



Notes

FOM IS CELEBRATING ITS 50th BIRTHDAY! (But we could pass for 55!)

At a recent Friends of Music (FOM) Executive Committee meeting, **Mr. Hughes** mentioned coming across some documentation amongst his office papers of FOM's first meeting in 1966. A discussion followed on how we could mark this auspicious occasion. At some point during the discussion, however, we noticed that our logo very clearly states "since 1961." Confused about our actual age, we decided we had better delve more deeply into figuring out FOM's true birthday.

I immediately turned to **Diane Smith**, one of our former presidents and a long time member and supporter. Diane has in depth knowledge about our organization; she relayed the following information to me:



*Friends of Music initially began in 1961, albeit informally, through the leadership of **Wendell Phillips**. **Mr. Phillips** was the first Director of Music Education in Niskayuna (one of our Senior Awards is named in his honor), and had observed similar parent groups in Massachusetts.*

***Mr. Phillips** helped to introduce Friends of Music to Niskayuna in the fall of 1961. Initially, parents "were active informally" in publishing a newsletter, Music Notes, for grades Kindergarten through 12 and for hosting school concerts.*

*However, in May 1966, **Anthony Greenly** was elected the first President of the Friends of Music at its first annual meeting. The bylaws were written and Niskayuna Friends of Music became an official organization sanctioned by the district. The organization then took on several more enrichment activities and fundraising. (**Diane Smith**)*

FOM car magnet

See 50th Birthday, page 2

An Interview with Niskayuna's New Acting Music Director

As many of you know, we in Niskayuna have a new Director of Music! While technically he is the Acting Director (as he is still working on getting his Administration Certificate), Friends of Music is proud and excited to welcome our very own **Eric Hughes** to the position.

Mr. Hughes received a Bachelors of Music Education from the Crane School of Music and a Master of Arts in Conducting from George Mason University. He is currently rounding out his own education by earning his Administration Certificate from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Also, and perhaps more importantly, he is furthering Niskayuna students' music education, as he conducts the Symphonic Band, a role he has had since he was hired in 2000; and he teaches lessons in the high school as well as in the middle schools.

See Interview, page 2

FOM CELEBRATES 50TH

50th Birthday continued

Whether we celebrate that fledgling informal organization of 1961 or our official launch in 1966, one thing is certain: Friends of Music has been here for over a half of century as a major support system to the students in our wonderful music program. Each year, this organization funds a music festival at Proctors, underwrites field trips, provides enrichment for general music classrooms, supports our All State and National musicians, and provides funding for visiting artists who work with our students. FOM also awards thousands of dollars in student scholarships each year.

We could not do any of these things without the generous support of parents and community sponsors. So to all of the families and supporters who have come before us and paved the way as well as to all of our current supporters, let me say THANK YOU! I'm proud to be a part of this organization which has accomplished so much. I also look forward to seeing what the future holds for Friends of Music. I can say with near certainty that some of you will be attending a Niskayuna school concert as grandparents someday. In this future scenario, it is my hope that you will observe FOM as an organization that continues to grow in membership, funding, and support of our wonderful music program.

In celebration of our "official" 50th year, each member who renews or joins this year will be sent one of our new Friends of Music car magnets. **(See page 1)** To those who have already joined, thank you for your support. For those of you still waiting, join now, get your car magnet and start showing off your support for Niskayuna's fantastic music program!

Barbara Burgess, FOM President



Interview continued

Another enjoyable aspect of **Mr. Hughes** position is directing the school musical. This year he is looking forward to putting on Andrew Lloyd Webber's, ***The Phantom of the Opera***. However, this is not the only big event of the school year. Along with the usual concert series, there are a number of exciting upcoming events, including the Band Fest and a Schenectady Symphony Orchestra collaboration with **Concert Chorale** and **Ladies First**. Our jazz bands will be featured in the annual Jazz Festival at the high school in April and will be participating in the Shen Jazz Fest as well.

For the time being, **Mr. Hughes** is focused on better understanding the inner workings of the music department. I'd like to thank **Mr. Hughes** again for the opportunity to interview him. I know I speak for all of Friends of Music when I say that we look forward to working with you, **Mr. Hughes**.

