

Know the Score

Walt Whitman Instrumental Music Boosters Newsletter
Summer-Fall 2010

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GREETINGS FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR TERRY ALVEY

I hope you are having a fun yet restful summer! First, I would like to thank our 2010-2011 Co-Chairs, Jay Kaufman and Francesca Slesinger. They have been working with other volunteers all summer to help make the coming year a success and bring you the information in this newsletter.

Before we move into the upcoming school year I would like to take a moment to reflect on successes from just a few months ago. The journey to Carnegie Hall and the performances there on April 24 were an experience we will never forget. There are few words that can describe that evening better than "breathtaking". Performances by all of the students were exceptional and made for a magical event. Other 2009-2010 successes included: 24 Whitman musicians' being chosen for the MCPS Honors Ensembles; 17 musicians chosen for the Maryland All-State Ensembles; Superior ratings for ALL instrumental ensembles at the District II

Festivals; Whitman's Jazz Ensemble's winning second place at the prestigious Chantilly Jazz Invitational; and our Whitman Jazz Combo's winning first place in the combo division of Chantilly Jazz Festival. These accomplishments, as well as three outstanding school concerts, made for an amazing year. Thank you to the students for all your effort and parents for your support.

We are very excited about the upcoming year and have been busy choosing music, discussing goals for each ensemble, and planning our spring trip.

I join my colleagues Jeff Davidson and Wayne Chadwick on the music faculty in welcoming new students and parents and look forward to meeting you, seeing returning families, and making music together. In this newsletter and online at www.waltwhitmanmusic.org you will find information about the instrumental program, the parent-led Music Boosters and our calendar. Please mark relevant dates on your family calendars-- especially the following concert dates for *all ensembles*:

Winter Concert, December 15, 2010
Festival of the Arts, May 25-26, 2011

Also, this year, we're preparing a new Music Department Handbook full of information on course objectives, grading policies, concert and rehearsal procedures, practicing, concert dates, marching band, community service, private lessons, and anything you may need to know about Whitman Music. This handbook will help students understand their role in the department and help them perform at the highest level possible.

Other music news worth noting: The Music Department's 2011 spring trip will be to Orlando, Florida, on April 13 -17, 2011 (more information to come), where we will be part of a music competition at Walt Disney World.

And this just in: Seven of our students have been nominated for All-Eastern performing ensembles. If chosen, these students will be performing as part of the Eastern Division of the Maryland Educators National Conference which will be held in Baltimore, March 31-April 3, 2011. They will join musicians from the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Department of Defense schools in Europe. The students nominated are: Clara McCreery, Gabe Slesinger, Emily Park, Andrew Wyner, Anna Ryba, Sahil Ansari, and Siddhu Anandalingam. We are very proud of their accomplishment and wish them good luck.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your continued support of our program. We are very excited about the upcoming school year and look forward to seeing you at our first concert!

Terry

WELCOME FROM MUSIC BOOSTERS CO-CHAIRS

On behalf of the Music Boosters, we welcome all new and returning students and families to the Whitman Music community! We are looking forward to another school year and an encore of exciting events, challenging competitions, and beautiful music.

The following announcements contain important information for all students and families in the Whitman Music program, including dates and details about some familiar programs, as well as new developments, such as our first-time-ever online system for donating to Music Boosters. Please read carefully to be sure to note key dates, deadlines, and details. While we will continue to use the Music Booster listserv to send program reminders and updates, we are also working hard to post essential information, announcements, and news on our website at www.waltwhitmanmusic.org. To stay informed, please sign up for our email listserv (instructions below), bookmark our website, and come to the first Music Boosters **meeting on Monday, September 13.**

The programs you'll see mentioned here bring music daily to our students, families, and community. We are fortunate to have an administration, faculty, and students who are dedicated to the arts, and thank all of you for your continued enthusiastic support through both time and donations that help sustain their efforts.

See you in September!

