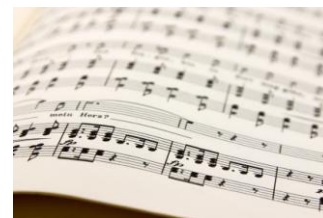

VOICES



The Newsletter of the Whitman High School Choral Program

FALL 2010



“NOW THAT YOU’VE DONE CARNEGIE HALL, WHAT’S NEXT?”

By Jeff Davidson

“We’re going to Disney World!” (I couldn’t resist “borrowing” this from the famous question asked of the Super Bowl winners.) Four of our groups; Chamber Choir, Women’s Chorus, Men’s Chorus, and Treble Chorale will join with five instrumental ensembles to compete in the *Festival Disney High School Music Competition* the evening of April 13th –April 17th. We do our annual Music trip to Orlando every three years, thus allowing our students who stay with us four years to enjoy what is always a highlight of their time in the Whitman music program. And, as it turns out, 2011 is the Orlando year.

In addition to our annual Winter Choral Concert, Music Department school wide assemblies, Pyle eighth grade concert, Festival Performances/Adjudications, Festival of the Arts concerts, and Chamber Choir Farewell Concert, other exciting events will include a Chamber Choir performance with the Montgomery County Youth Orchestra at Strathmore Music Center in December. This is especially prestigious, as we are the first chorus to be invited to sing with this exceptional group in over twenty years. As you can see, we have another great year planned for all of our choruses. I hope you will join us for as many of the events as you are able. You’ll be impressed and very proud of our talented students.

I’d like to extend a warm welcome to the new freshman class of 2014—all 80 of them, one of our largest freshman groups ever. I have it on good authority that you are some of the most talented and just plain nice young people that have entered our school (*Continued on page 2*)

WHAT IS THE WALT WHITMAN CHORAL MUSIC BOOSTERS CLUB?

The Choral Boosters Club was founded in 2000 to coordinate parent support of Whitman’s outstanding choral music program. In 2010, the Choral Boosters and the Instrumental Boosters combined forces and incorporated as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) group called the Walt Whitman Music Boosters to better serve the Whitman music community. For many students, their participation in chorus, both during school and as an extracurricular activity, is a highlight of their years at Whitman. But we know that the students and their choral director can’t maintain the program at its current level, nor foster further growth, without the ongoing support of parents.

How do you join? It’s simple! If you are the parent of a student enrolled in a Whitman choral class, you are automatically a member of the Music Boosters.

Are there any dues? NO! But the club does suggest a minimum donation, depending on the ensemble in which your child participates, to augment the Music Department budget and the miniscule lab fee that each choral student is required to pay. In this way, Mr. Davidson is better able to enhance the quality of our choral program, from the acquisition of sheet music, to sponsoring guest performances and clinicians, to expanding festival competition and performance activities.

What does the Music Boosters Club do? In an effort to provide the financial support that the choral program needs, the Boosters Club sponsors two major fundraising drives each year, as well as ongoing shopping rebate programs. In the fall, the Boosters spearhead the collection of the suggested donation/fee for each choral music class. (*continued on page 3*)



Notes from the Director (*from page 1*)

As with the older students, I think you'll find that singing daily with your friends will be one of the best parts of attending Walt Whitman High School.

THANK YOU barely seems adequate to all of our choral parents for your continuing support of our program. Please know how deeply I appreciate your annual donation, (in lieu of what used to be called lab fees,) to help cover the considerable expenses necessary to maintain the high quality choral program our community has enjoyed and come to expect for so many years. It is now easier than ever to pay. All you need to do is go to the website at:

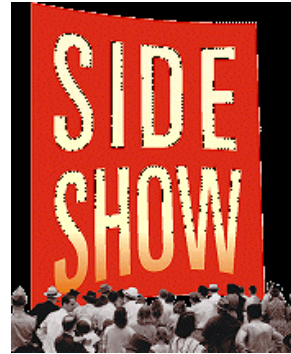
Pay4schoolstuffonline.com and follow the simple instructions. Please remember that each student must pay \$10 as mandated by the school system. Paying the suggested amount above the \$10 is deeply appreciated.

