Mom, aka Paul and Ashia Derksen

Gabe Poon – Gabriel fell in love with the violin at an early age. As an infant, listening to recordings of the Bach Partitas soothed him. As a toddler, he stood in front of the stereo and pretended to conduct Beethoven’s Violin Concerto in D Major. As a second grader, he started lessons during a family sabbatical in Germany and has since continued his love affair with the violin. As he’s matured, playing music has helped Gabriel connect with other people. He’s enjoyed the experiences with his peers as a member of the Young People’s Chamber Orchestra, Campo school orchestra, and Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Gabriel has also used his music training to help his community. He’s busked at the Rockridge BART station to raise money for OneSky, an organization which helps abandoned children in China by providing them with care and early education opportunities. He’s also volunteered as a summer camp counselor for the Glenview Strings, a non-profit organization that seeks to foster a love of music among children in the Oakland Unified School District. As counselor, Gabriel coached small groups of elementary school-aged children and taught them the fundamentals of music performance such as rhythm, intonation, ear training, and playing in an ensemble.

Gabriel plans to continue to play the violin as he heads to Queen’s University in Kingston, Canada, to study Physics. We would like to thank Mr. Johnson for the humor and guidance that he has provided to the Campo music program.

– Glenda and Alan Poon

Ryan Yick – From the sweet sounds of the recorder at Los Perales to the rich and melodic tones of the clarinet with Mr. Noel’s progressive elementary and concert band programs at JM and culminating with Mr. J’s energetic and creative program at Campo, music has been an enriching and integral part of Ryan’s life that has nurtured and sustained him. With appreciation and gratitude to our wonderful community of parents and educators for their support of our students in all aspects of their academic, athletic, and artistic endeavors, we are so proud of Ryan and the person he has become.

– May Lo and Andy Yick

Sofia West – We’d like to take a moment to thank Johnny Johnson for opening musical doors to our daughter Sofia West that she’ll walk through long after the conclusion of high school. Sofia’s time as a cellist in the Campo orchestra has been one of her most treasured high school activities, and watching her develop as a musician has been a highlight of her growth. A few years ago, I had the opportunity to chaperone the orchestra’s trip to Chicago to the International Music Festival. I realized then that this very special group is a positive and nurturing environment that could meaningfully enhance a high school career. Sofia’s participation in the musical’s pit orchestra for the past three years has been a true joy – watching their dedication and hard work come to fruition in awe-inspiring performances was just an incredible experience that I know our daughter will treasure forever. Now, as she heads to Colgate University this fall, cello in tow, we know that her love of music and performing will be a consistent source of pleasure and inspiration as she spreads her wings and flies. Sofia, watching you perform has been a delight – we can’t wait to see what the coming years will bring!

– Lisa Stroup & Greg West
Kira Riegelhuth – We are grateful for the role that music has played in Kira’s life, from elementary school through high school. Playing the flute and being part of a team has provided Kira with skills and benefits that are not often part of the traditional academic curriculum – team-work, creativity, and stress relief, to name a few. Best of all, Kira has met some of her closest friends through band; friends that inspire her and give her joy in and out of the rehearsal room. Many thanks to Mr. Johnson and Kira’s band-mates for making music such an important part of her high school years.

– Kathleen Michon and Doug Riegelhuth

Leif Carlson – Music is a gateway to and from the soul, a universal language that transcends discord among peoples, drawing diverse backgrounds toward a unifying inspiration. These, among many others, are the sentiments that Leif will carry with him as he journeys down the unpredictable yet fascinating pathway of life. His experiences and growth through music – starting at age 5 with his just-hired music teacher trying to coax him off the floor as a necessary precursor to learning how to properly hold a violin, to “performing” in those first few concerts at Joaquin Moraga (the kids were certainly cute, but I’m sure we all cringed at the “developing sound”), to the anxiety of recitals, to the incredible opportunity performing at the Chicago Symphony Center, to his place as part of the stupendous Campolindo Orchestra with all its truly fine musicians – the experience has been one of wonder, growth, and imagination. Although Leif may not yet fully appreciate that which has been bestowed upon him through the gift of music, that inspirational seed will germinate and blossom as he matures, providing insight and compassion as well as a better understanding and appreciation for who we are as human beings and our place in the universe.

– Dad (Leif Carlson)

Lucas Moore – The day Lucas was born, Jack looked at his long fingers and predicted, “He’s going to be a musician”. How glad are we that his prediction came true! Indeed, early on, Lucas was singing and playing whatever instrument we gave him. While we aren’t wistful that the days of elementary and middle school trumpet blares are behind us, we’ve loved being in the audience to enjoy the many wonderful concerts over the years. We will definitely miss hearing his periodic piano and percussion practice in our basement. Watching the talents of our son and his classmates grow has been amazing, and hearing them play at CPAC was such a privilege. Thank you Johnny Johnson for being such an energetic, upbeat, and supportive teacher for our kids. We know they will all carry with them the musical and life’s gifts that they have acquired while in your charge.

– Erika Pringsheim-Moore

Congratulations to all our Seniors. We wish them each the very best as they embark on a new journey!

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