Jay Kaufman & Francesca Slesinger
Co-Chairs, Music Boosters

*All music is what awakes from you
when you are reminded by the instruments.*

---Walt Whitman

BAND CAMP: For all incoming freshmen and other new members of Whitman bands, Band Camp will meet from **10 am to 2 pm on Tuesday- Wednesday, August 24-25, and Friday, August 27**, in the Whitman Band Room. *Attendance is required*, as this is the only opportunity to learn music and marches for football games before the school year begins. Questions? Contact Ms. Alvey at 301-320-6542 or [Terry S Alvey@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Terry_S_Alvey@mcpsmd.org).

CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS: Parents and guardians play a key role in supporting our music students and helping the department with essential fundraising and program activities throughout the school year that are organized by the Whitman Music Boosters. To become informed and involved, please be sure to:

- Attend the first Music Boosters meeting of the school year on **Monday, September 13, at 7 p.m.** in the Band Room;
- Join the WhitmanInstrumental **listserv** (if not already on it) to receive important Boosters information and updates throughout the year. This is the department's main means of communicating to families. To join, please send your name, email address, and name and grade of your music student(s) to Amy Golen at: agolen@verizon.net. Put "Join WhitmanInstrumental" in the subject line;
- Review the **calendar** at the end of this newsletter to note important dates. Check Music Booster emails and our website for updates;
- **Pay and donate** class fees and voluntary suggested Boosters donations (now payable online, as described below).
- **Volunteer** for Whitman Music Boosters by contacting Booster co-chairs Jay Kaufman (jfk@kaufmanhome.net) or Francesca Slesinger (fpslesinger@gmail.com). See the subcommittee list at the end of this newsletter for 2010-11 openings.

PERFORMANCE DRESS REQUIREMENTS: All instrumental music students need **black dress shoes** by the start of the school year to wear with the uniforms indicated below.

- **Marching Band** (which includes **Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band** and, for final game, **Concert Band**): All participating musicians will receive uniform tees and jackets to wear with their own jeans and black sneakers as their marching band uniform.
- **Concert Band:** White dress shirts with black dress pants; for women, black skirts or dresses are also an option.

- **Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Concert Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble:**

Men: In September, Music Boosters will lend a black tuxedo to each member for use until graduation or departure from the music program. Students who outgrow their tuxedos may request a different size. Students need to acquire their own pleated tuxedo shirts with wing-tip collar, black bow ties, cufflinks and black metal studs (Syms, Men's Warehouse, and Filenes Basement generally carry these items at reasonable prices.) Men may wear their own tuxedos, provided they are black and bear a standard lapel--no shawl collars or double-breasted jackets, please. Students must keep tuxedos in good repair and dry clean before returning.

Women: In September, for women who don't already have them, Music Boosters will fit uniforms of concert gown with matching bolero jackets (\$110). It's also sometimes possible to purchase these used from music program alumni via the listserv or other inquiries.

Note: Uniform distribution is handled by parent volunteers. For additional information, please check our website and listserv emails.

FUNDING: To help fund uniforms, travel, festival costs, and other needs, the Whitman Instrumental Music program relies on fundraising and parent donations. As of the 2009-10 school year, MCPS class-fee guidelines allow us to charge just \$10 per year for music classes--a significant decrease over previous years. (MCPS does permit additional assessments for music festival entry fees and transportation.)

To make up for this shortfall and avoid repeated requests for funds throughout the year, *the Music Boosters also urges families to make voluntary contributions.* Walt Whitman Music Boosters, Inc., is a 501 (C) (3), non-profit organization, so donations are tax-deductible. Suggested amounts are **\$75 for Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, and Symphonic Orchestra**, and **\$50 for Concert Band and Concert Orchestra**, reflecting estimated costs for student participation in each program. Last year, many parents elected to donate more or less, according to their family circumstances.

This year, we once again appeal to you to help cover outlays official funding cannot cover, including: uniforms, sheet music, clinicians' stipends, an annual CD recording, the spring awards banquet, and scholarships for students unable to participate without assistance.