Speaking of gratitude, our amazing Choral Booster Club president, Paula Laboy, really deserves it. She has and will continue to put in countless hours of time and a great deal of work organizing all of our parent volunteers and keeping the lines of communication open to parents and students via the internet on all things choral.

When you get a chance, please check out our website **waltwhitmanmusic.org** to help stay informed. I'm sure you will enjoy the photos and music samples as well as information on the music trip, yearly calendar, concert dress, and performance group policies. If you are interested and willing to volunteer for any of the many jobs that need to be done, please contact Paula at PTLABOY@aol.com

As I begin my 29th year teaching in MCPS and my 26th year teaching at Whitman, I am as committed as ever to providing the best musical experience that is both educational AND fun for the nearly 300 students that will sing in B102 every day.

I hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer with your family and friends. Here's to another great and memorable school year.



**FALL
MUSICAL IS:
*SIDE SHOW***

“Come look at the freaks / Come gape at the geeks!” So starts this year's musical, *SIDE SHOW*. Dramatically based upon real-life vaudeville entertainers and conjoined twins, Daisy and Violet Hilton, *SIDE SHOW* follows these unique sisters from their humble beginnings among the “freaks” of the sideshow to their rise of fame in the Vaudeville circuit and eventually, Hollywood. Along the way they face challenges of love, identity, acceptance, privacy, discrimination, isolation, and persecution.

This captivating story (book & lyrics by Bill Russell and music by Henry Krieger) explores the differences that join us all together and tear us apart. Nominated for four 1998 Tony® Awards, the show stirs instinctive fears in all of us and asks the question, “*Who will love me as I am?*” Other moving numbers include “*Tunnel of Love*” and “*I Will Never Leave You.*”

Performances will be November 18th through November 20th at 7:30 PM.

Directed by

Christopher Gerken

Musical Direction by

Jeff Davidson

Instrumental Direction

by Terry Alvey

Choreography by

Tammy Roberts



AND THE CAST FOR SIDE SHOW IS:

(In alphabetical order)

Luis Alvarado - The Boss
Elena Aragon - The Midget
Lizzie Bartlett - The Enigma/Vale Sister
Sasha Berger - The Bearded Lady/Vale Sister/Daisy Understudy
Jane Bernhard - Daisy
Jay Besch - Terry
Aryana Bolourian - Reporter
Ani Carlson - The Snake Lady
Aidan Clawson - Reporter
Aliza Daniels - Reporter
Michelle Huey - The Geek
Corinne Erasmus - Reporter
Antonio Espinosa - Reporter
Scott Kaplowitz - The Albino
Tristan Kindig - The Sheik
Grace Laboy - Dolly Dimples/Vale Sister/Violet Understudy
Abby Lederman - Harem Girl
Joe Lilek - Reptile Man
Emma Liu - Harem Girl
Emily Madden - Violet
Anna Martin - The Fortune Teller
Michael Nguyen-Mason - The Fakir
Solomon Parker - Jake
Cassie Rabner - The 6th Exhibit
Paulina Reyes - Harem Girl
Mirit Shapiro - Reporter
Stephen Sharbaugh - Archeologist
Emma Spieser - Harem Girl
Naomi Stoll - Harem Girl
Alyssa Tender - Harem Girl
Jacob Trauberman - Ted Browning
Kenny Wesley - Archeologist
Jon Wiedemann - Archeologist
Sydney Wolstein - Reporter
Alex Xourias - Buddy

Each cast member has multiple roles in the musical but due to space considerations, only their first role is noted here. Please join us for this exciting musical and see how incredibly talented all of these young musician/actors are! 🎵

WHITMAN CHORAL MUSIC BOOSTERS CLUB: (from page 1)

Throughout the school year, our “Shop for Chorus” program solicits both choral and non-choral parents to participate in programs through which the choral program receives substantial donations from Giant and Safeway. During the last school year, the choral program received over \$3,000 through Shop for Chorus and it didn’t cost participants one cent!

The Boosters Club also hosts its annual “Winter Party” at the home of a choral family. Last year we raised almost \$3,500 through your generous donations! Watch for announcements about this year’s party, which is scheduled for Sunday March 20, 2011.

The Boosters Club plays other important roles in supporting the choral program. In an effort to keep choral families fully informed about program news, we have established the “choralnet,” an email listserve dedicated to Whitman’s choral program. The Boosters also maintain the choral website and publish this newsletter. We also provide countless hours of administrative support using parent volunteers to assist the music teachers with everything from ordering concert attire to planning for the annual music trip.

