

World Drumming in Niskayuna

It was almost ten years ago that music teacher **Theresa Fitzmaurice** attended a World Drumming Workshop with world percussionist **Brian Melick**. Seeing firsthand how the drums could be such a valuable and exciting way to motivate students to create music, Theresa started trying to figure out how to introduce more hand drumming into her classroom. She applied for and received a FOM enrichment grant for two, 27-inch tall cylinder drums called Tubano drums for Craig Elementary School. These two drums were just the beginning. Year by year, for the next nine years, Theresa received funding from the Craig PTO and/or FOM to help build a world drum program. The process was slow and steady, but provided great dividends to Craig's music students.

During the 2013-2014 school year, **Sue Kokernak** and Mrs. Fitzmaurice both started teaching general music at Glencliff Elementary School. For a brief period, Craig's drums were borrowed by Glencliff, and the students were delighted with the opportunity to play. Mrs. Kokernak and Mrs. Fitzmaurice discussed having a set of world drums for Glencliff and agreed that they would be a great addition to Glencliff's music program.

Last summer, they approached Friends of Music with the idea of an enrichment grant to fund a complete set of world drums for Glencliff. The request was met with great curiosity and enthusiasm by the FOM Board. Over the summer and fall, FOM worked in collaboration with Music Director **Matt Cremisio** to determine the best course of action. Mr. Cremisio's vision was to outfit the entire district with world drums in order to implement a comprehensive, elementary world drum program.



All these efforts resulted in Friends of Music dedicating \$7000 to purchase world drums for Glencliff, Birchwood, Hillside, and Rosendale Elementary Schools. FOM's funding was leveraged by a \$1000 mini-grant from the Niskayuna Community Foundation. One set of world drums for a school costs approximately \$2000. Each set consists of a variety of 17 incredible Djembe (goblet-shaped) drums and Tubano (cylinder-shaped) drums.

This world drum program fits easily into the existing curriculum. Through drumming, students are actively and enthusiastically engaged in the exploration of diverse music and culture from around the world. Singing, music reading, history, and social cultures can be better learned

and understood. All of these are accomplished by active, "hands-on" participation. In the process, communication, teamwork, and respect for others is enhanced. **Celine Fletcher**, NHS Senior and HS Liaison to FOM said, "I was one of the first students to use the world drums at Craig and fully endorse this program."

Glencliff has already received their new drums, and Birchwood, Hillside, and Rosendale Schools are slated to receive their drums this spring.

DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome to Concert Series #3!

Thank you for supporting music education and the performing arts as we celebrate "Music in Our Schools Month" during March. I am continually delighted to witness the energizing interaction between teachers and students and the remarkable musical development that transpires in both the classroom and concert setting. With our district receiving a "2014 Best Communities in Music Education" designation, I am profoundly grateful for all you do to support the music program and your child's participation in the arts.

In this edition of NOTES, you will find a number of important announcements about NYSSMA, upcoming programs, festivals, scholarship opportunities, and district music highlights.

On behalf of the Music Department, thank you for your outstanding and continued support.

Here's to a warm spring,



Matthew C. Cremisio

District Orchestra Festival (Grades 5 - 12)

This year, we are very excited to present our District Band Festival! The Festival Concert will be Wednesday, **March 25** at 7 p.m. at the beautiful Proctors Theatre in downtown Schenectady. This venue has been made possible by Niskayuna Friends of Music.

We are delighted to welcome guest conductor, **Dr. Edward Cumming**, from The Hartt School of Music as our featured guest conductor and Artist in Residence. Before joining the faculty at The Hartt School, Dr. Cumming served for nine years as Music Director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, hailed for its remarkable artistic growth during his tenure. His appointment came after a two-year search process involving nearly 300 applicants from around the world.