Kyle Fletcher, FOM Student Liaison

Concert Series

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us in concert to celebrate the many successes of our students and faculty in our four-part Concert Series this year. All concert event information may be found on our district website at www.niskyschools.org.

Featured this year will be:

All-District Band Festival at Proctors Theatre –
March 22

Jazz Festival – April 27

High School Musical

This year's exciting musical production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's ***The Phantom of the Opera*** will be held

March 2-4

Tickets go on sale in January

DIRECTOR'S DESK

From The Director

I am proud and pleased to welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year as the Acting Director of Music Education, K-12. Since August I have been working with my colleagues to move our program forward and build upon the wonderful success we've earned over the years. I am grateful for everyone's support and encouragement in my new role.

Many students spent their summer immersed in music activities. FOM scholarship winners and others took advantage of great opportunities including private study, the New York State Summer School of the Arts programs, the Crane School of Music Youth Program, the School of the Performing Arts at Proctors, Glimmerglass Opera and many more. We look forward to the training and skills they bring with them this school year.

Music Enrichment

Our students have several festivals to look forward to this year including the Area All-State Music Festival, Schenectady All-County, Suburban Council, the New York State Band Directors Association, and our own **Band Festival at Proctors Theatre** and **Jazz Fest** at the high school. Students are encouraged to look for applications and ask their directors for information.

Some additional opportunities include NYSSMA, the Empire State Youth Orchestras and many others.

Later editions of NOTES will focus on our high school production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's ***The Phantom of The Opera***, special guest artists (**See page 4**), a collaboration with the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra, Music In Our Schools Month performances and so much more!

Have a great year!

Eric Hughes, Acting Director of Music, K-12

New York State School Music Association All-State Conference



Fourteen students were selected as participants or alternates for this year's All-State Festival to be held in Rochester. Congratulations on this honor!

Shannon Foley, Soprano II **Zoe Lynds**, Alto I, Women's Chorus **Emily Petralia**, Soprano II, Mixed Chorus **Paul Tan**, Tenor II, Mixed Chorus **Michael Zhou**, String Orchestra

Alternates are: **Quinton Cain**, Jazz Drum Set, **Andrew Fraterrigo**, Jazz Tenor Saxophone, **Kalyana Duggal**, Violin, **Myung Joo Lee**, Cello, **Skylar Litz**, Viola, **Samantha Liu**, Violin, **Kartik Nath**, Violin, **Bryan Zhou**, Violin, **Catie LeCours**, Soprano I.

Back Row (L to R): **Bryan Zhou**, **Michael Zhou**, **Andrew Fraterrigo**, **Kartik Nath**, **Quinton Cain**
Front Row (L to R): **Shannon Foley**, **Catie Lecours**, **Zoe Lynds**, **Emily Petralia**, **Samantha Liu**, **Paul Tan**
Not Pictured: **Kalyana Duggal**, **Myung Joo Lee**, **Skylar Litz**

MORE FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

New Faculty

Kate Jarrard (String faculty) is a Crane School of Music graduate and taught for ten years in the Plattsburgh City School District. She served as the NYSSMA Zone 6 Representative and was the Clinton County Music Educators' Association Vice President, chairing numerous student honors ensembles. She directed string orchestras and wind ensembles for the Adirondack Youth Orchestra Association and was involved with local drama clubs. **Ms. Jarrard** performs on both string and woodwind instruments and is a member of the American String Teachers Association. She conducts the **Sixth Grade Orchestra** here at Niskayuna and teaches the string programs at **Glenclyff** and **Hillside** as well as lessons at **Iroquois**.

Karen Scherer (Band faculty) earned her BS and MS degrees from The College of St. Rose in saxophone, studying piano as a secondary instrument. She comes to Niskayuna after a successful career teaching band, chorus and general music for the Voorheesville, Cohoes and Amsterdam school districts. In addition to woodwind lessons at Iroquois, **Mrs. Scherer** is in charge of the band programs at **Craig** and **Glenclyff**.

