



No Strings Attached

The Centennial High School Orchestra Newsletter

February March 2008



A NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR THE CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Upcoming Events

*February 1: Chamber Strings Performance for the Cherokee Art Show

*February 26 (4:15-5:45 p.m.): Pre-Festival Concert

*February 28/March 1: GMEA All-State Orchestra Event in Savannah, Georgia

*March 12-13: Festival/ District V Orchestra Large Group Performance Evaluation at Milton High School Philharmonia: March 12 (6:15 p.m.) Chamber: March 13 (7:15 p.m.)

*March 25 (7:00-9:00 p.m.): Centennial-Haynes Cluster Concert in the Centennial auditorium

Strings and Things

Elizabeth Deaver, *Violinist*

At the Holiday Concert in December 2007, we unveiled the first issue of our Centennial High School Orchestra newsletter, No Strings Attached. The newsletter was received with widespread enthusiasm, as was the holiday concert, where we enjoyed playing a variety of holiday pieces for a packed house. Now we are pleased to follow up with the second issue of No Strings Attached for February and March.

Since Winter Break, the New Year has brought with it plenty of challenges. For example, the GMEA Performance Evaluation is scheduled for March 12th-13th. At this event, the entire orchestra, including the Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra, will be evaluated on performance and sight reading. The event will be held at Milton High School and everyone—parents and friends are welcome to join and support us.

Once again, welcome to the February/March issue of No Strings Attached. We hope you enjoy the creative contributions of several members of our orchestra. A special thanks to Mr. Kim, Elizabeth Deaver, Scott Herrin, Rebecca Kim, Amelia Lee, Tim Richardson, Krystal Saenz, and special guest contributor Raha Sabet for their contributions to the first issue of 2008. Great work!

A Round of Applause

Congratulations to Michelle Ahn (violin) 11th/12th Orchestra, Juyun Kim (violin) 9th/10th Orchestra, Rebecca Kim (violin) 9th/10th Orchestra, Virginia Layman (cello) 11th/12th Orchestra, Tim Richardson (viola) 11th/12th Orchestra, and Krystal Saenz (violin) 11th/12th Orchestra, for being chosen to participate in the 2008 GMEA All-State Orchestra. Great job to everyone!



We are excited to announce that the plans for Centennial High School Orchestra's third European trip abroad are now underway! In the spring of 2009, we plan to travel to Prague, Vienna, and Budapest; where the orchestra will have the opportunity to bond, learn, and grow together, both as musicians and as students.

Stay tuned for more information!
Don't forget to log on to our Orchestra Website for more details:

<http://fultonschools.org/teacher/kimy/>

MUSICAL QUOTES ...

*"Music is the universal language of mankind."
Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow*

*"Music is the poetry of the air."
Richter*

Orchestra is an Ocean Tim Richardson, *Violist*

First violins are like sharks, they in a way control the orchestra, as do sharks in the sea, with the melody of a piece.

The next organism on the "food chain" is the cellos.

Cellos are like big, enormous fish. With their deep and full sound, they help keep the tempo, and sometimes have the melody in a piece. They're special.

Even deeper than the cellos, are the basses. In an ocean, basses can be compared to...ever bigger, enormous fish. They often help keep the tempo, with their beloved whole notes, half notes, and sometimes even quarter notes!

Basses are special, and are necessary in an orchestra to make it feel complete; just like big fish are needed in the ocean to make it be an ocean.

Next to the sharks, a.k.a first violins, we have the second violins. Second violins are..."regular" fish. They aren't too big, and aren't too small. They may not get the melody that often, but they instead often have the harmony.

Now, while they may not think it's all that great, in reality it really is. Think of it like this; if you didn't have "regular" fish in the sea, all of the other organisms wouldn't have food to eat, and would suffer greatly

without them. After hearing this, I bet you second violins feel special now, eh?

Finally, we have the violas. In this case, violas can be compared to none other than lobsters.

Even though they aren't the highlight of the ocean, a.k.a orchestra, they still have a purpose.

In an ocean, lobsters are there. The same with an orchestra; violas are *there*. If lobsters weren't in an ocean, the whole sea would go crazy, and couldn't function correctly. Same with an orchestra. If violas weren't there, number one everyone would be going crazy without their presence, and number two there would not be anybody to play those off-beats. That is very, very sad to think about. That's why you need lobsters in an ocean, and violas in an orchestra.

To sum it all up, an orchestra can be compared to, no, **is** an ocean. Each section depends on each other to function properly. Sure, an orchestra can still "function" without a certain section, but in reality, that is just not the same.

**Written in 2005*



A Note from a Centennial Graduate

After graduating high school, I realized that I was leaving behind a huge part of my life--the CHS orchestra. Throughout the four years that I was a part of the orchestra, I transformed as a person, and a musician. Mr. Kim taught me so much, and without him, I do not think that I would have been able to be prepared for many of the things I experienced in the orchestra. And because of him, I decided to continue music in college.

In the fall of 2007, I joined the UGA Philharmonia. Although I am not a music major or minor, I still love playing violin because it is a way for me to release all of my emotions. Thus, I thought that if I was a part of the Philharmonia, I would be able to continue playing with other students who have the same passion as I do. College orchestra is a lot of fun; however, it requires a lot of practicing. It is the responsibility of each student to learn the music and to be prepared for each rehearsal. Since the

Raha Sabet, *Former Violinist*

orchestra has only one performance a semester, attendance is crucial. Overall, I am very happy that I am in the Philharmonia because it allows me to continue playing the best instrument ever!!