He studied with Otto-Werner Mueller at Yale University, where he received a Doctorate in Music in 1992. As an undergraduate at the University of California at Berkeley, he was awarded the prestigious Eisner Prize for Creative Achievement in the Arts. In May 2010, he received an Honorary Doctorate from Trinity College.

In addition to having Dr. Cumming on the podium for our culminating festival concert, he will also share his time with students in a smaller setting by providing workshops and master classes. His three-day residency is sponsored by Niskayuna Friends of Music. Dr. Cumming brings a wealth of experience and energy to share with students. He is a highly regarded conductor throughout the country, and we are honored to have him celebrate with our Niskayuna community!

NYSBDA

Congratulations to the following students selected to represent Niskayuna in the annual New York State Band Director's Association Symposium in Liverpool, NY: **Olivia Canavan, Ayla Celik, Lisa Dong, Brittany Feuerstein, Risa Fromowitz, Kristina Handy, Payge Lecakes, Alessandra Shellard** (alternate), and **Noah Wilkerson**.

MORE FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Jazz Fest 2015

Please plan to celebrate and “swing into spring” with our annual District Jazz Festival which is sponsored by Friends of Music. This year’s festival will be held on Wednesday, **April 1** at 7 p.m. in the High School



Auditorium and will feature the MS Jazz Bands, HS Stage Band, Jazz Ensemble and Studio Singers. Come listen, enjoy, and be captivated by the awesome talents of our student jazz musicians!

This year we are proud to spotlight international performing and trumpet recording artist, **Nick Marchione**. The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra’s lead trumpet player extraordinaire, Mr. Marchione will lend his talent and skill on trumpet to all of our jazz students. He also has been featured with the Birdland Big Band and has been on tour with the pop recording artist, **Prince**. You won’t want to miss this special event!

(pictured left) District Jazz Festival Guest Conductor, Nick Marchione

Schenectady County Music Festival

Congratulations to the following outstanding musicians selected to represent Niskayuna in the 2015 Schenectady County Music Festival: **Deepti Aaron, Elias Assimakopoulos, Tyler Bobbitt, Amy Buhrmaster, Ayla Celik, Caitlin Denney, Ross Engelmyer, Lauren Gabriele, Kristina Handy, Madeline Harland, Amelia Kokernak, Payge Lecakes, Catie LeCours, MJ Lee, Helen Leet, Nadia Mirza, Jessica Seitz and Paul Tan**. The festival was held January 30 - 31 at Schalmont HS.

ESYO Playathon

Congratulations to the forty-one Niskayuna music students on their outstanding musicianship as members of the various ensembles with the Empire State Youth Orchestra organization. ESYO conducted their annual playathon at Crossgates Mall on February 7. For more information about ESYO, including possible opportunities for your student musician, please visit www.esyo.org.

Middle and High School Concerts

Please mark your calendars now and celebrate the outstanding work of our student musicians in concert! March is nationally recognized as “Music in Our Schools Month,” and April is “Jazz Appreciation Month.” We have many accomplishments to recognize and celebrate! A complete listing of all concert performances may be found at www.niskyschools.org.

Elementary Winter Concerts

Congratulations to our elementary choirs, bands, and orchestras on their outstanding January concerts! Special thanks to **Teresa Broadwell, Joan Brown, Theresa Fitzmaurice, Holly Johnston, Stacey McClellon, Phil Pandori, Julianne Port, Michelle Sausa-Gatta, and Jared Slingerland**.

MORE FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Friends of Music Summer Music Study Scholarship

Niskayuna Friends of Music will award a number of scholarships for summer music study to students participating in middle school or high school ensembles next year. The word “study” in this scholarship program refers to a formal summer program of music instruction, lessons, training, or enrichment. Music study during the summer months helps students improve performance skills, increase general music knowledge, and create greater enthusiasm.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to • Encourage students to participate in summer music study • Recognize students for outstanding music preparation and commitment • Enrich the district’s music program through the returning students’ growth in music ability and motivation. • Provide financial assistance for summer formal training and enrichment.

A scheduled audition is required of each applicant. Auditions will be held Friday and Saturday, May 1 - 2 in the High School Music Wing. Application deadline is March 27.

Applications are available in the District Music Office or online at www.niskymusic.org. Forms will be available from district music office starting the week of March 2.

All applications are due to the students' teachers by March 27.

Auditions will be held Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2.

Scholarship winners and applicants will receive a letter in May. Awards will be announced during the Concert IV Series. Applications will also be made available on the FOM web site or the NCSD web site.

We Need Your Help

There is nothing to compare to the live concert experience, for both the performer and audience alike. Performers work hard to present an enjoyable experience for everyone. To do this, they must focus on many details, some expected and some not. A performer’s intense concentration can be interrupted by little things which may seem insignificant at first glance.

The following suggestions can help show added respect to performers and other audience members. Let’s model the most respectful concert etiquette and help our students do their very best.

Talking

Talking is distracting to both performers and fellow audience members. Even whispering can be heard during a musical performance.

Electronic Devices

ALL electronic devices -- cell phones, computers, iPods, etc. -- should be turned off and put away during performances. Not only can they be disruptive, but the glow from screens is very distracting.

Remain For the Entire Concert

Ensembles that perform last on a concert program deserve just as much support and attention as those who perform first. The ensemble order is carefully determined based on logistics and balance. *While emergencies or unavoidable conflicts may arise, it is very discouraging to witness the number of concert attendees who leave immediately following a specific portion of the program.* Your support of all students is profoundly appreciated. Let’s show our children the very best we can in the simple but meaningful gesture of sustained attendance.

By joining together, each student musician in the spotlight, along with the audience at large, will have a more meaningful concert experience. Thank you for your kind attention and generous support.

Summer Sonata Music Program - July 20 to July 30

The Nisky Summer Sonata is a fun, two-week music program designed for upper elementary and middle school students who are already members of the NCSD Band, Choir, or Orchestra. Eligible students will be entering Grades 5 - 8 for Orchestra and Grades 6 - 8 for Band and Choir. This exciting opportunity is for students who enjoy music and wish to continue developing their musical skills during the summer with Nisky Music Faculty!

Students will further their musical aptitude and performing skills in both large ensemble and small group instruction. Classes and ensemble rehearsals will be conducted Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., beginning Monday, July 20. Upon completion of the two-week program, students will present a culminating afternoon showcase for their family, friends, and community on Thursday, July 30 at 12:00 p.m. 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.

Every effort will be made to allow students to participate in multiple groups for those who are currently enrolled in more than one school ensemble. (ie: combination of band, choir, orchestra). In the event this is not possible, students involved in multiple ensembles should list their order of preference on the application.

Registration Form

Student Name: _____

Grade in September 2015: _____ School: _____

Instrument/Voice: 1. _____ T-Shirt Size: _____
2. _____
3. _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Parent Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

I wish to enroll my child in the Nisky Summer Music Program and fully understand the required time commitment and program schedule. I understand all instruction will take place at Niskayuna High School and that I am fully responsible for my child at the conclusion of each day. I have secured needed transportation to and from the program and understand all school rules will apply while students are on school grounds.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Program Participation Fee: \$225

Please make checks payable to Niskayuna Friends of Music.

Registration and check due no later than **June 12, 2015** to the District Music Office located at Niskayuna HS. Families will be contacted no later than July 1 with final details and assigned student lesson group.

NYSSMA

NYSSMA Solo Festival - Levels 1 - 6, All-State & Jazz

This year's festival will be held May 8 - 9 at South Colonie High School. Registration is now open, and specific details and a registration form may be found online at www.niskymusic.org. Please see your child's music teacher for more information. Students are highly encouraged to participate in this educationally rewarding endeavor!

Registration deadline is Friday, March 6.

What is a NYSSMA solo/ensemble festival?