Brenda Schmidt (String Faculty) **Ms. Schmidt** taught for the Vestal Central School District for nine years prior to joining us. With degrees from the Crane School of Music and SUNY Stony Brook she has performed with the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra, Broome County Chamber Strings, Basically Bach Ensemble, and Orchestra of Northern New York, among others. Her ensembles have received Gold with Distinction ratings from NYSSMA Major Organization adjudication festivals. **Ms. Schmidt** conducts our **Eighth Grade Orchestra** and teaches the string programs at **Birchwood** and **Rosendale** in addition to teaching lessons at **Iroquois**.

Eric Hughes

Concert Series Highlights

District Band Festival

The Potsdam Brass Quintet (see below), comprised of faculty members from the Crane School of Music, will be our featured guest artist for the 2017 District-Wide Band Festival on March 22 at Proctors Theatre in Schenectady. In addition to working with 6-12 band students during the week, the quintet will be performing alongside students at the festival. **The HS Symphonic Band** will also be premiering a piece of music written by 2005 Niskayuna graduate, **James Mobley**.



District Jazz Festival

Jazz artist and faculty member from Crane School of Music, **Bret Zvacek** (see inset), will



join us on April 27 for the Niskayuna District-Wide Jazz Festival. The festival will include performances by the guest artist, as well as

by the **MS Stage Band** and **Jazz Ensemble**, **HS Stage Band** and **Jazz Ensemble**, and **Studio Singers**.

Phil Pandori

SUMMER SONATA

Summer Sonata

Nisky Summer Sonata was a success again in 2016! Sixty-five Niskayuna band, chorus, and orchestra students from grades 5-8 joined members of the music faculty (**Mr. Fisk, Ms. Jarrard, Mrs. McClenon, Mr. Pandori, and Mrs. Pizzino-Catalano**) for two fun filled weeks of music making in July. This year's highlights included African Drum Circle and a field trip and tour of St. Rose's Massry Center. The two week camp culminated with an outstanding final concert and a lunch reception provided by the Niskayuna Friends of Music. Thank you to the Niskayuna FOM for sponsoring the camp and for all the parent volunteers who helped make this year such a success. Thanks also to **Tracy Koste** for all her work to keep camp running smoothly and **Jake Purington** for accompanying the concert. We look forward to its continued success in 2017!

Phil Pandori



Students at the Summer Sonata

Friends of Music Has Lost a Good Friend

Tony Lauria, the owner of iconic Gershon's Deli, passed away on September 9, 2016. Friends of Music wishes to express our heartfelt condolences to Tony's family, friends and business associates. Tony has been extremely kind and generous to Friends of Music. In particular, his support of our Summer Sonata program was very much appreciated by FOM and the music faculty. Tony and his team prepared a lovely lunch for the Summer Sonata students and their families to share with the staff each year since the camp began. It was a wonderful way to end the two week summer program, and we were grateful for his support. Tony has also been a long time community sponsor of our newsletter, Notes. We are saddened by the loss of someone who exemplifies the best in our community.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Choral Corner

A special welcome back to all of the choral students and their families! I hope you are enjoying your fill of pumpkin spice, sweater weather, juicy apples, football, and leaf peeping! **Studio Singers** and **Bel Canto Voices** have already jumped into performance mode giving families a Back-to-School Night preview on September 29 after a mere eight rehearsals! There is great potential for growth and development in the choral singers this year as your children enter the classroom each day with positive demeanors and a fantastic work ethic.

SCHENECTADY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COLLABORATION

It is with great pride and pleasure that we announce that **Ladies First** and **Concert Chorale** will be joining The Schenectady Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m. at the historic Proctors Theatre. We are so honored that the SSO sought out Niskayuna's choral program nearly two years ago to schedule this exciting opportunity! For many of our students it may be the one and only time they will sing a masterwork and experience such a large scale collaboration with an orchestra in such a special venue. In addition, select fifth grade students will be joining to perform British composer John Rutter's Mass of the Children written for SATB and treble choruses with orchestra. All students who are participating should have received a letter sent home via mail detailing the rehearsal schedule for the week along with a ticket order form. Maestro Charles Schneider, conductor of the SSO, will periodically stop into rehearsals during December and January to coach the students on the music in preparation for the performance.