If you would like to volunteer to help the choral program in any way, please send an email to the chair of the Boosters Club, Paula Laboy at ptlaboy@aol.com. Thank you for your ongoing support. 🎵





Annual Music Department Trip.

We're going to Disney World!

The ever popular destination of Orlando Florida is where the Music Department's bus caravan will be headed April 13 – 17, 2011 to participate and compete in Festival Disney. Please note that this is the first weekend of Spring Break.

All groups participate in the trip, except for General Chorus. The total cost of the trip is \$675 and is divided into payments as follows:

1st payment of \$175 due September 17th

2nd payment of \$175 due October 29th

3rd payment of \$175 due December 10th

4th payment of \$150 due February 25th

Detailed information on the trip went home with students on the first day of school and is available on the music website at www.waltwhitmanmusic.org



Welcome to the Choral Student Teacher!

Kyle English is a choral music education major at The Catholic University of America. At CUA, he studied voice with Dr. Gene Galvin and piano with Antoinette Velikina. Kyle has been an active member of both the University Chorus and Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. Leo Nestor, and was the manager of both in his senior year. In 2008, Kyle was selected to sing in the Choir of Seventeen, which sang for Pope Benedict XVI in his visit to Catholic University. Kyle has also traveled to Prague and Budapest to perform Verdi's Defiant Requiem, a concert drama created by CUA dean Murry Sidlin, and will be performing it again at the Kennedy Center this October. Outside of his responsibilities at CUA, Kyle is a founding member of Top-Notch Barbershop Quartet, and was music director of four musicals for Centerstage Production Company, a student run organization at CUA. These performances included Little Shop of Horrors, Godspell, Urinetown: The Musical, and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. For the past 8 years he has taught voice, music theory, and instrumental ensembles at the Eastern U.S. Music Camp located at Colgate University. Kyle also sings in the choir at St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill. After college, Kyle hopes to acquire a Masters in Choral Conducting and a position teaching high school chorus. He is looking forward to working with Mr. Davidson and the students of Walt Whitman High School. 🎵

VISIT OUR CHORAL WEBSITE

www.waltwhitmanmusic.org

Just click on Choral Music to find all of the information you will need about the Choral Program, the Music Faculty, Spring Trip, Choral Calendar, Photos and more!



LOCAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC

Levine School of Music 202-686-9772
Washington Conservatory 301-320-2770
International School of Music 301-657-0763

PRIVATE VOICE TEACHERS

Deborah Benner 202-537-7469
deborahbenner@hotmail.com

Myra Tate, Kensington, MD 301-946-4818

Leslie MacKnight, Bethesda, MD 301-229-6308

Kristin Halliday 301-461-6774
performingacademy@yahoo.com

Eve Kornhauser, Potomac, MD 301-765-0570

Aurelius & Grace Gori, Kensington, MD 301-922-8328

Susan Berkson Rockville, MD 301-460-2726

Jennifer Rutherford 301-365-9358
jensingerlady@gmail.com

Hilary Ryon mhryon@gmail.com

Keith Hudspeth 202-257-7794
khudspeth@gds.org

Terrance Johns 202-375-9762
TerryJdc@gmail.com

Brian Lee 301-576-3370
brian@vocalability.com

Maryann Sewell 202-726-8858
viva.diva@earthlink.net

Maureen Mullaney 301-613-9532
maureenmullaney@mac.com

CONCERT DRESS FOR 2010-11 CHORAL GROUPS

Parents - please review the concert dress requirements for each group. If any student is unable or unwilling to purchase concert attire, please contact Mr. Davidson.

FOOTWEAR – ALL GROUPS:

Boys: Black dress shoes & black socks

Girls: Black dress shoes – character shoes are ideal, or plain black flats or low heels – no open toe, platforms, sandals or flip flops please!

GENERAL CHORUS:

Boys: White Dress shirt, tie (any color), suspenders (any color), black dress pants

Girls: White blouse (your own); neutral or no stockings. Students are asked to purchase floor length black skirt through the choral department.

TREBLE CHORALE:

Students are asked to purchase blue concert dress through the choral department.

MEN'S CHORUS:

White dress shirt (not a button down collar).

Choral department will provide black suits and ties.

ADVANCED WOMEN'S CHORUS:

Students are asked to purchase black and white concert dress through the choral department.

CHAMBER CHOIR:

Boys: Choral department will provide formal wear

Girls: Students are asked to purchase black concert dress through the choral department. Costume pearls provided by the choral department. 🎵





CLASSICAL ME CONCERTS SCHEDULED

The Whitman Music Department held its first “Classical Me” concert in 2009 in order to provide an opportunity for dedicated Whitman musicians to perform and showcase their individual talent for staff, friends, and family. This tradition of musical excellence continues this school year, with two concerts scheduled: **February 8th and April 30th 2011**. Audition dates will be announced later this year. For questions, contact Ms. Alvey at terry_s_alvey@mcpsmd.org

MONTGOMERY COUNTY YOUTH CHORUS

Congratulations to the following Whitman students who have been accepted to MCYC for this fall: **Lizzie Bartlett, Scott Kaplowitz, Emma Keteltas, Anna Martin, Cassie Rabner and Ibuki Takizawa**. The group will perform their concert at 7:30 p.m. on October 25th at Richard Montgomery High School under the baton of Mr. Ron Frezzo, choral director at R.M.

MENC ALL-EASTERN CHORUS

The following students have been nominated for this distinguished honor. If they are accepted to All-State (again) this year with high scores, they will be one of a small number of students to represent Maryland at the MENC Conference in Baltimore in the spring. Congratulations to **John An and Missy Curl**.

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION – VOICES UNITED

The following students sang in the Festival Chorus of the ACDA “Voices United” summer conference of choral directors from Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the District. Congratulations to **Luis Alvarado, Lizzie Bartlett, Heather Menefee and Steffie Sansbury**. The Festival Chorus was conducted by Karen Kennedy from Towson University, who conducted a workshop last school year with both Women’s Chorus and the Treble Chorale. ♪

Shop for Chorus: Your Best Gift to Whitman Music

and it is continuing for this school year, with programs at both Giant and Safeway.

Giant Gift Cards: Support the chorus by ordering Giant gift cards in \$25, \$50 or \$100 denominations. Please write your check to WWHS. Giant then donates 5% of the total back to the Choral Program. It costs you nothing and it is an easy way to help raise funds for us.

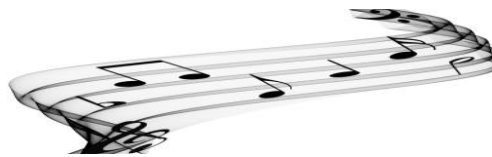
1. Look for Whitnet and Choralnet announcements. Order forms will also be sent home with the students.
2. Determine how many Giant gift cards you would like, fill out the form and return with your payment to Mr. Davidson by the deadline.
3. We send the gift cards home with your student usually within two weeks.

If you have questions please contact Lee Talisman at: leebeethree@aol.com

Safeway Bonus Card: By using your Safeway Club Card when you shop, Safeway will donate up to 3% of the value of your purchases to support the choral program. It is easy to sign up:

1. Have your Safeway club Card number handy. If you’ve lost your card, you may call 1-877-SAFEWAY (723-3929) to get your number. * Go to www.escrip.com
2. Click on Step 1 – Sign Up – It’s Free!
3. Search for our group – Walt Whitman Choral Boosters, and click on it to select.
4. Follow the prompts to sign up.
5. Remember to use your card or enter your phone number every time you shop at Safeway and Whitman Chorus benefits!
6. To Renew, simply click on the renewal link at the bottom left of www.escrip.com

If you have questions please contact Paula Laboy at ptlaboy@aol.com ♪



LAB FEES AND SUGGESTED DONATIONS

As you may know, last year MCPS adopted new guidelines on class fees that allow a maximum charge for music classes of \$10/student per year; students may also be assessed for the costs of music festival entry and transportation. This falls well below previous Whitman music fees, and MCPS has made no provision to compensate for lost funding. So, the Instrumental and Choral Booster Clubs are urging families to make voluntary contributions to supplement the permitted fees. Music parents' response to this request last year was tremendous.

The suggested contribution is \$75 per student per year except for members of General Chorus and Treble Chorale for whom the request is \$50 each. Please note that these contributions include both the county authorized fee (\$10 per year) and any additional donations that will help us meet our financial needs for the school year.

Of course, parents may always choose to donate more to the program – or less – according to their family circumstances. The proceeds, as in the past, will go toward music department outlays that official funding cannot cover, including: uniforms, sheet music, clinicians' stipends, an annual CD recording, spring awards banquet and, scholarships for students unable to cover the activity fees.

Collecting for these activities now saves students' time for music (rather than fundraising) and means parents won't be repeatedly tapped for funds throughout the year. So please donate today. Donating online is preferred – its saves a booster club parent volunteer from having to tally and record donations made by check.



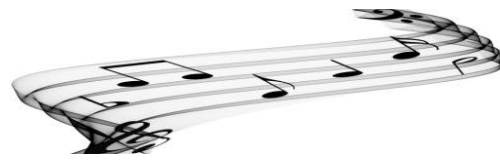
To donate online:

1. Go to www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com.
2. Select "Click here to create a new account," or if you are already registered, log in and skip to step "4."
3. Sign up your student(s) as indicated -- if you are a teacher, or you no longer have a student in school, or you are not a parent, sign up using your own name.
4. Under "Pay for" column, click "Select" (if you have registered more than one student, click "Select" under any student's name). Wait patiently until the selections load.
5. Next to "Choral Music," click "select" then choose the suggested donation amount for your child's ensemble.
6. Consider making an additional donation to the Music Boosters (tax deductible) -- use the "Open Donation Amount" option. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated.
7. At checkout, you may use a credit card.

Parent generosity helps maintain Whitman's dynamic music department as an inspirational home for our children during high school. Your continued support helps ensure the high caliber of musical arts at Whitman. Thank you! 🎵

Choral Boosters Club Volunteers

Chair:	Paula Laboy ptlaboy@aol.com
Choralnet:	Chris Curl Curlbud-choralnet@yahoo.com
Newsletter:	Sara Greenbaum segreenbaum@hotmail.com
Shop for Chorus:	Lee Talisman leebeethree@aol.com
Webmaster:	Devra Glowinski webmaster.waltwhitmanmusic@gmail.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

26 – MCYC Concert at Richard Montgomery HS
7:30pm

29 – Music Trip Payment #2

NOVEMBER

13 – Junior All State Chorus auditions at
Middletown MS.

18 - 20 – Fall Musical - “*Side Show*” 7:30pm

20 – Senior All State Chorus Auditions at Urbana
HS

DECEMBER

1 - Chamber Choir Dress Rehearsal with
Montgomery County Youth Orchestra at
Strathmore

5 – Chamber Choir performance with MCYO at
Strathmore

10 - Music Trip Payment #3

15 - Winter Instrumental Concert - auditorium

21 – Pyle Winter Choral Concert - auditorium

22 - Whitman Winter Choral Concert, 7:00pm

23 - Music Assemblies – auditorium, Periods 1-4

JANUARY

5 - Pyle/WWHS Choral Concert Snow Date

6 – Whitman Music Showcase at Pyle

FEBRUARY

8 – Classical Me Concert, St. Dunstan’s Church

17-19 – Winter Play – The Crucible

25 – Music Trip payment #4 due.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

4-6 – Senior All State Choruses at Marriott, Hunt
Valley Inn

11-13 – Junior All State Chorus, Hagerstown

16 – MCPS Choral Festival/Assessments.
Chamber Choir, Men’s and Women’s Choruses-
auditorium

20 – Annual Winter Party at the home of Mona
Yacoubian and John Carlson, 4-6 p.m.

APRIL

1 - Men’s Chorus Invitational Festival @
University of MD (College Park) Concert @
Memorial Chapel 8:00pm

1-3 - All-Eastern Chorus @ MENC Eastern
Division Conference-Baltimore

8,9 - Talent Show-auditorium

12 - Music Trip Baggage Check

13 – 17 - MUSIC TRIP TO FESTIVAL DISNEY
COMPETITION, evening departure.

30 - “Classical Me” Concert, St. Dunstan’s
Church, 7:00pm

MAY

25 – 26 - Whitman Festival of the Arts

JUNE

12 - Chamber Choir Farewell Concert at 5pm

14 - Graduation