A NYSSMA solo/ensemble festival is a performance venue that provides students with an opportunity to be assessed by a NYSSMA certified adjudicator on solo or ensemble music they have prepared. The purpose of this assessment is to provide the student(s) with positive feedback and constructive criticism in an effort to help improve performance.

What happens at a NYSSMA solo/ensemble festival?

The soloist or ensemble enters a specified room to perform for an individual adjudicator. In addition to the prepared literature, soloists performing for a grade will be asked to perform a specified number of major scales (see NYSSMA manual or speak to your teacher) and a short (approximately 8 measures) sight-reading example.

The Solo

With six levels of music, students are encouraged to perform appropriate literature for their individual ability and skill level. Students must prepare a solo listed in the NYSSMA manual. As part of this process, students in the 10th and 11th grade can audition for the NYSSMA All-State performing groups. Students must prepare a Level 6 piece of music and file an application for the All-State organization. Students auditioning at this level must have a piano accompanist.

The performer must provide original pieces of music for themselves and the adjudicator. Photocopied music is not permitted, except where needed to avoid difficult page turns.

Scales (Instrumentalists only)

In addition to the solo, students must also prepare major scales and/or rudiments (percussionists) as outlined in the NYSSMA manual, dependent upon the selected solo level.

Sight-Reading

In addition to the solo and scale/rudiment requirements, students will also be requested to sight-read a brief musical example as outlined in the NYSSMA manual, also dependent upon the selected solo level.

For more detailed information about NYSSMA, please visit www.niskymusic.org, or www.nyssma.org.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Fünf Woodwind Quintet Visits NHS

On January 20, the Fünf Woodwind Quintet presented workshops and a recital for student members of the Concert and Symphonic Bands. An enrichment grant from Niskayuna Friends of Music made this event possible.

Fünf is a professional woodwind quintet from the Capitol Region that performs recitals throughout the area and is known for promoting new music for woodwind quintet. The group has recently premiered two new works and is presently preparing a third piece, written by a local composer from Saratoga Springs. Members of Fünf include **Norman Thibodeau** on flute, **Susan Kokernak** on oboe, **David Ciucevich** on clarinet, **Gerald Lanoue** on bassoon and **Patrice Malatestinic** on French horn.

The afternoon began with a Masterclass coaching that featured students **Alessandra Shellard** on clarinet, **Mackenzie Litz** on bassoon, and **Brittany Feuerstein** on flute. Members of Fünf coached the students on performance and breathing techniques which particularly focused on the usage of air and its connection to notes on the page. The students were well-prepared and took away some new tactics on how a musical line should be shaped and how this connects to the air. The “Wind” in woodwind is key!



From left to right: Norman Thibodeau on flute, Susan Kokernak on oboe, David Ciucevich on clarinet, Gerald Lanoue on bassoon, and Patrice Malatestinic on French horn.

The group went on to coach flute, clarinet, and brass ensembles. Norman Thibodeau presented a session on the “Feldenkrais” Method and led the students through a series of stretching and movement techniques. Feldenkrais is the study of the skeletal system and how the body reacts and is affected by movement. Playing a musical instrument is a very physical undertaking, and the use of Feldenkrais techniques can help prevent repetitive stress injuries as well as help a performer to use the body to enhance tone production, endurance, and general performance. The afternoon concluded with a recital performed by Fünf which featured the music of Milhaud, Ligeti, Thibodeau, and Ibert.



Friends of Music SENIOR Music Scholarship

Friends of Music invites qualified NHS seniors to apply for the FOM Senior Music Scholarship. This award is presented to a graduating senior who plans to pursue formal music studies in college. Selection of the recipient is based on the student’s musical experience and achievement, commitment to school and community, involvement in music activities, conduct, citizenship, and a written essay.

