

Notes

Happy New Year from Friends of Music!

By the time this article is in front of readers, the holiday season will be past, but as I sit down to write, we are in the midst of the hustle and bustle of not only the holidays, but also of our first concert series and a number of Friends of Music fundraising activities. As always, I am humbled by the generosity of our staff, our students and their families, as well as the many members of our community. So many people give their time and money to help Friends of Music provide enrichment to our music program and students.



Symphonic Band at Holiday Assembly

Besides our membership campaign, fundraisers this fall included our annual pie sale, and Caroling for CA\$H. Many thanks to **Lori Fletcher** for spearheading the pie sale, and to **Janette King** for her assistance with this important fundraiser, and to all the other volunteers who helped as well. The pie sale is key fundraiser for us; this year, we raised nearly \$2000. Caroling for CA\$H was a huge success this year. Under the direction of **Mrs. Pizzino-Catalano**, students from **Bel Canto Voices**, **Studio Singers** and members of the **Symphonic Band** caroled through Old Niskayuna and received donations of over \$2000. **Mr. Purington** took middle school choir students to an RPI hockey game to sing the national anthem, and this raised over \$800 for FOM. Our corporate friends have been helping out along the way as well, with **Starbucks**, **Price Chopper** and **Union Cafe** assisting these fundraisers with the donation of goods and services.

As we are enjoying the winter concert season, FOM will be working to help ensure the success of the Band Festival in March, the Jazz Fest in April, and then prepping for the scholarship season. Our mission is to turn your generosity into opportunities for students as quickly and efficiently as possible. We are so grateful for your generosity and assistance in helping us to do so.

Barbara Burgess - FOM President

From The Director

Our first concert series is complete and what a great way to begin the year! In a short period of time, middle school and high school students presented seven evening performances! All of the concerts were well attended by the community, and each ensemble sounded wonderful.

High school students also presented our two annual assemblies. **Choir, Ladies First** and **Concert Band** presented the Thanksgiving Assembly; and **Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, Bel Canto Voices, Chamber Strings, Studio Singers** and **Concert Chorale** performed our Holiday program the week before recess.

The **MS Jazz Band** performed for the Board of Education on December 13, and some of our high school choral groups and instrumentalists went Caroling for CA\$H in December as well! We look forward to even more great performances as the year continues.

DIRECTOR'S DESK

Area All-State Music Festival

Twenty-two students were selected for this year's Area All-State Festival held at Saratoga High School. Congratulations!

Saumya Mehta	Band/flute
Lisa Dong	Band/clarinet
Christopher Yang	Band/clarinet
Julia Dalakos	Band/french horn
Grace Smith	Band/french horn
Risa Fromowitz	Band/trombone
Johanne Friedman	Band/euphonium
Caitlin Denney	Chorus/soprano I
Catie LeCours	Chorus/soprano I
Julia Sexton	Chorus/soprano II
Santino Sementilli	Chorus/tenor I
Andrew Fraterrigo	Chorus/bass
Avanti Khare	Orchestra/oboe
Kalyana Duggal	Orchestra/violin I
Kartik Nath	Orchestra/violin I
Chae-Eun Lim	Orchestra/violin II
Jacob Feingold	Orchestra/viola
James Zilberman	Orchestra/double bass
Bryan Liu	Jazz/trumpet
Derek Wolfe	Jazz/trumpet
Matthew Chao	Jazz/trombone
Quinton Cain	Jazz/drums



Back row (L-R): Santino Sementilli, Andrew Fraterrigo, Brian Liu, Derek Wolfe, Quinton Cain, Jacob Feingold, Kartier Nath

Front row (L-R): Christopher Yang, Alyssa Hoogs, Jack Szemansko, Caitlin Denney, Julia Sexton, Kalyana Duggal, Julia Dalakos, Matthew Chao

Not pictured: Lisa Dong, Johanne Friedman, Saumya Mehta, Grace Smith, Risa Fromowitz, Katie LeCours, James Zilberman, Avanti Khare, Chae-Eun Lim

Schenectady County Music Festival

This year's festival will take place at Schalmont High School, January 27 & 28. Congratulations to the students listed below on their acceptance and participation!

Joy Lim	Band/flute
Lara Nakisli	Band/flute
Jessica Zhang	Band/flute
Tolulope Oshinowo	Band/clarinet
William Codd	Band/bass clarinet
Kathryn Aldous	Band/trumpet
Madelyn Harland	Band/trumpet
Emily Baker	Band/trumbone
Risa Fromowitz	Band/trumbone
Temitope Oshinowo	Band/trombone
Noah Best	Chorus
Allison Duguid	Chorus
Lauren Gabriele	Chorus
Lillian Hinostroza	Chorus
Alyssa Hoogs	Chorus
Jordan McCann	Chorus
Anjalee Modasra	Chorus
Madalyn Montgomery	Chorus
Santino Sementille	Chorus
Jack Szemansco	Chorus
Samantha Padula	Orchestra/violin
Victoria Padula	Orchestra/violin
Sarah Standage	Orchestra/viola
James Zilberman	Orchestra/double bass



Upcoming Events

We are looking forward to so much this winter: the high school's production of *The Phantom of the Opera* (ticket order form attached), including Matinee Magic; our District Band Festival (March 22 at Proctors Theatre) featuring the Potsdam Brass Quintet, and much more!

Happy New Year! - **ERIC HUGHES**

FOM P_{IE} FUNDRAISER

FOM Pie Fundraiser

The Friends of Music pie fundraiser was a great success. This year, we sold and distributed 436 scrumptious Smith's Orchard Bakeshop pies to over 156 people. Thanks to all of you who purchased pies! Also, I am grateful to the volunteers whose hard work made our day run so smoothly. A big thank you to the pie pick up crew: **Tammy Apkarian, Ellen Daviero, Kelly Fletcher, Kristin Kennedy, Janette King, and Sue Learner** as well as to the distribution crew: **Kelly Fletcher, Kyle Fletcher, Janette King, and Sue Learner!** Finally, I would like to extend a special thank you to **Price Chopper** for use of the company freezer truck on pie "pick up" day, and to employees, **Dave Schmitz** and **Mark Moyer** for working with us to make this happen!



FOM volunteers on pie distribution day

Lori Fletcher - FOM Pie Fundraising Chair

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

HS Concert Band

The **HS Concert Band** is eager to perform in the 2017 District-wide Band Festival on March 22 at Proctors. **The Potsdam Brass Quintet**, our featured guest artist, will work with band students over a two day stay which was made possible by Niskayuna Friends of Music. **Mark Hartman (see right)**, brass quintet member and trombone professor from Crane School of Music, will be the featured soloist with the band as they play "Reflective



Mood" by Sammy Nestico. The band is also excited to perform the classic band warhorse, "Prairie Dances" by David Holsinger, and "Foundry" by John Mackey. Look for some interesting instruments being used in the percussion section, including strung up metal bowls and piles of metal (**see left**). We are also calling on our four seniors to join the percussion section for this exciting piece. We hope to see you there!



Mr. Pandori

MORE HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Choral Corner

Welcome back to what is going to be a fantastic latter half of the school year filled with great music and performance opportunities for our students!!!

Congratulations to the following students who will sing in the Schenectady All-County Mixed Chorus on January 27 and 28 at Schalmont HS: **Noah Best, Allison Duguid, Lauren Gabriele, Lillian Hinostroza, Jordan McCann, Anjalee Modasra, Madalyn Montgomery, Santino Sementilli, and Jack Szemansco.** Students will work with guest conductor, **Mr. Brendan Hoffman** of Albany HS.

SCHENECTADY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COLLABORATION

Ladies First and Concert Chorale, along with select fifth grade students, will be joining The Schenectady Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m. at the historic Proctors Theatre. Nearly one hundred and forty singers from Niskayuna will join to perform British composer John Rutter's Mass of the Children. 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, has been periodically stopping into rehearsals during December and January to coach the students on the music in preparation for the performance.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY ADDITIONAL REHEARSALS WITH THE ORCHESTRA AS LISTED BELOW:

Friday, January 20 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Proctors Theatre (students will be bussed 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!

Congratulations to the following fifth grade students who were chosen to join in this concert:

Layla Agamy, Madelyn Aldous, Anika Bidoshi, Melina Boretti, Emma Brooksby, Nashlie Butanas, Timothy Chen, Mark Ferri, Connor Foley, Ahiri Garde, Landon Greene, Liam Hazard, Anna Joyce, James Lian, Katherine Makrin, Owen Medina, Aishani Misra, Elianna Moses, Reese Oakes, Elizabeth Ogonowski, Austin Remillard, Sophie Spindler, Madison VanHoesen, and Lucia Vysohlid

MORE HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Outside Performances

Over ninety (WOW!) **high school choral** students joined together in song at Niskayuna Town Hall's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 4. After a performance in the gazebo, they enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate donated by Shop Rite.

Studio Singers and Bel Canto Voices, along with student instrumentalists raised over \$2000 during their Caroling for CA\$H fundraiser on December 5!!!! Student quartets strolled through Old Niskayuna in Victorian costumes, singing carols, and collecting funds for Niskayuna Friends of Music. The day culminated with a group performance at Union Café. Many thanks to the parents who helped transport and chaperone students, to **Jessica Hollenback** at Union Café for providing the concert venue (along with cookies and hot cocoa!), and to FOM for providing lunch for the student volunteers. Also, a special thank you to **Gloria Vassolas** (who steamed/ironed dozens of costume pieces for the event), **Kaite Jones** (who provided water bottles for our students), **Barbara Burgess** (publicity), and **Florence Lynds** (for making and donating a brand new cloak to add to our costume collection)!!!!

Ladies First sang at the Niskayuna Community Center on December 20. After their concert, the ladies offered gifts to the attendees during a holiday sing-a-long.



Gus Jones and Emily Petralia with accompanist Elinore Farnum at Thursday Musical Club concert on 12/10



Bell Canto at Apple Store in Crossgates Mall on 12/8

Happy New Year and thank you for continuing to support the Niskayuna music program and for encouraging your motivated, hardworking, talented children who participate in it!

Mrs. Pizzino-Catalano

C. M. Pizzino-Catalano

MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTES

MS Chamber Strings News

The **MS Chamber Strings** has been invited to participate in Music in Our Schools Month, the National Association for Music Education's (NAfME) "annual celebration during March which engages music educators, students, and communities from around the country in promoting the benefits of high quality education programs in schools." (NAfME) These middle school musicians will perform on March 3 in the South Concourse in downtown Albany. Both our State Senator and State Assemblyman will be in attendance. The performance opportunity is a wonderful way to represent the Niskayuna schools.

Mrs. McClenon

MORE MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTES

Iroquois News

Eighth graders have completed their first semester curriculum. Students created compositions on Noteflight, learned how to play beginner guitar, and created songs on Garage Band, which included making personal ringtones for their phones. Several students showcased their work on Noteflight at a Board of Education presentation on January 10. It was impressive how advanced some of their composition skills are!

All three vocal ensembles plan to participate in the major choral NYSSMA festival hosted by our own district in April. The groups are working hard to prepare for this evaluation.

On May 10, the 7/8 **Iroquois Choir** is heading to NYC to see "Aladdin". There is nothing like the Broadway experience! They will be singing "Friend Like Me" from the musical in the May concert season.

Mrs. Steeley

MS Jazz Band

The **MS Jazz Band** was pleased to perform for a second year at the December 13 Board of Education Meeting, honoring the National Merit Scholarship Semi-finalists. The program included Mike Sweeney's arrangement of "Birdland" (a piece made famous by the Weather Report) as well as Chuck Mangione's "The Land of Make Believe," arranged by Victor Lopez. Thank you to **Dr. Tangorra**, **Ms. Gemmill**, and **Mrs. Gagnon** for organizing this opportunity. The band is excited to perform on April 13 at the Shenendehowa Jazz Festival, where the group will have the privilege to work with guest clinician and saxophonist, **Antonio Hart (see right)**. Later in April, the group will perform at our own Niskayuna Jazz Festival with guest clinician and trombonist, **Bret Zvacek (see left)** from the Crane School of Music. We hope to see you at our upcoming performances!



Mr. Pandori

Seventh Grade Band News

Seventh Grade Band is looking forward to their first Niskayuna Band Festival! **The Potsdam Brass Quintet** will be our featured guest artist. Band students will have the opportunity to work with the quintet over their two day stay, which was made possible by Niskayuna Friends of Music. **Lauren Becker (see left)**, brass quintet member and horn professor from the Crane School of Music, will be a featured soloist with the band on James Swearingen's arrangement of "The Water is Wide." The middle school band is also excited to perform the Spanish inspired "Paso Flamenco" by Victor Lopez - a piece that combines paso double and flamenco styles. We will close out our program with the exciting "Pandora" by Randall Standridge. Using the chant tune, Dies Irae as the basis, this intense programmatic work depicts the story of Pandora. Dissonance and aleatoric techniques represent Pandora's box being opened, unleashing evil spirits upon the world. We hope to see you at Band Fest at Proctors on March 22nd!



Mr. Pandori

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Birchwood and Hillside News

There is a lot of music happening in our general music classes at both **Birchwood** and **Hillside Schools**. Students are learning music concepts through fun activities that include singing, listening activities, recorders, music reading, composition and smart board technology.

Hillside Chorus has been studying music appreciation and the art form of musical theater. These students will perform some familiar songs at our winter concert. They have shown great enthusiasm in rehearsals and look forward to sharing these songs with family and friends.

“Hello Hillside” is an assembly for the entire school that we look forward to every month. This gathering strengthens our school community, as it provides opportunities for students and staff to share special events, birthdays and other celebrations. Also, students enjoy performing a new “sing along” song together. Hello Hillside is open to the entire school community, including family and friends...come join us!

Ms. Sausa-Gatta

Rosendale and Birchwood Chorus News

We are excited and proud to announce the chorus members' support of the **Schenectady City Mission** with our tip jar program. Students, families, and staff have the opportunity to make any size donation to this organization by dropping money into the tip jar that is set out during chorus and in the main office during the remainder of the week. The positive effects of this fundraising effort are rewarding. It is highly motivating when a staff member walks by rehearsal and adds to our tip jar as we sing. Students are cheering for each other as they add to the tip jar. Fifth graders have made posters around school to promote the program. The **Rosendale** and **Birchwood** choruses were able to combine their efforts to send a Thanksgiving check to the Schenectady City Mission for **\$300!!!**

Our tip jar program continues through to the winter concerts, where collection pails will be available for anyone to feel free to “tip” the performance for a great cause.

We are working hard in all our ensembles to perform on the following dates:

Birchwood Strings, Band and Chorus Winter Concert January 19, 2017 at the High School auditorium 7 PM

Rosendale Strings, Band, and Chorus Winter Concert with the *HS Symphony Strings* on January 25, 2017 at the High School auditorium 7 PM

Hope to see you there!

Mrs. Johnston



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NYSSMA Announcements

Piano: The piano-only festival is scheduled for March 10-11 at the College of St. Rose.

Major Organizations: Conductors may choose to bring their students for evaluation in April. **Mrs. Pizzino-Catalano** is hosting the choral majors at Niskayuna HS, April 11-13. Information will be provided by conductors who are planning to register their groups.

Solo/Small Ensembles: Niskayuna will participate in the April festival at Bethlehem Middle School April 7-8. Information is forthcoming.

Parillo Piano Competition

The **Schenectady Symphony Orchestra** is pleased to announce the 2017 Parillo Piano Competition to be held on Saturday, April 29 at Schenectady County Community College. Applications can be downloaded at our website, www.schenectadysymphony.org, and are due no later than February 15. The competition is open to all piano students 12 years of age and older from the greater Capital District area. The competition requirements include the Schumann Piano Concerto in A minor, 1st movement, as well as one short elective piece.

The Schenectady Symphony is eager to encourage, nurture and inspire the finest young pianists in the Capital District. Winners will be awarded cash prizes and will perform at a joint recital with winners of the Stefan Competition for instrumentalists. Especially promising young artists will also be considered for additional performance opportunities. Recent winner, **Rachel Sohn**, will be performing with the SSO in April 2017. She is currently a student at Shenendehowa High School. Previous winners, **Wei-Jen Yuan**, **Ryan Reilly** and **Christopher Reynolds** have also been invited to perform full concerti with the SSO. All three went on to pursue musical study at Julliard.

Masako Yamada
Chair of the Parillo Piano Competition



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L A K E G E O R G E



MUSIC FESTIVAL

EST. 2011

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

MATINEE MAGIC ~ BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

Niskayuna High School Auditorium

Saturday, March 4, 2017

11:30a - 1:00p

Take part in a Behind The Scenes Tour of our production of THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA! With a special Backstage Pass you gain access to a fun pre-performance experience!

The package includes:

- An up-close look at our unique set
- A chance to be on-stage in full lights
- Visit our make-up and dressing rooms
- Work with cast members and learn a dance from the show

Followed by Matinee Magic in our lobby:

- Refreshments
- Balloon making & Face painting
- Featuring "Lady Bug" the Clown**

Students ages 6-13 are welcome. A Backstage Pass is \$5.00 per student. One (1) parent or guardian may accompany his/her child on the tour free of charge. Backstage Passes should be ordered by mail, will be held at the Box Office, and can only be picked-up on March 4th. Any remaining Backstage Passes will be sold at the door, but reservations are strongly encouraged as space is limited.

Please note: The Phantom of the Opera tickets are sold separately and are ***not included*** in the Backstage Pass. For ticket information, please visit www.niskyschools.org or call Tracy Koste at 382-2511 ext. 21710 for more information

MATINEE MAGIC ~ BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

Student Name _____ Phone _____

Parent Email _____

_____ Backstage Pass(es) @ \$5 each = _____

Please make checks payable to: Niskayuna HS – Musical. Mail bottom portion with check to: Janice Lindsay, NHS, 1626 Balltown Rd, Niskayuna, NY 12309

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

TICKET ORDER FORM

**ALL SALES ARE FINAL. ALL SEATING IS RESERVED.
ORDERS WILL BE HELD AT THE BOX OFFICE.**

Orders are filled first-come, first-served and are assigned best available seating. If you would like your tickets mailed to you, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your order. You may visit the Box Office Monday through Friday, February 13 through March 3, 10:45a – 1:15p and 4:00-5:00 when school is in session. Walk-up sales will also be available one hour prior to each performance, however reservations are strongly recommended.

Thursday, March 2 at 7:30 PM

____ Adult @ \$15 each \$ _____
____ Student/Senior @ \$10 each \$ _____

Friday, March 3 at 7:30 PM

____ Adult @ \$15 each \$ _____
____ Student/Senior @ \$10 each \$ _____

Saturday Matinee, March 4 at 2:00 PM

____ Adult @ \$15 each \$ _____
____ Student/Senior @ \$10 each \$ _____

Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 PM

____ Adult @ \$15 each \$ _____
____ Student/Senior @ \$10 each \$ _____

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