Payments and donations may be made **by check** (payable to Whitman Music Boosters and mailed to: 7100 Whittier Blvd., Bethesda, MD. 20817; Attn: Music Dept.), **or online** by credit card as follows:

- 1- Log on to the following website: www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com. This link and directions can also be found on the Music Booster website at www.waltwhitmanmusic.org.
- 2--Select "Click here to create a new account," or if you are already registered, sign in and skip to step 4;
- 3-- Sign up your student(s) as indicated, or if 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 the student's name enrolled in the music program);
- 5-- Next to "Instrumental 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) by selecting the "Open Donation Amount" option. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated;
- 7--While signed in, you may also make donations or payments to Whitman PTSA, Athletic Boosters, Speech and Debate Team, and the WHS Education Foundation;
- 8--At checkout, you may use a credit card or your Pay Pal account.

If you encounter problems registering, e-mail Jay Kaufman at: jfk@kaufmanhome.net.

We thank you in advance for helping maintain Whitman's dynamic music department as an inspirational home for our children, and ensuring the high caliber of musical arts at Whitman for our students and community!

WINTER ("GARDEN") PARTY: Another primary source of fundraising for the Music Boosters is our annual party, which offers an opportunity for parents and faculty to meet and enjoy good food and fine music provided by some of our student musicians in the home of a Whitman family. The tentative date for the Winter Party is **Sunday, March 20, 2011**. Details will be discussed at the first Music Boosters Meeting on September 13.

SPRING MUSIC TRIP TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA: The 2011 Music Trip will take place **April 13-17** and include the following ensembles: Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Concert Orchestra. More information about fees, registration and other details will be provided on our website and at Boosters meetings.

MARCHING BAND: The Whitman Marching Band, which includes the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, performs at home football games. *The Concert Band will join them only for the final game, in November.* Game night call time is 5:30 in the Band Room, almost always on Fridays. (Likely game dates appear in gray in the calendar below, but note that these were tentative at press time.)

ALL-COUNTY & ALL-STATE AUDITIONS: Students interested in auditioning for MCPS Honors ("All-County") and All-State ensembles should begin preparing early in the school year. Audition materials will be distributed in September to allow for preparation assistance from private teachers and/or Whitman staff.

Why audition? All-County and All-State groups bring together the area's finest young musicians to work with hand-picked conductors on challenging pieces. It's a great musical and social experience for all participants. All-County ensembles usually rehearse one night during the school week for five to seven weeks before a final performance for family and friends. All-State groups gather for two-night hotel stays, rehearsing intensively for gala performances. Audition and other relevant information will be posted on our website when available.

GIANT SUPERMARKET GIFT-CARD FUNDRAISER: Do you buy groceries? Do you ever buy them at Giant? If so, you can help support the Whitman Instrumental Music program every time you shop *without spending an extra penny* by buying Giant gift cards from Music Boosters. As a community service, Giant sells these cards at a discount to non-profits like Music Boosters; when we resell them to you at face value, we keep 5% of the purchase price to support your student's music education. It's that easy. Giant Gift-Cards will be available for purchase in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100 by the following order deadlines: September 24, December 3, February 18, and May 6. Information for purchase will be circulated on the listserv. For more information, contact Boosters volunteers Susan Park (301-897-5405) or Ilene Jones (301-320-9565).

2010-2011 MUSIC BOOSTERS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

and volunteer openings

Whitman Music Boosters helps support music activities and programming throughout the school year. To volunteer, please contact either co-chair today:

Co-Chairs	Jay Kaufman	301-469-4850
	Francesca Slesinger	240-305-3881

A complete list of the Subcommittee Chairs can be found at:

<http://www.waltwhitmanmusic.org/InstrumentalBoosters.htm>

Instrumental Music Calendar 2010-2011

A complete list of the Subcommittee Chairs can be found at:

[http://www.waltwhitmanmusic.org/InstrumentalCalendar
.htm](http://www.waltwhitmanmusic.org/InstrumentalCalendar.htm)