A scholarship committee will review all submissions and select the finalist. Applications are available in the District Music Office and online at <http://www.nisk.k12.ny.us/departments/fom/>

Application deadline is 12:00 p.m. Thursday, March 12.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Choral Corner

What better way to “ring in spring” than with “Music in Our Schools Month?” Aside from the regularly scheduled concerts, the high school choral students are beginning to prepare for the NYSSMA solo festival. This wonderful educational event will be held at South Colonie HS on May 8 and 9. The students are studying works in English, Italian, French, and German to present to judges from all over the state. After April break, there will be weekly timeslots available for students to receive extra help both before and after school, during their free times, study halls, and lunch mods. Please note that **Mrs. Port**, our district accompanist and music aide, is available to accompany students for a very reasonable fee. Students should see her to obtain a contract or e-mail her at jport@niskyschools.org.

Heartiest congratulations to the students who represented the choral program at the Schenectady All-County Festival on January 30 and 31! Students included: **Amy Buhrmaster, Caitlin Denney, Lauren Gabriel, Catie LeCours, Helen Leet, Nadia Mirza, Jessica Seitz, and Paul Tan**. The students raved about the experience, and a few of our own Niskayuna students even had solos!

On February 12, the Roberts Wesleyan College Chorale visited Niskayuna HS to present a 45-minute program to all of the HS choral students. Afterwards, they worked with Choir on their current repertoire. Many thanks to Mr. Slingerland for connecting us to this great group and to Niskayuna Friends of Music for providing breakfast for the twenty-two singers, eight string players, and their pianist!



Thank you to the Niskayuna FOM for providing the funds to purchase hand mirrors for the HS choral students. Singers have been using the mirrors to work on technique, explore the physicality of singing, and improve expression.



Outside Performances

Concert Chorale will be collaborating with choral students at the College of St. Rose on April 23. Students will take a bus to St. Rose where they will rehearse with **Dr. Michael Lister**. He will also coach the students during class time at NHS. While at St. Rose, the students will tour the campus and perform at the Picotte Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. The concert will finish with a joint collaboration between our own Concert Chorale and the St. Rose Masterworks Chorale (along with percussionists) to present *Three Nocturnes for Chorus & Percussion* by Dan Forrest. This piece includes texts about stars from American poets Sara Teasdale, Emily Dickinson, and Walt Whitman. There is no cost for this event. Students MUST provide their own ride home.

Ladies First will be attending the NYSSMA Choral Majors festival at Bethlehem HS in late April. The group will compete at Level 5, presenting "Suscepit Israel" from J.S. Bach's *Magnificat* (which will be accompanied by **Teddy Arcidiacono** on oboe), a contemporary a cappella piece entitled "Butterfly" by Nancy Telfer, along with a free choice. Ladies First will perform for two judges in order to receive feedback on how to improve and grow as a group.

Look for Studio Singers on May 16 at Niska-Day, first performing on a float in the parade and then kicking off the day's performances at noon in the entertainment tent on the Craig School grounds.

Studio Singers and Bel Canto Voices (along with instrumental friends) raised \$1300 dollars for Friends of Music during the Caroling for Cash fundraiser on December 15. A huge thank you goes out to these students for sharing their time and talent with the community. We also want to thank Union Cafe for providing a great space to perform, plus hot chocolate and cookies!!!

-Christina Pizzino-Catalano

MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTES

Iroquois News

On May 13, the 7th/8th grade singers at Iroquois will be traveling to NYC for the annual music trip! This year, they will be taking a backstage tour of Lincoln Center, a world famous performing venue, and attending the Broadway show *Aladdin*. Students will perform musical selections from *Aladdin* in their May concert. We are looking forward to another exciting musical day in the Big Apple!

-Ms. Steeley



Van Antwerp News

Congratulations to the following choir students from VA that were selected to perform as part of the Suburban Council Choir on April 18.