Additional evening rehearsals with the orchestra are:

~Friday, January 20 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Proctors Theatre (students will be bused from Niskayuna HS)

~Saturday, January 21 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Niskayuna HS

Due to the magnitude of collaboration that it takes to sing with an orchestra, it is imperative that the students involved are able to attend the rehearsals listed above. Please mark your calendars well in advance. All participants must provide their own ride to and from Proctors Theatre on the day of the performance. Congratulations to **Ladies First** and **Concert Chorale** on this monumental honor!

Tickets for this event can be purchased directly through the Proctors box off in person, by calling (518)-346-6204, or by using the ticket order form on the SSO 2016-2017 season brochure (available in the music office). Please DO NOT mail ticket orders to the music office.

****Use the code VOCAL for a \$2 discount on tickets****

ALL STUDENT TICKETS (18 AND UNDER) ARE FREE COURTESY OF A GRANT FROM PRICE CHOPPER!

MORE HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

All-State

Congratulations to **Shannon Foley, Zoe Lynds, Emily Petralia, and Paul Tan**, who will be representing Niskayuna's choral program at the NYSSMA All-State conference in December. Zoe will sing with the Women's Chorus while Shannon, Emily, and Paul will sing with the Mixed Chorus. Congratulations to **Catie LeCours** who was named as an alternate.

Empire State Youth Chorale

Thirteen (WOW, THIRTEEN!!!!) students have been accepted into the Empire State Youth Chorale and will sing at the "Melodies of Christmas" performances at Proctors Theatre in December. Kudos to **David Buhrmaster, Lydia Eckman, Shannon Foley, Andrew Fraterrigo, Lauren Gabriele, Sabrina Gumphier, Jennifer Huh, Gus Jones, Zoe Lynds, Nadia Nugent, Samuel O'Connor, Emily Petralia, and Paul Tan**.

Amelia Allen, Alexandra Burgess, Alexander Cherry, Shannon Foley, Adriana Lawton, and Miller Lawton will be performing in Schenectady Light Opera Company's youth production of *Footloose* on November 11-13 and 17-20. More information on ordering tickets can be found at www.sloctheater.org.

Gus Jones and Emily Petralia will be performing at Thursday Musical Club's holiday concert on Saturday, December 10 at 2:30 p.m. at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady in the Stockade. Both students have been invited as featured soloists after receiving scholarships from this chorus to attend Crane Youth Music at SUNY Potsdam in July.

Change in Curriculum/Program

Choral students will see a change in the Niskayuna High School Program of Studies for 2017-2018. Any choral students who are interested in auditioning for an upper level select honors ensemble (Concert Chorale, Bel Canto Voices, and/or Studio Singers) will be required to participate in one year of High School Choir or Ladies First as a prerequisite. A similar model is used in other departments, requiring a foundational course before enrolling in advanced honors courses (i.e. the Art Department requires all students to take Studio in Art before pursuing other advanced electives). Such a change will create a common vocabulary and foundation amongst all students and continue to build the best program possible. Please see the High School Program of Studies for more specific information.

Upcoming Performances:

- **Ladies First, Choir, and Concert Band** will present a Thanksgiving Assembly on **Tuesday, November 22 at 12:15 p.m.** in the HS auditorium. All family, friends, and community members are invited and are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early to sign in at the front desk.
- Please mark your calendar for **Monday, December 5** (December 12 snow/cold date) as **Studio Singers** and **Bel Canto Voices** will be participating in FOM's annual Caroling for CA\$H fundraiser. Student quartets will stroll through Old Niskayuna in Victorian costumes, singing carols and collecting funds for FOM. The day will culminate with a group performance on Upper Union Street at 7:00 p.m.

MORE HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

We are in need of battery powered candles and/or lanterns and especially batteries (AA and AAA). Any parents who would be willing to chaperone by providing a vehicle for students to stay warm in can contact Mrs. Pizzino-Catalano at cpizzino-catalano@niskyschools.org (timeslots range from 4:45-8:00 p.m.). Any parent or student who would be willing to donate or sew/make an article of clothing for the event would be welcome to do so (we are especially in need of cloaks)!

- **Bel Canto Voices** will be attending a workshop at the Apple Store in Crossgates Mall on **Thursday, December 8**. Students will participate in a 60-minute workshop that will focus on composition through the application Garage Band on iPad technology. In addition, the group will perform from 10:15-10:30 a.m. and 11:30-11:45 a.m. just before and after the workshop. Many thanks to the Niskayuna Friends of Music for providing funds for the bus to and from the venue.
- **Concert Chorale** will be performing for students at Iroquois MS on **December 15** during the access period. This is a great way to share curriculum with the younger choral singers, to answer any questions about the change in curriculum/programming mentioned above, and to give Concert Chorale the opportunity perform their music outside of the typical evening auditorium setting. Students will be bused to and from the middle school and will need to have a permission slip signed for this field trip. Please note that the return time to the HS is after the end of the school day (around 3:30 p.m.) and members of Concert Chorale will need to provide their own ride home or take the late bus.
- **Concert Chorale, Bel Canto Voices, and Studio Singers** along with **Chamber Strings, Jazz Ensemble, and Symphonic Band** will perform at the annual holiday assemblies scheduled for Wednesday, December 21 (Thursday, December 22 snow date). The performances begin at 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Any family members or friends who would like to attend are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early to sign in at the front desk.
- An Evening in History will be presented collaboratively between the Social Studies and Music Departments on **Monday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m.** in the HS auditorium. This year's program will commemorate "The Roaring Twenties" through historical speech and song. Attendance is mandatory for all students in **Choir and Studio Singers. Stage Band** will also be joining in this year's collaboration!
- **All Niskayuna H.S. vocal students (Choir, Concert Chorale, Ladies First)** have been invited to sing the National Anthem at the Siena College Basketball Game on Saturday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. Students who participate are able to see the game for free; adult tickets are \$14 and children ages 12 and under are \$8. More information about this opportunity and how to purchase tickets will be available in early 2017. Any student who participates will have to provide his/her own ride to and from Siena College.

In continuing with the tradition started in 2008, **Ladies First** will sponsor a reception after their first concert on November 2. This year, the ladies will offer Italian desserts in conjunction with their performance of "Ricevete" from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Please join us in celebrating the kick off of our first concert series and a connection between music and culture!

C. M. Pizzino-Catalano

MORE HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

HS Concert Band

I am very excited to be taking over direction of the **High School Concert Band** this year. With so many familiar faces in the group, I felt very welcomed from the first rehearsal. The band sounds fantastic and has been working hard since the beginning of September. We have an exciting program planned for November 9, including works by **Steve Reinecke**, **Kevin Mixon**, and **Karl King**. In addition, the Concert Band will be performing at our annual Thanksgiving Assembly alongside **Choir** on November 22. Also, we are looking forward to the upcoming Band Fest this year at Proctors Theatre in March!

Phil Pandori, HS Concert Band

Student Summer Activities

The Niskayuna Music Department is proud to acknowledge the many talented high school students who participated in a variety of music activities this past summer.

Amelia Allen - *All Shook Up* at Proctors Theatre, Andrew Chapelle Audition Workshop

Abby Auster – American Academy of Ballet at SUNY Purchase

Evan Belkin – Performed in the musical at Union for Reform Judaism Eisner Camp

Alexandra Burgess – Bristol Hills Music Camp

Maddie Castle – Scottish Highland Dance

Cristina Cavaleri – Drum & Bugle Corp with Excelsior (color guard)

Alex Cherry – Broadway Jr. Camp at Proctors Theatre

Quiana Chittenden – Bristol Hills Music Camp

Caitlin Denney – *All Shook Up* at Proctors Theatre, Orlando School of Dance Summer Intensive Program

Jessica Dinius – Led Children's Music Worship at Grace Fellowship

Gina Downey – American Academy of Ballet at SUNY Purchase

Anastasia Duffy – SCCC Musical Theatre

Allie Duguid - *The Witches of Venice* at Opera Saratoga

Janessa Eldaye – Long Lake Camp for the Arts

Lacey Farina – *Wizard of Oz* at FMCC, *Once on this Island* at the Glove Theatre

Shannon Foley – *Peter and the Star Catcher* with Performing SmArts and volunteered at Summer Sonata

Veronica Forth – MAPLE at Pyramid Lake, *Once on this Island* at the Glove Theatre

Kyle Gort – Bristol Hills Music Camp

Sabrina Gumphier – KPOP auditions in Boston

Lillian Hinostroza – *The Witches of Venice* at Opera Saratoga

Jen Huh – Auditioned in Korea

Jad Jacob – Eastman School of Music Summer Camp (composition) and music director for *High School Musical Jr.* at Albany Academies Summer Musical Theater Program

Gus Jones – Crane Youth Music, *School of Rock* with Consortium Actors at Siena College

Meaghan Kehoe – Dance camp at Orlando School of Dance

Amelia Kokernak Performed the Glazunov Concerto in a violin masterclass at Skidmore College for Ani Kavafian (Yale School of Music Faculty member and renowned performer with the CMS of Lincoln Center)

Adriana Lawton - *All Shook Up* and *Hieronymous Bosch* at Proctors Theatre

MORE HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Summer Activities continued

Miller Lawton – *Damn Yankees* with Not So Common Players and *Hieronymous Bosch* at Proctors Theatre
Fiona Leonard – *All Shook Up* at Proctors Theatre
Catherine LeCours – *Wilde Tales* (Youth Opera) at Glimmerglass Festival
Jordan McCann - Pre-College Experience at the College of St. Rose, vocal studies
Madalyn Montgomery - *All Shook Up* at Proctors, *School of Rock* with Consortium Actors at Siena College
Nadia Nugent – Performed with her band, *Elements*
Mackenna Pack – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Choir
Samantha Percy – School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center
Emily Petralia – Crane Youth Music
Cheshta Prasad – Final Arangetram Dance Recital
Sophia Sacco – *Dear Edwina* at SCCC
Zoe Schwarz – Nisky Summer Sonata Music Camp
Anya Seemann - *The Witches of Venice* at Opera Saratoga
Santino Sementilli – Performed Italian arias/art songs at the Saratoga Race Track for Italian-Am. Day
Julia Sexton – Bristol Hills Music Camp
Lucy Skrebutenas – Took workshops on film acting and improvisation
Grace Stewart – *From Studio to Stage* at the Hartt School of Music
Jack Szemansco – *All Shook Up* at Proctors Theatre
Paul Tan – Harmony Explosion Camp (Barbershop)
Eliana Yanoff – Pre-College Experience at the College of St. Rose, vocal studies
Dara Weingarten – Nisky Summer Sonata Music Camp
Ellie Zenner – *A Little Grimm* with Schenectady Theater for Children; taught dance lessons

MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTES

Seventh Grade Band

I am thrilled to be directing the **Seventh Grade Band** this year! I have the pleasure of following this group through the end of eighth grade and look forward very much to the two years ahead making music with these students. The band hit the ground running on September 13, and the students look forward to showing off their hard work at our first concert on November 16. Be sure to check out our exciting performance of **Kevin Mixon's** "Storm Chaser", along with "Lo' How a Rose" arranged by **Mark Williams** and "Open Road" by **Robert Sheldon**. We also look forward to the upcoming Band Fest this year at Proctors Theatre in March!

Phil Pandori, Seventh Grade Band

MS Jazz Ensemble

The **Middle School Jazz Ensemble** will be performing at the December 13 Board of Education Meeting at Niskayuna High School. We kicked off last year's meeting, celebrating the accomplishments of the Niskayuna National Merit Scholar semifinalists, and look forward to doing so again this December. "Birdland" and "The Land of Make Believe" are on the program. Hope to see you there!

Phil Pandori, MS Jazz Ensemble

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Fifth Grade Band Students Learning to Play

Our five elementary bands have gotten off to a great start with lessons that began the week of September 19. The music department warmly welcomes **Mrs. Karen Scherer** as the new **Fifth Grade Band** director at **Craig** and **Glencliff Schools**. **Mrs. Kokernak** teaches the **Fifth Grade Bands** at **Birchwood, Hillside**



and **Rosendale**. It is tremendously rewarding to see and hear the first sounds that a new class of band students can produce. This is a talented group of fifth graders and **Mrs. Scherer** and **Mrs. Kokernak** look forward to a wonderful year of music making with this artistic group of students. A big thank you goes out to the parents of this group for their assistance with practicing and their overall help with getting this program off and running. Although, embarking down the road of learning a new instrument takes commitment and work, “playing” is a lot of fun!

The Birchwood baritones



Mrs. Susan Kokernak, Elementary Bands at Birchwood, Hillside and Rosendale

Mrs. Karen Scherer, Elementary Bands at Craig and Glencliff

Birchwood and Hillside Schools

There is lot of music happening in my classes at **Birchwood** and **Hillside Schools**. The general music classes are learning important music concepts through many fun music activities. Students are learning to compose and read music through the use of recorders, singing, listening activities and smart board technology.

“Hello Hillside,” our monthly school assembly, provides an opportunity to share what we are learning in both the music and regular classrooms. Each month we look forward to performing for our “sing along” and to celebrate birthdays and other special occasions. As we sing and share together, we are building school community. “Hello Hillside” is open to the extended school community, including family and friends...come join us!

**Michelle Sausa-Gatta, NBCT Music Teacher
Hillside and Birchwood Elementary Schools**

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to our forty nine FOM summer scholarship winners who used their award for enhanced music study during the months of July and August.

Claire Choi (grade 9) Private cello study
Yin Yin Teo (grade 10) Private violin and piano study
Wei Ting Teo (grade 9) Private piano study
Lucas Lynch (grade 7) Bristol Hills Music Camp/percussion
Sabrina Zhang (grade 6) Private violin study
Pallavi Datta (grade 5) Summer Sonata/violin and piano
Abigail Thomas (grade 6) Summer Sonata/cello
Jacob Yanoff (grade 7) Bristol Hills Music Camp/clarinet
Rachel Schmidt (grade 7) Summer Sonata/piano
Zoe Lynds (grade 11) Private voice study
Emily Petralia (grade 11) Crane Youth Music Camp/voice
Shannon Foley (grade 11) Private voice study
Katherine Krauss (grade 11) Private voice study
Dylan Stella (grade 8) Private saxophone study
Kartik Nath (grade 10) Private violin study
Adelaide Leung (grade 8) Private piano study
Joanna Guo (grade 9) NYSSSA @ Skidmore
Patrick Yang (grade 6) Private clarinet study
Christopher Yang (grade 9) Private clarinet study
Bryan Zhou (grade 10) Private violin study
Paul Tan (grade 10) Private voice lessons
Caitlin Denney (grade 10) Broadway Camp @ Proctors/voice
Alex Burgess (grade 9) Bristol Hills Music Camp/voice
Zoe Schwartz (grade 8) Private voice lessons
Kalyana Duggal (grade 11) Private violin study
Skylar Litz (grade 10) Private viola study

Quinton Cain (grade 10) Skidmore Summer Jazz Camp/percussion
Suhao Jeffrey Huang (grade 7) Private piano study
Johanne Friedman (grade 10) Private euphonium study
Duncan Wall (grade 6) Summer Sonata/french horn
Matt Fromowitz (grade 6) Bristol Hills Music Camp/trumpet
Madalyn Montgomery (grade 8) Broadway Camp @ Proctors/voice
Keller Wegter-McNelly (grade 6) Summer Sonata/voice
Gian Stabler (grade 5) Private viola study
Faiz Wareh (grade 5) Private piano study
Nikita Waskiewicz (grade 10) Private viola study
Lara Nakisli (grade 9) Private piano study
Jessica Zhang (grade 8) Private flute study
Annika Waskiewicz (grade 7) Private violin study
Jessica Arul (grade 6) Summer Sonata/voice
Aidan Hughes (grade 8) Bristol Hills Music Camp/tuba
Will Mizenko (grade 5) Summer Sonata/cello
William Zheng (grade 7) Private trombone lessons
Bianca Bless Cano (grade 8) Private saxophone study
Sophia Barnes (grade 6) Luzerne Music Center/bass
Saumya Mehta (grade 9) Private flute study
Kaitlyn Yan (grade 7) Private violin study
Olivia Achect (grade 9) Eastern US Music Camp/violin
Blayze Chittenden (grade 7) All Ears/trumpet



Paul Tan at Harmony Explosion Camp



Emily Petralia and **Gus Jones** at Crane Youth Music Camp

Congratulations to the following Nisky students who were selected to join the Empire State Youth Orchestra.

As a regional organization, ESYO attracts students from over 75 public and private schools throughout eastern New York State and western New England. Returning and potential members must pass a competitive audition for their positions. ESYO students range from 4th through 12th grade. The nine performing ensembles rehearse weekly with professional musicians as conductors and coaches. A season's schedule includes over 30 concerts, requiring over 600 hours of rehearsal time.

Olivia Achcet	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Olivia Achcet	Youth Orchestra	Trumpet
Sophia Barnes	String Orchestra	Bass
Faith Borkowski	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Dana Braga	Repertory Orchestra	Cello
Elisabeth Chillrud	Repertory Orchestra	Cello
Claire Choi	Repertory Orchestra	Cello
Konrad Drzymalski	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Jacob Feingold	Youth Orchestra	Violin
Siarra Feliciano	String Orchestra	Violin
Henry James Fernandez	Youth Jazz Ensemble	Tenor Saxophone
Johanne Friedman	Wind Orchestra	Violin
Matthew Fromowitz	Wind Orchestra	Trumpet
Risa Fromowitz	Wind Orchestra	Trombone
Joanna Guo	Youth Orchestra	Violin
Kristina Handy	Repertory Orchestra	Trombone
Zion Kang	Repertory Jazz Ensemble	Trombone
Avanti Khare	Repertory Orchestra	Oboe
Lina Kim	String Ensemble	Violin
Minji Kim	String Ensemble	Violin
Ian Klenk	String Ensemble	Bass
Christina Lau	Youth Orchestra	Violin
Arthur Leung	String Ensemble	Violin
Lydia Liang	Youth Orchestra	Violin
Kristine Lim	Youth Orchestra	Violin
Skylar Litz	Youth Orchestra	Viola
Brandon Liu	Repertory Orchestra	Viola
Bryan Liu	Repertory Orchestra	Cello
Derek Liu	String Ensemble	Violin
Samantha Liu	Youth Orchestra	Violin
Yejin (Rachel) Mun	String Orchestra	Violin
Kartik Nath	Youth Orchestra	Violin
Paul Pacheco	String Ensemble	Viola
Sangwoo Park	String Orchestra	Cello
Victor Schingo	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Aidan Singh	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Grace Smith	Youth Orchestra	French Horn
Wei Ting Teo	Repertory Orchestra	Piano
Yin Yin Teo	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Kim-Le Tran	String Orchestra	Violin
Josh Tso	Repertory Orchestra	Viola
Kaitlyn Yan	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Christopher Yang	Wind Orchestra	Clarinet

ESYO (CONTINUED)

Patrick Yang
Benjamin Yao
Benjamin Yao
William Zheng
Bryan Zhou
Michael Zhou
James Zilberman

Wind Orchestra
Falcons Rep. Percussion Ensemble
Repertory Orchestra
String Orchestra
Youth Orchestra
Youth Orchestra
Youth Orchestra

Clarinet
Percussion
Percussion
Cello
Violin
Violin
Bass

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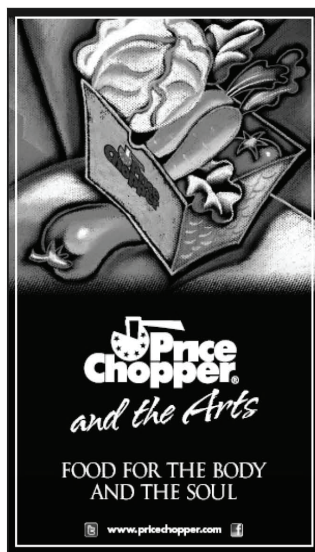
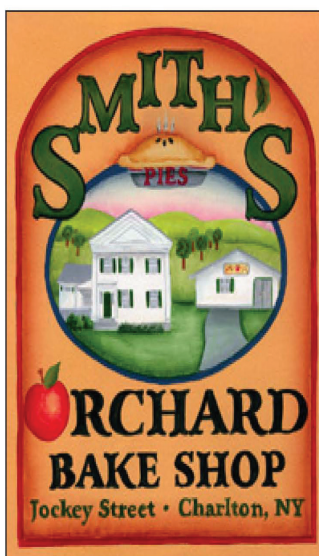
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