

Know the Score

Newsletter for the Walt Whitman Instrumental Music Program

Fall 2007

WELCOME TO MUSIC BOOSTERS!

Welcome, parents and guardians of band and orchestra students, to Whitman's Instrumental Music Boosters!

Whitman's quality program relies on stellar teachers, of course, and dedicated students, but also on parent time, talent and support given through the Boosters. (There's also a Choral Boosters group.)

Instrumental Boosters meet twice each school year—on **September 25 at 7 pm** and again in February—to discuss upcoming events, committee activities and ways to support our children's music education. You will also find info in two more newsletters like this one through the year.

Be sure to enroll in our list-serve, **Whitman Instrumental Group online**, which lets you receive timely—but not overly frequent—emails about upcoming deadlines and events. Signing up is easy; see the box below.

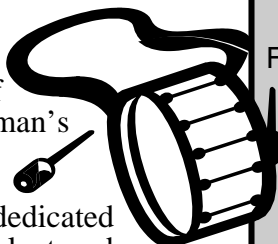
Now is also the time to **volunteer** to support instrumental music at Whitman. Booster activities offer a chance—sometimes rare at the high school level—to interact with your student's teachers and the parents of his or her friends. Just let us know what jobs best suit your interests. We look forward to working with you!

BOOSTER PARENT'S TO-DO LIST

parent meeting: September 25, 2007,
7 pm, Whitman Band Room

list-serve sign-up: Send parent name/s and email/s with names of your instrumental music student/s to Carol Freedman, cfd2@verizon.net

volunteer: Contact chair Diana Deem or others listed on this page



BAND CAMP 10-2, AUGUST 21, 22 AND 24

For freshmen and other new students: Put your best foot forward at Whitman football game halftimes by learning the music and marches in advance. **Attendance is encouraged and important.** Meet in the band room. Questions? Call Mr. Allen: 301-320-6542.

2007-2008 Committee Chairs

<i>Booster Club Chair</i>	Diana Deem	229-8263
<i>Treasurer</i>	Maria Beck	229-7815
<i>Secretary</i>	Leslie Shedlin	320-5859
<i>Database Manager</i>	Anice Hoachlander	320-7338
<i>Newsletter:</i>		
<i>Editorial</i>	Mandy Katz	915-0999
<i>Mailing</i>	Leslie Nguyen	229-6115
<i>Tuxedos and Band Jackets</i>	Libby Noyes-Palmer	365-5852
	Cecilia Parajon	365-4845
	Allison Knight	229-2336
	Robin Baldwin	365-1077
<i>Concert Dresses</i>	Nell Elder	229-8317
	Leslie Nguyen	229-6115
	Amy Golen	263-0906
<i>Garden Party:</i>		
<i>Hosts</i>	OPEN	
<i>Invitations</i>	Susanna Membrino	229-1154
	Susan Wexler	229-0156
<i>Food/Volunteers</i>	Alejandra Vallejo	229-0128
<i>Winter Concert</i>	Suzanne Abu-Sharr	320-6181
	Roberta Aronson	229-3926
	Amy Golen	263-0906
<i>Awards Night</i>	Francesca Slesinger	320-9470
	Nancy Altman-Lupu	229-2651
	Mary Quigley	229-2998
<i>Historian</i>	Doug Pearson	229-6395
<i>Music Trip</i>	Amy Golen	263-0906
<i>Arts Festival Liaison</i>	Anne Hollander	229-7277
<i>Adjudicator Luncheon</i>	Lorraine Driscoll	896-0668
	Bernice Kaufman	469-4850
	Kay Senator	229-9269
<i>Music Web Page</i>	Diana Deem	229-8263
<i>List-Serve</i>	Carol Freedman	229-7070



Garden Party

Sunday, October 14



Enjoy an afternoon of good conversation, delicious food, and terrific music provided by our students, all for the benefit of the Whitman instrumental program. A highlight for music program families, this is also our only regular fundraising event. Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones at a Whitman family's home. Look for an invitation soon but mark the date now: *Sunday, October 14, 4-6 pm.*

UNIFORM INFO

MARCHING BAND: Marching band duties rotate among Whitman's bands, as shown in the box below right. Freshmen and all other new instrumentalists will soon receive new Whitman music t-shirts in stylish black; returning band students should dig out their old ones, as all band members will need them for warm-weather football games. (Replacement t-shirts can be had for a fee.)

The tees are to be paired with khaki slacks, black socks and black dress shoes. Marching band jackets will be available on game days when the weather warrants. These should be worn over white mock turtlenecks and khaki slacks, also with black shoes and socks.

CONCERTS: Advanced Band and Advanced Orchestra members will need white dress shirts, black dress pants or skirts and black dress shoes for concerts. Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Orchestra, and Jazz Band men wear black tuxedos; women wear concert dresses.



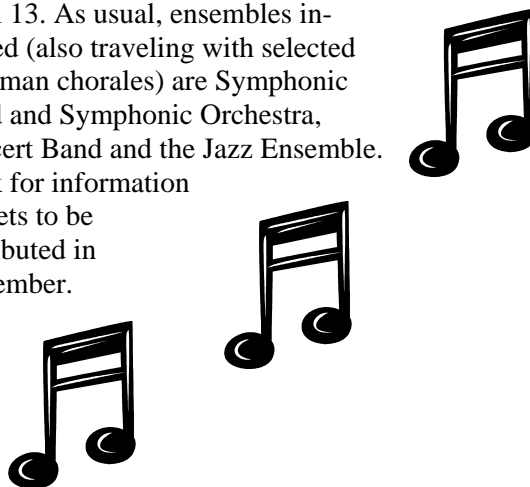
Fittings for tuxedos and dresses (with bolero jacket) will take place early in the school year. Dress ensembles are \$110. Tuxes are provided by the Music Boosters but men must obtain their own tuxedo shirts (pleated with wing-tip collar) and black bowties. All are worn with black dress shoes.