Noah Best
Alexa Chiusano
Lacey Farina
Adele Giovanniello
Alyssa Hoogs
Karimah Jones
Adriana Lawton

Fiona Leonard
Jordan McCann
Madalyn Montgomery
Natalie Oliver
Faith Potter
Jack Szemansco

VA's 7th/8th Grade Choir is also planning their annual trip to NYC. They will attend *Aladdin* and tour Radio City Music Hall. Our students are looking forward to this special field trip.

-Mr. Purington

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Glenclyff News

"Good Morning Glenclyff" is a series of in-school assemblies that are student run and allow for the fostering of community spirit throughout our school, across all grade levels. This year, each assembly is focused on a different aspect of building community spirit and pride in our school. The focus in December was "Building Pride in Oneself." December's assembly message included the idea of building personal growth by reaching out to others through friendship. The Glenclyff third graders performed a vocal arrangement of "You've Got a Friend in Me." The students were lead by **Mrs. Kokernak** and accompanied by **Mrs. Brown** on violin, **Mr. Cremisio** on snare drum, and **Mrs. Wolfe** as a guest on piano. Congratulations to the Glenclyff third grade for spreading this message of friendship through music!

-Mrs. Kokernak

Hillside and Birchwood News

"Hard work does pay off." We discovered that in a big way when we heard the Hillside and Birchwood Choruses perform their winter concerts. Beautiful singing, everyone! Performing songs from the musical, Annie, and the special music of **Tom Chapin** was so much fun. Parents, teachers, students, and all our friends enjoyed the concerts immensely.

Again this year, "Hello Hillside", the monthly assembly, has provided so many opportunities to share what the students are learning in the classrooms. Each month, Hillside looks forward to performing a school song together. When hundreds of students sing the same song together, a stronger school community is being created right before our eyes.

The general music classes have been working hard these past few months learning music concepts through fun activities. Students are learning about the instruments of the orchestra, composition, and music reading through the use of recorders, singing, listening activities, and smart board technology.

We are looking forward to our spring concerts and musicals and, of course, the warmer weather.

-Mrs. Sausa-Gatta

An Elementary Band Poem

Birchwood, Craig, Glenclyff, Hillside, and Rosendale band students are working hard
following their January shows,
Building upon their growing list of skills ever so...
All-District Elementary Band will begin in April,
Providing students a 6th grade sample...
Four rehearsals altogether,
The "final frontier" we shall weather....
Join us for the performance in May,
The 6th will be quite a day!!

-Mr. Slingerland and Mr. Pandori

MORE ELEMENTARY NOTES

Craig News

In January, students at Craig Elementary School started 2015 with a wonderful Winter Concert held at the high school. All 4th and 5th grade students participated in chorus this year and joined together with the Band (under the direction of **Mr. Slingerland**) and the Orchestra (under the direction of **Mrs. McClenon**). The audience delighted in the performances of the students.

On January 30th, the students and staff of Craig reflected on what freedom means to each of us and why we remember the work of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Classes recited poems about Dr. King and reenacted memorable events in the civil rights movement. The chorus sang "I Have A Dream," a song based on the words spoken by Dr. King.

The assembly closed by featuring student artwork entitled, "Portraits of Martin Luther King, Jr." in a slide show. As the slides were projected, the entire assembly sang "The Road to Freedom." It was a powerful and moving experience for all in attendance and a great opportunity to feel the community bond we share at Craig.

As winter enveloped us in blanket of snow, the Craig 5th graders got busy "drumming and shaking" as Craig's Drum Circle was once again up and running! Students perform on various drums and instruments such as the Tubano, Ashieko and Djembe drums (many of which were purchased through the generosity of the Niskayuna Friends of Music) and the Shekere, Agogo, Agongkui and Nygoti rattles. Students learn songs from African and Latin American cultures. This group, which consists of any interested 5th grader, meets during recess time.

As we continue to shovel our way out of the middle of winter, the students continue to spread warmth and sunshine as they prepare for their next performances.