All-State 101

The GMEA All-State Orchestra is an outstanding group, in which student musicians undergo a series of auditions, consisting of a number of etudes, scales, and sight-reading requirements, to be part of an exclusive orchestra.

The students work for months in preparation for their auditions; their goal, to be ranked in the state of Georgia. I got the scoop on the auditions and process from two CHS students who tried out—sophomore violinist, Rebecca Kim and junior violist, Tim Richardson.

Q: *How do you feel about tomorrow's upcoming All-State auditions?*

RK: "Well, let's see; there are 154 people trying out and 50 people made it last year and there is only 42 spots. So, I'm pretty hopeless right now."

TR: "I'm a bit anxious, I can just hope for the best and hope I prepared enough, it's not good to worry about it now."

Q: *What do you have to do at the audition?*

RK: "You have to play two excerpts out of five, and you have to sight-read."

TR: "Well we were given five excerpts before the audition, and they (the judges) select two. For violas, they'll either have one to play or two rooms set up in which you have to play two; one lyrical and one technical."

Q: *What is the audition environment like?*

RK: "Very tense, nervousness in the air."

TR: "There is a sense of competitiveness

in the air when you walk in, but as I said, you have to just got to do your thing."

Q: *What do you do at the judging?*

RK: "There is a black screen, and a monitor takes you into a room and you cannot say a word. Probably two or three judges are behind the screen. And you start when you are ready."

Q: *How have you prepared?*

RK: "Since November, I've been working on different combinations of the excerpts and have been working on sight-reading books."

TR: "First of all, when I get the excerpts, I start by taking them at a slow tempo and I pay attention to articulation and dynamics. As time progresses, I speed up the tempo until it's at the required tempo and sometimes I go over that tempo, just to be safe."

Q: *How long have you been preparing or practicing for the auditions?*

RK: "I've been working since November."

TR: "I waited a little longer... about three weeks ago. I should have started earlier, but the total time a week, has been about one and a half hours daily on sight-reading excerpts."

Q: *Have you ever been in the GMEA All-State Orchestra before?*

RK: "Yeah, barely last year."

Elizabeth Deaver, Violinist

TR: "Yes, the first time I auditioned in eighth grade on the violin, I didn't make it in. In ninth grade, I was fortunate enough to make it in as 16th chair, which is the last chair. And last year, with hard work, I made first chair."

Q: *What did you think of the experience?"*

RK: "It was fun and the five hours of rehearsal time went by fast."

TR: "I thought the whole audition process was a great experience. I think even if you don't stand a chance, you should still try, because you never know. It's worthwhile."

Q: *What did you gain or learn from the experience?*

RK: "More practice, and five new excerpts."

TR: "I really saw how I compared to other players, and how much I'd have to work to put in order to be at their level."

Q: *Was all the hard work worth it?*

RK: "I guess we'll find out..."

TR: "It's definitely worth it."

Comments:

RK: "I'll be glad when it's over."

TR: "Just do it."

After auditions on Saturday February 2nd, Rebecca Kim and Tim Richardson were accepted into the 2008 GMEA All-State Orchestra. Congratulations to Rebecca and Tim! Great work!

Happy Birthday to You ...

Best wishes to everyone on their birthdays!

- Katie June February 5
- Eva Boehnke February 6
- Sahar Sabet February 7
- Brie Earles February 8
- Cammie Wagner February 16
- Nika Golshani March 7
- Krystal Saenz March 9
- Ariana Daftartian March 21
- Dennis Lim March 22



Music Brings Life to Life

Scott Herrin, Cellist



Acknowledgments

Elizabeth Deaver, Student Editor

Scott Herrin, Rebecca Kim, Amelia Lee, Tim Richardson, Raha Sabet, Krystal Saenz
Contributing Editors

YOU MUST BE JOKING!

Why was the opera singer arrested?
He got into treble.

What do you get when you drop a
piano on an army base?
A flat major.

Provided by Rebecca Kim and Amelia Lee

Mr. Andrew Kang Krystal Saenz, Violinist

The Centennial High School Orchestra is proud to introduce our student teacher for the spring semester of 2008, Mr. Andrew Kang.

Mr. Kang started out as a violinist in the sixth grade. He had a friend in his neighborhood that played viola, and she advised him that when he was able to join orchestra, viola was the way to go. So, when the orientation day for orchestra came, he was told to sit in the section he wanted to begin playing in. As he sat in the viola section, he heard his friends calling over to him from the violin section, and he went to go sit with them. Thus the violin became his first instrument.

He graduated from Campbell High School in South Cobb in the year 2001. He then began attending Georgia State University and decided to learn viola. He wanted to learn not only because it was his original plan to play viola, but also for accessibility in the music world and teaching. He will graduate this coming May of 2008.

Not only is Mr. Kang a very talented musician, but he can also sing and dance. He has been involved in choral programs since fourth grade and even theatre productions in high school. He is also taking dance classes in the hopes of learning contemporary dance. His future goals consists of being either an assistant director of a public school orchestra program or working with nearby schools with orchestra programs while teaching privately and pursuing other interests in his life.

It didn't take long for Mr. Kang to warm up to us. Not only is he a respected teacher now, but he's also looked upon as an amazing and incredibly fun addition to our orchestra family.