If you have questions about dresses or if you can help with fittings, please call Nell Elder at 301-229-8317. For tuxedo assistance or questions, contact Libby Noyes-Palmer at 301-365-5852.

SPRING MUSIC TRIP

Whitman's annual bus caravan this year will be heading to Orlando, Florida, for the annual competition expedition, beginning with the usual overnight bus ride.

Departure is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, April 9, 2008, and return will be on April 13. As usual, ensembles included (also traveling with selected Whitman chorales) are Symphonic Band and Symphonic Orchestra, Concert Band and the Jazz Ensemble. Look for information packets to be distributed in September.



PEP AND MARCHING BANDS

Whitman band classes will perform at Friday-night football games according to the following schedule:

- 9/14 Symphonic Band
- 9/28 (Homecoming) Symphonic Band
- 10/12 Concert Band
- 10/19 Concert Band
- 11/2 Advanced Band

Mandatory practices run from 5 to 7 p.m. on the Thursday before each game. Friday call time is 5:30.

Congrats to our student conductors for 2007-2008: Nathan Epstein, Neha Mehta and Damjam Korac.

LAB FEES COVER A RANGE OF NEEDS



PREPARE NOW FOR REGIONAL AUDITIONS

As described in the enclosure, the instrumental music student lab fee remains at \$115 for the 2007-2008 school year. Please send in your payments by the **deadline of September 14**; forbearance is available in cases of financial hardship. (Please contact Mr. Allen.)

The lab fee lets us forgo student fundraising so Whitman instrumentalists can devote more of their time to making good music. Here are some items it helps to cover:

- Music scores
- Department-owned instruments and repairs
- Marching band jackets and t-shirts
- Tuxedo purchases and cleaning
- Festival fees
- Bus transportation to festivals and graduation
- Visiting music professionals
- Awards banquet food and awards
- CD recording and copying
- Professional growth and development courses for music teachers
- Newsletter and website expenses

Please complete the enclosed sheet and send your payment today.

PRIVATE LESSONS

All Whitman instrumental students are expected to take private lessons. To assist you in finding a teacher, the music department maintains a list of recommended local teachers, available by calling 301/320-6542.

The list is also available on our website.

County and state honors bands, jazz bands and orchestras hold tryouts early in the school year, so students should begin preparing as soon as audition materials become available during the first week of school. (Of *course* they're already working on scales and sight-reading, right?)

All-county honors ensembles (junior and senior levels; junior is grades 7-9) rehearse weekly for several weeks and then perform a concert. State ensembles, also junior and senior, rehearse for an intensive long weekend in Baltimore, including hotel stay, followed by a concert. The music-making in both is at an impressive level and gives students the opportunity to work with some of the state's and county's best teachers.

Many Whitman students participate each year in these enriching ensembles. We encourage all students to audition. Here are a few tips to help them do their best:

Mark the dates: County jazz auditions are September 24; by Oct. 22, all-state senior jazz videos are due to Mr. Allen. Auditions for junior band/orchestra are Nov. 5 for country and Nov. 10 for all-state. Senior band/orchestra tryouts are Nov. 13 for county, Nov. 17 for all-state. Note that the sign-up deadlines listed on the next page are much earlier. See our website for more information.

Get to know audition materials early. Music selections for state and county ensembles are the same. Begin learning them as soon as materials are made available by the music department. Set up a practice calendar and pace yourself. Periodically record your efforts and critique your progress. Practice with friends, play in front of a mirror and perform for your family.

Seek help! Your private teacher is your best resource. If you need help finding an instructor, please talk to Mr. Allen, Ms. Alvey or Mr. Chadwick.

This and upcoming newsletters—and a comprehensive instrumental music **calendar**—can be viewed on the Instrumental Music program's website:

www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/whitmanhs/departments/music/instrumentalmusic/01index.shtm.

Or, from the school's main website, click on "Academics;" "Music;" and "link to Instrumental Music Website."

WHITMAN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

2007-08 CALENDAR

*Note: Dates and times subject to change. The complete calendar,
with updates, appears on the instrumental music website:*

www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/whitmanhs/departments/music/instrumentalmusic/01index.shtm

August

- 20-25** Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra auditions (sign-ups via MCYO website)
- 21-22, 24** Band Camp (freshmen and new students)

September

- 14** Lab fee due
Football home game (Symphonic Band)*
- 25** Boosters meeting, 7 pm
- 28** Homecoming game (Symphonic Band)*

October

- 1** Sign-ups due for Jr. County & State auditions
- 8** Sign-ups due for Sr. County & State auditions
- 12** Football home game (Concert Band)*
- 14** Garden Party, 4 pm
- 19** Football home game (Concert Band)*
- 21** Jazz Ensemble plays ALS Walk on Mall
- 22** All-State Sr. Jazz videos due to Mr. Allen

November

- 2** Football home game (Advanced Band)*
- 5** All-County Jr. Band/Orch. auditions
- 10** All-State Jr. Band/Orch. auditions
- 13** All-County Sr. Band/Orch. auditions
- 15-17** Whitman fall musical: *Aida* (pit orchestra)
- 17** All-State Sr. