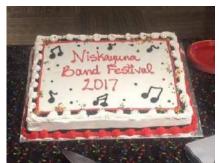


### Wrapping Up Another Great Year In Music

As I write this, I am reflecting on the fact that spring is a very busy and exciting time for our music faculty, our music students, and for Friends of Music (FOM). March was Music in Our Schools Month and traditionally the time for our annual music festival. This year we highlighted our bands. Students had the opportunity to work (and play!) with the musicians of the Potsdam Brass Quintet. Our **HS Symphonic** 



**Band** was able to perform the world premiere of "Festival Fanfare", composed for this event by renowned musician and Niskayuna alum, **Jay Mobley**. Friends of Music lends significant financial support to the annual music festival. Without the underwriting of the Proctors rental, our students would not have the opportunity to play in this beautiful and historical venue. For those of us in the audience, the upgrade in comfort and acoustics as compared to having the performance in the high school gymnasium (as we did in the not so distant past) is very much appreciated. FOM also underwrites the costs for our guest artists, giving our students an opportunity to work with professional musicians they would not

otherwise have. So thank you to all who support this event with their memberships and donations as well as to the many who volunteered to make this event a success.

With barely a moment to catch our breath, we launched into preparations for our annual Jazz Festival, which took place in April in celebration of Jazz appreciation month. It has always been a favorite in our concert calendar. This year, we welcomed **Bret Zvacek** as our guest artist. As always, we ended the evening with our Java Jazz cafe with desserts donated by parents. Our MS and HS jazz band students also attended the Shenendehowa Jazz Fest on April 13 with funding provided by a FOM enrichment grant.

The month of May ushers in ten year end concerts as well as our scholarship season, which includes both our summer study scholarship auditions/awards and senior scholarships. At each of these events, you will find FOM members volunteering to make things run smoothly, and in some cases, folks have spent countless hours leading up to these events just to get them off the ground.

Having been involved with Friends of Music at the executive board level for the last 2 years, I have really been inspired and humbled by what this organization does for our students. Through our enrichment grants at all grade levels, I really believe Friends of Music has touched every student in our district. We need your help to continue to do so. We welcome and appreciate your membership support, but we also continue to need volunteers. If you are reading this, please consider joining Friends of Music if you have not already done so. I also ask you to commit to volunteering at a FOM function at least once. Whether it's ushering at a concert, helping with snacks at Summer Sonata, or baking for Java Jazz Cafe, it's a great way to get to know fellow music parents, and see up close all the effort that goes into enriching the music experience for our students. If you have already experienced a bit of FOM, consider becoming a liaison, committee chair or officer. I really believe that you will be glad, as I have been, for the experience of learning more about our Music program, getting to know other parents, and helping our kids get the most out of their music education.

## DIRECTOR'S DESK

### From the Director

It is hard to believe the school year is drawing to a close. But the sun and warmth have finally returned, and we get to enjoy this time of year by saying thank you and appreciating the hard work and talent of our student musicians. Our final concert series is an opportunity to reap the rewards of a year's worth of dedication to the performing arts and to say goodbye to our seniors who will graduate and pursue even bigger dreams.

First and foremost we thank our students and their families for their support of the music department. Many hours were spent practicing, volunteering and advocating for our program. Your contributions have an impact on the entire Niskayuna community.

Thank you also to Friends of Music and its Executive Committee. So much time and energy are spent pursuing the best for our students by providing enrichment grants for visiting artists and equipment, funding events like this year's Band Festival and Jazz Festival, the annual Senior Banquet, numerous scholarships, Summer Sonata and so much more. Thank you for all you do.

We cannot overlook the faculty and staff who play a part in all the success we enjoy. Special thanks goes to **Tracy Koste**, music department secretary, whom many of you know provides such strong support to both students and parents. **Maria Germain**, our district accompanist, contributes her musicianship and kindness throughout the district. And thank you to high school head custodian **Shawn King** without whom much of what we do could not be accomplished.

Everyone should feel grateful and proud for all that we've accomplished this year. Best wishes for a restful summer, and thank you again for making music such an important part of your lives.

Mr. Hughes

### Great Year in Music (continued)

For the 2017-18 school year, we will be looking to fill the following board positions: Vice President, Treasurer, and member at large. We are also looking for volunteers for our newsletter and to be in charge of hospitality. If you are interested in filling any of these positions, please contact our Nominating Committee Chair, **Lori Fletcher**, at <a href="mailto:fletchers@mac.com">fletchers@mac.com</a>, or me at <a href="mailto:BBFOM2016@gmail.com">BBFOM2016@gmail.com</a>. I hope you will consider joining our efforts to provide these many enriching opportunities to our music students.

As this will be my final Notes article as president, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the folks who have worked so hard to accomplish all that Friends of Music does. Our Acting Director, **Mr. Hughes**, has been a pleasure to work with and brings energy and vision to every meeting.

The rest of the faculty has awed us with their skill, dedication and enthusiasm for teaching your children. My fellow officers, **Jodi Rossman**, **Laura Heffernan**, and **Sue Wheeler** have been organized, efficient and enthusiastic in their work. I could count on them for anything, but especially to step up when life prevented me from tending to my FOM duties. Our committee chairs and liaisons have put in so many hours doing events, newsletters, the web site, running our scholarship programs, selling pies, raising corporate donations, managing membership and ensuring our concerts are ushered. I have been awed by their knowledge of the organization and so grateful to them for making it all work.

### More from the Director's Desk

### Name-A-Chair

This fall Niskayuna Friends of Music will revive the Name-A-Chair campaign. Started in the early 2000's, this project raises funds to make improvements to our high school auditorium, the main performance space for all the ensembles in the district. So many special moments happen on this stage that we want to continue to watch it grow and flourish. With your help we will focus on future opportunities while we maintain our tradition of excellence.

More information will become available in the fall and we hope for your continued support.

### Elementary Instrumental Recruitment Night

Please join us for a special parent night and informational meeting on Wednesday, June 7 at 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Students currently in grade 3 (with an interest in orchestra) and students in grade 4 (with an interest in band), along with their parents, are invited to attend. This night follows a week of demonstrations for students during the school day.

This is an opportunity to meet our elementary instrumental music faculty and learn more about our program, including expectations and the numerous benefits our program offers your student musician. An informational handbook will be provided at the meeting for your review. This handbook will be a valuable resource for you and your student musician for years to come.

Additionally, parents may sign-up for their individual student/parent/teacher conference following the evening presentation. Please bring your calendar!

Again, this is for all those interested in joining our elementary instrumental program in September. Orchestra is offered beginning in grade 4 and band is offered beginning in grade 5.

### **Bridge Arts Ensemble**

The district was happy to welcome the Bridge Arts Ensemble for a week-long residency in March at all of our elementary schools. They provided concerts and workshops to all K-5 students in the district. We look forward to their visits on May 22 & 23 at Van Antwerp and Iroquois Middle Schools.

### SPAC Classical Kids

Niskayuna is happy to begin a new partnership with the Saratoga Performing Arts Center for its Classical Kids program. SPAC's goal is to inspire and engage young people through immersion in creative process, ultimately developing with them a stronger self-esteem, a connection to their community, and a desire for continued achievement.

This year SPAC Classical Kids will present an introductory arts education program in dance for all fifth grade students. Professional dancers will focus on a specific program that will be presented at SPAC during the summer season. An interactive study guide is provided in advance of the **June 6** visit. Students who attend the summer performance are given a Classical Kids Lawn Pass, granting them (and an accompanying adult) free lawn admission to all ballet performances at SPAC until they graduate from high school.

### ${f M}$ ORE FROM THE ${f D}$ IRECTOR'S ${f D}$ ESK

### Summer Sonata Program July 17-27, 2017

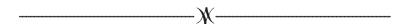
The Nisky "Summer Sonata" music program is a fun, two-week camp designed for upper elementary and middle school students who are already members of the NCSD bands, choirs, or orchestras. Eligible students who will be entering **grades 5-8 for orchestra**, **grades 6-8 for band**, **and grades 6-9 for choir** are welcome. This exciting opportunity is for students who enjoy music and wish to continue developing their music skills during the summer with Nisky faculty!

Students will further their musical aptitude and performing skills in both large ensemble and small group settings. Students will also discover music appreciation and knowledge through conversation and "hands-on" projects in: Musical Theatre, Music History, Music Theory, Jazz Improvisation, Opera, "Music Around Us," World Drumming and Music Technology.

Classes and ensemble rehearsals will be conducted Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon, beginning July 17. Upon completion of the two-week program, students will present a culminating afternoon showcase for their family, friends, and community on July 27 at 12 Noon in the High School Auditorium. All are invited to a light afternoon luncheon provided by Niskayuna Friends of Music immediately following the afternoon showcase. The program registration fee is \$225.

Those students who are currently enrolled in more than one school ensemble (ie: combination of band, choir or orchestra) must select one ensemble they wish to perform with. Students involved in multiple ensembles should list their order of preference on the registration form.

Registration forms are available in the District Music Office or at <a href="https://www.niskyschools.org">www.niskyschools.org</a>. The forms should be returned to your school music teacher or to the District Music Office at the high school. **Registration deadline is June 9.** (See registration form on page 15)



### Sample Daily Schedule from last year - 2016:

8:50-9:00 – Student arrival – Sign In – ORCHESTRA ROOM

9:00-9:20 - All Camp Choir - AUDITORIUM PIT

9:20-10:00 - Music Appreciation Class - ORCHESTRA ROOM

10:00-10:50 - Large Ensemble Rehearsal - LOCATIONS BELOW

10:50-11:10 - Break for Snack - MUSIC HALLWAY

11:15-11:45 - All Camp Drumming - AUDITORIUM STAGE

11:45-12:00 - Closure Activity - AUDITORIUM SEATS

12:00 - Dismissal

### 2016-17 Friends of Music Board & Committees

#### **President**

Barbara Burgess bbfom2016@gmail.com

#### Vice President

Jodi Rossman

jrossmanFOM@gmail.com

#### **Secretary**

Sue Wheeler

#### Treasurer

Laura Heffernan

#### **Director of Music Education**

Eric Hughes

#### **Membership**

Bryan Cherry

#### **Fundraising**

Lori Fletcher/Pie Sale

Lora Zilberman/Sponsorships

#### **Scholarship**

Mary Staudinger/Summer Study

Sue Learner/Senior

### **Publicity**

Karla Duggal/Newsletter

Priti Irani/Buzzable

Beth Koessler/Website

### **High School Liaisons**

Iulie Petralia

### **Iroquois School Liaisons**

Greta Jansson

Nancie Stella

### Van Antwerp School Liaison

Mary Ann Lasher

### **Birchwood School Liaison**

Tammy Apkarian

#### Craig School Liaison

Marilyn Brown

### **Glencliff School Liaison**

Michelle Boretti

#### **Hillside School Liaison**

Open

### Rosendale School Liaisons

Kristin Bidoshi

Rebecca Stashower

### Members-at-Large

Open

### **Students**

Kyle Fletcher

**Johanne Friedman** 

# More from the Director's Desk

### Mrs. Sausa-Gatta Ends a Remarkable 37-year Career in June

After working in the Scotia and Schenectady City School Districts, **Mrs. Sausa-Gatta** began teaching in Niskayuna in 1987. She taught at **Glencliff** and, after staying home to raise her children, Niskayuna alums **Thomas** and **Richard Gatta**, she returned to Nisky in 1993. Since then, she has taught at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels in six Niskayuna schools: **Birchwood, Glencliff, Hillside,Van Antwerp, Iroquois,** and the **High School**. This year she teaches general music at **Birchwood** and general music as well as fourth and fifth grade chorus at **Hillside**.

**Mrs. Sausa-Gatta's** love of teaching and learning led her to National Board Certification in Early Childhood Music. She also earned a Certificate of Advanced Study in Teacher Leadership and Mentoring from Union Graduate College. She is always quick to share her talents and expertise with others.

Outside of school, **Mrs. Sausa-Gatta** is very involved in the performing arts, both on stage and off. She has performed with the Schenectady Light Opera Company and danced with Northeast Ballet. Many of her students have had the pleasure of seeing her perform. She's dedicated many hours to technical work behind the scenes, making costumes and designing sets.

We are so grateful for **Mrs.Sausa-Gatta's** contributions to "Hello **Hillside**" and many musicals at the High School. She has left her mark as an educator, musician, artist, mentor and friend to so many of us in Niskayuna.

Retirement plans include lots of travel with family, many relaxing days and nights at her lake house in Vermont, becoming more involved in community theater, and exploring education in different ways. If we're lucky, we may see her around the district as a substitute teacher!

We wish Mrs. Sausa-Gatta all the best as she moves into this new chapter in her life!

"There's something inside you

This I know

It's like a melody

Like there you go just now."

from The Light in The Piazza (Mrs. Sausa-Gatta's favorite musical!)

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered at the Jazz Festival.

Thanks to **Katie Chao** for organizing the Cafe, and to all those who helped or brought food:

Coleen LeCours, Nikki Denney, Nicki Foley, Jennifer Zhao, Marcia Lawton, Priti Irani, Tom Riendeau, Shelley Alcinay, Kirk Wegter-McNelly, Joyce Choi, Michelle Osterlich, Lori Fletcher, Stephanie Vernooy, Julie Petralia, Natalie Cropsey, Kelly Wilber, Valentina Krauss, Jeanmarie Quinn, Tammylynn Mayer, and Gloria Vassolas

Special thanks to our friends at **Starbucks** for donating the coffee for the event.

# THE BAND FESTIVAL







### Thanks to the following parent and student volunteers:

Ruth Monica Basantes Kristin Bidoshi Carol Blood John Burgess Billie Cano

Paul and Tamesa Casella

Tracy Cazer Katie Chao Haley Colvin Jess Dagnal Ellen Daviero June Deery

Michelle DellaFave Cynthia Fairbanks Rayette Fisher Elissa Fromowitz Carey and Mike Grigas Michele Haney
Diane Hartig
Ian Hughes
Priti Irani
Mark Kelly
Jim Kokernak
Chris LaBattaglia
Carri LaCroix-Pan
Mary Ann Lasher
Sue Lerner

Kim Liguori Linda Lin Ellen Lin Wolfe Maggie Malatesta

Andy Mavian Yi-Mei Aliza Mesbahi Carol Molino Kristin Morris Joan Morra Karen Roberts Ximena Rojas Hannah Rossman Sarah Rudgers-Tysz Sandra Schujman Yasmine Staten Grace Theurer

**Michele Tibbitts-Esposito** 

Ruth Tso Sally Ward Sue Wheeler Fred Wheeler



### HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

### **Choral Corner**

Q: What has this school year been like in the choral program at Niskayuna High School?

A: Amazing! The 2016-2017 choral students have been a special crop of kids! Not only are they talented, but they are hardworking, driven, and intrinsically motivated to sound better and to continue their music development with each passing day. Congratulations on a busy and fulfilling year of performances, music growth and many wonderful accomplishments.

Congratulations to:

**Lauren Gabriele** who received the Thursday Musical Club Scholarship to continue her pursuit of private vocal study. Lauren will be minoring in music at Marist College beginning in the fall.

Paul Tan who participated in the Mendelssohn Club of Albany's Vocal Competition on April 1.

**Catie LeCours** who performed a piece from Wilde Tales at the Glimmerglass Gala at the Metropolitan Club in NYC on April 5. In addition, Catie will be performing in Glimmerglass Opera's Youth Production of Robin Hood in August. Please visit www.glimmerglass.org for ticket information.

### **Choral Uniforms:**

All students and parents should receive their form about ordering choral uniforms for the 2017-2018 school year by May 19. Order forms and payment are due on Friday, June 9.

**ALL USED UNIFORMS MUST BE DRYCLEANED AND TURNED IN BY WEDNESDAY JUNE 7.** Any uniform that is damaged or in poor condition will not be accepted for resale and will be discarded. Any uniform turned in for resale that does not have the correct paperwork attached in order to contact the seller will be donated to Friends of Music. Old Ladies First uniforms (blue skirt and velvet top) may not be sold, but may be donated for the "Caroling for CA\$H" fundraiser.

### **Outside Performances:**

~On March 30, **Studio Singers** performed at the City Mission lunchtime meal service to a very receptive and appreciative audience **(see photo right)**. It was a pleasure to serve the community and to share the work being done in the classroom with this wonderful organization and those who benefit from the City Mission's wonderful work.



~On May 25 at 7:00 p.m., **Bel Canto Voices** will present their final examination quartets in Crossroads, before the concert. Students have been collaborating on madrigals and motets in Italian, French, German, Latin, and English.

**~Bel Canto Voices** will once again provide music for the Memorial Day Ceremony at the High School on Friday, May 26 at 10:30 a.m.

## More High School Notes

~Studio Singers will present their final examination Cabaret Concert on Wednesday June 7 at 10:45 a.m. in the Choir room. Students will present solos, duets, and ensembles from standard jazz and musical theater repertoire. All families, friends, faculty, staff, and community members are welcome to attend. Please arrive a few minutes early to sign-in at the front entrance to receive a visitor badge if you are coming from off campus. We will share in a small reception after the performance.

It is impossible to put into words the amount of gratitude we have, but **THANK YOU** to Niskayuna Friends of Music for their continued commitment to our school music program by providing enriching experiences for our music students and for being present to lend a hand anytime we need it. I would personally like to express my heartfelt thanks to this world class music faculty and staff and to Mr. Hughes, the acting director of music education. Thank you also to the entire Niskayuna faculty, staff, families, and community for their dedication to this music program. Another HUGE thank you to our music accompanist Mrs. Maria Germain for everything that she adds to daily rehearsals and our performances.

Working with and challenging these young men and women every single day is a privilege. It is an honor to share a classroom and stage with these fine singers. Ensemble means together and I ask that each and every one of us continue to work together with as we strive to help this music program reach new heights with each passing year!

Please consider supporting the many local arts organizations that flourish during the summer months. Many of our students are participating in summer lessons, camps, classes, and other musical opportunities; we wish these students the best and congratulate them on their desire for extended study.

To our plethora of graduating seniors: you have left an impression on many of our hearts (and ears) and we will miss you more than you can imagine. The musicianship in the class of 2017 has really set the bar high for the students who will be following in your footsteps to preserve our tradition of music excellence. Keep singing; even if it's only in the shower!

Have a rejuvenating and enjoyable summer break! I look forward to seeing you in September for new, exciting, and challenging music when we swap out our ice cream cones for hot mulled cider!

C. M. Pizzino-Catalano

Mrs. Pizzino-Catalano

### Nisky Choir Collaboration with Special Ed Music Skills Class

The **HS Choir** will be collaborating with the Special Education Music Skills class this month at Niskayuna High School. The objective of this undertaking is to give our Skills Class students an opportunity to experience singing with a larger group in a well-supported environment and to foster friendships between members of both groups.

Music Skills has been visiting **Choir** rehearsals to observe how a large rehearsal is run and to learn about behavioral expectations for singing in a school choral group. We look forward to joining Choir for vocal warm-ups and rehearsing two choral pieces with them.

Also, **Choir** students have been visiting Music Skills class in small groups. The Music Skills students have enjoyed teaching both singing and movement games they have learned in class to their new friends from Nisky Choir.

Ms. LeRoy

# More High School Notes

### **HS Concert Band**

The **High School Concert Band** has been working hard on several pieces for our May Concert, including Richard Saucedo's "American Barndance," "The Great Locomotive Chase" by Robert W. Smith, John Philip Sousa's "The Liberty Bell March" (which you might recognize from the opening credits of Monty Python's Flying Circus), and a medley from "Shrek". On May 11, the band had the opportunity to work with renowned composer and educator, **Greg Rudgers**. We thank Niskayuna Friends of Music for making this opportunity possible. On May 30, as the **Concert Band** performs our final concert of the year, we will be saying farewell to our four seniors: **Jackson Feenan, Alayna Griffiths, Rebecca Mouroukian** and **Caroline Wilner.** We wish these seniors all the best as they move on to the next chapter in their lives after graduation!

### Niskayuna Jazz Groups Perform at Shenendehowa

Mr. Pandori

The **HS** and **MS Jazz Ensembles** performed at the Shenendehowa Jazz Fest on Thursday, April 13. The groups had the opportunity to perform for guest artist, **Antonio Hart**. The students also participated in a workshop and had the opportunity to hear Mr. Hart perform with the Shenendehowa Jazz Ensemble. The **photograph below** includes **Antonio Hart**, both Niskayuna jazz ensembles, as well as Columbia HS and Shenendehowa HS Jazz Ensembles. **Mr. Fisk, Mr. Pandori** and **Mrs. Kokernak** thank the students for their wonderful performances that day.

Mrs. Kokernak



### Students Selected to perform with Capital Region Wind Ensemble

Juniors Derek Wolfe (trumpet) and Johanne Friedman (euphonium)



applied and were selected from a group of student musicians from across the Capital Region to perform with professional musicians in the Capital Region Wind Ensemble (CRWE). CRWE held a by side" concert on April 2 in the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium at Schenectady County Community College School of Music. In the three weeks prior to the concert, selected musicians student received coaching from CRWE as well as participated in masterclasses, and rehearsals with the group. Mr. Pandori

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTES

### Sixth Grade Band Premieres New Music

Mrs. Kokernak's Sixth Grade Band will be performing a newly commissioned piece, funded by FOM, at



their final concert on May 31. The composer of this work, **Ralph Raymond Hays** (see photo left), is a graduate of the University of Miami, where he studied under Alfred Reed. In addition to his education career, Mr. Hays is an accomplished composer and arranger. His work has received awards and accolades from numerous foundations and performing groups including ASCAP, The Choral Journal, the Meet the Composer Foundation, The New York Arts in Education Foundation, and the Dallas Symphonic Winds. He has received numerous commissions and has orchestrated and composed background vocals for live concerts, featuring such artists as Michael Feinstein and Bernadette Peters. Several of his choral works are included in the catalog of Yelton Rhodes Publishing, Los Angeles.

The commissioned work is called "Canticle for Young Band" – *Variations on Lasst uns Erfreuen Herzlich Sehr*. The process of having a new piece of music composed

for the **Sixth Grade Band** has been an enriching and musically rewarding experience. The band is looking forward to performing this new piece of music. Thank you Mr. Hays!

Mrs. Kokernak

### **Seventh Grade Band**

It has been an exciting year for the **Seventh Grade Band!** Immediately after the band festival, we began

working on our May concert music. We will be performing "Hampshire March" by Gustav Holst, a medley from "Pirates of the Caribbean," and a very special piece called "Iroquois Sunrise" by **Greg Rudgers**. We are working with Mr. Rudgers **(see photo right)** to commission a brand new piece of band music for this group in their eighth grade year. Mr. Rudgers is a renowned composer and educator, and also happens to have a grandson in this **Seventh Grade Band!** In anticipation of the commission, we programmed "Iroquois Sunrise" and brought in Mr. Rudgers to work with the band on May 11. It was a thrilling and unique experience to work directly with a composer of one of the pieces we are performing! We thank Niskayuna Friends of Music for making this possible.



Mr. Pandori

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

### **Craig News**

Where has the school year gone to? As we zip into spring, we celebrate its arrival with a concert featuring all fourth and fifth graders!

All **Craig** students have the opportunity to hear the hard work of the band, chorus and orchestra groups during the all school assembly performance. This is a time to hear and appreciate a variety of music styles and perhaps, begin the dream of being a future musician in one of the large ensembles.

As we move into spring, world drumming once again gives us a boost. Students in the fourth and fifth grade are studying and exploring the music of Africa and other countries around the world. Beating the drum is an exciting way to challenge and express ourselves.

# More Elementary Notes

Third graders are enjoying the art of recorder playing. Students are not only performing simple songs, but are trying their hand at short composition writing. It is exciting to play a piece written by a classmate.

In the primary classes, we continue to sing and dance our way through music. We are discovering the instruments and our singing voices.

The end of the year will be upon us in a blink! It is always a pleasure to pass through the seasons of the school year with the joy of the students and the songs they place in our hearts.

Mrs. Fitzmaurice

### **Glencliff News**

To celebrate March's Music In Our Schools month, **Ms. Jarrard's** fifth grade string students from **Glencliff** serenaded a number of classrooms, office, and kitchen staff. **Janet Kim, Kirsten Felicitas, Austin Remillard, Jesse Angrist,** and **Brayan Garcia** selected a duet to perform and a familiar tune so the students could sing along. **Ms. Jarrard** 

**Glencliff** fourth and fifth grade students had the opportunity to enjoy a performance and workshops with a group of musicians from the Bridge Arts Ensemble. The New York City based musicians spent a week in Niskayuna visiting the five elementary schools. **Glencliff** was able to work with the artists through workshops presented in the classroom. It was a wonderful experience for our students.

Concert season is once again upon us. All **Glencliff** students have the opportunity to hear the hard work of the band, chorus and orchestra groups during the all school assembly performance. This is a time to hear and appreciate a variety of music styles and perhaps, begin the dream of being a future musician in one of the large ensembles.

As we move on into spring, world drumming once again gives us a boost. Students in the fourth and fifth grade study and explore the music of Africa and other countries around the world. Beating the drum is an exciting way to challenge and express ourselves.

The end of the year is approaching at break neck speed. It is always nice to be able to stop for a moment and enjoy the talents of the students...all unique, all a gift to hold.

Enjoy the spring and the excitement it brings!

Mrs. Fitzmaurice

### Hillside News

There is lots of music happening at **Hillside** as we prepare for our spring concerts and assemblies.

"Hello **Hillside**," our monthly school assembly, provides an opportunity to sing a school song together, do classroom activities, and celebrate birthdays and other special occasions. We build school community as we sing and share together.

The general music classes have been working hard to learn music concepts through fun musical activities. Students are learning to read music through the use of recorders, singing, and smart board technology as well as enjoying various listening activities.

Primary grades are preparing their end of the year musical plays.

Ms. Sausa-Gatta

11



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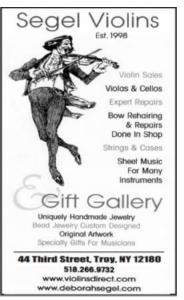
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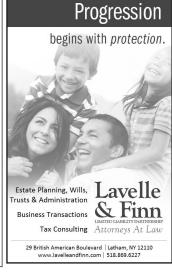








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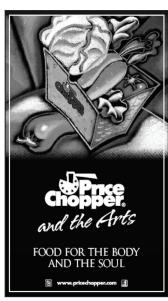


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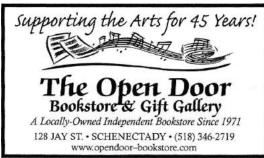
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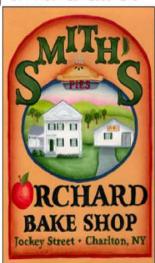
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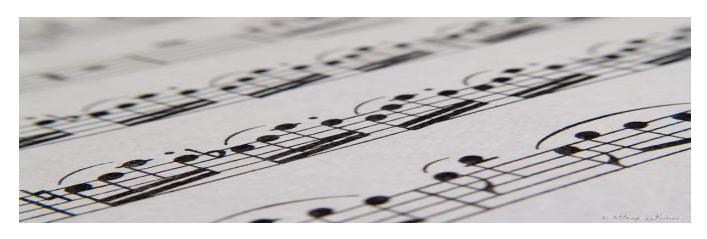
### Student "Summer Sonata" Registration Form

Student Name:	
Grade in September 2017:	School:
Instrument/Voice: 1	T-Shirt Size: Circle One: Adult Child
Parent/Guardian Name:	
Home Address:	
Home Phone #: Parent	Email:
Emergency Contact	
Name:	_ Phone:
commitment and program schedule. I understar and that I am fully responsible for my child of	Music Program and fully understand the required time and all instruction will take place at Niskayuna High School, at the conclusion of each day. I have secured needed aderstand all school rules will apply while students are on
Parent Signature:	Date:

**Program Participation Fee: \$225** 

Please make checks payable to: Niskayuna Friends of Music

Registration and check due no later **than June 9, 2017** to the District Music Office located at Niskayuna High School. Families will be contacted no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> with final details and assigned student lesson group.



### NHS Music Department SENIOR BANQUET

Our annual Senior Banquet will be held <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>June 6<sup>th</sup></u>, <u>5:30 – 7:30</u> at the MOHAWK RIVER COUNTRY CLUB. Seniors and their parents are invited to a special evening that includes great food, great friends and a fond farewell.

Please join us as we celebrate your many years of hard work and terrific music-making by completing the form below. Cost is \$20 per student or adult. Feel free to contact **Eric Hughes** (ehughes@niskyschools.org) with any questions or concerns.

WHAT:	Senior Banquet
WHERE:	<b>Mohawk River CC</b>
WHEN:	Tuesday, June 6

5:30-7:30

\_\_\_\_\_\_

### NHS Music Department SENIOR BANQUET

Student Name		
Number Attending:	@ \$20 each:	
	Total: #	\$

Please make checks payable to: Niskayuna Friends of Music **Due Date: Wednesday, May 31st**