-Mrs. Fitzmaurice

"What a wonderful show! Thank you for all the emotional, physical, and mental energy that went into tonight. Thank you for the many, many hours of teaching, training, and all the tiny details thought out to make tonight such a success.

The students learned so many pieces in each area – orchestra, band, and chorus – and some were in more than one! It is clear you broke the steps down in each piece and taught the students what they needed in order for them to look like rock stars tonight. I am so proud of our students and am in awe of your talent as musicians and educators.

Some of our kids have a hard time in certain academic areas. I loved seeing those children standing up there beaming as they sang or played. It is so important they have this place to shine. I'm so thankful our district, our parents, and our community make music a priority.

Thank you for all the love, sweat, and tears you have poured into our students. Thank you for including me in this celebration! You brought joy to us all tonight."

-from an email sent by one of our district's reading specialists

NOTEWORTHY

Seeking Nominations for Executive Committee

Friends of Music is currently seeking nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested in contributing to the organization by serving in any of these positions, please contact **Eric Hughes** at ehughes@niskyschools.org by Friday, April 24. For more information about the duties of FOM officers, please contact Music Department Director **Matt Cremisio** at mcremisio@niskyschools.org or outgoing President **Diane Hartig** at diane.hartig@gmail.com.



Thank You, Volunteers!

Friends of Music thanks our many parent and NHS student volunteers who helped out at the school concerts in December and January. These volunteers offer additional guidance, supervision, and hospitality to both our young performers and audience members. Each volunteer enables FOM to fulfill its mission of supporting a strong music education program for our students. Be on the lookout for more volunteer opportunities to be announced for the District Orchestra Festival and the District Jazz Festival.

Thanks to the following volunteers: **Tammy Apkarian, Laura Biaglow, Rosemary Bishop, Marilyn Brown, Billie Cano, Jennifer DiCerbo, JoMarie Ethier, Suzanne Fiore, Lori Fletcher, Grace Gan, Mei Gao, Maria Haase, Priti Irani, Eileen King, Janette King, Mary Ann Lasher, Sue Learner, Miriam Lichtenfeld, Linda Lin, Kendell Margolies, Laura Mirkovic, Lynn Mizenko, Richard Mizenko, Michelle Ostrelich, Sam Salem, Michele Shellard, Debbie Toy, Ruth Tso, and Sue Wheeler.** Thanks to the following NHS students who helped usher: **Elias Assimakopoulos, David Buhrmaster, Quenton Cain, Celine Fletcher, Trevor Grigas, David Jones, Jillian Margolies, Mad-die McCarthy, Gideon Schmidt, Alessandra Shellard and Paul Tan.**

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Diane Hartig at diane.hartig@gmail.com. Thanks!



New Scholarship Established in Memory of Richard Mathews

The children of **Richard Mathews**, long-time resident of Niskayuna and school board member for 30 years, have set up a memorial scholarship in their father's name. Mr. Mathews was a strong advocate for the arts and was particularly interested in the district's music program.

In November, Mr. Mathews' oldest son **Don Mathews** wrote to FOM, "We are thinking about how to honor him and have received inquiries about donations in his name." To date, twenty-two donors have contributed over \$3,500 to the Mathews Memorial Scholarship Fund. If you would like to contribute, please send your donation to the NHS Music Office with a notation indicating it is for the Mathews Scholarship Fund.

2014-2015

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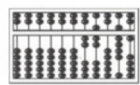


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*Music Director Chris Neubert (center)
and Director Eric Hughes (standing)*



*Orchestra Rehearsal with Jair Oballe (left)
and Martin Schreiner (right) in foreground*



*Violinists Kalyana Duggal (left) and
Bijan Moore (right)*



*Instrumentalists Kyra Lecakes, Brittany Feuerstein,
Alessandra Shellard, and Sue Kokernak
(left to right)*



*Vocalists Lucy Medina, Teddy Arcidiacono,
Danielle Rice, and Jennifer Caulfield (left to
right)*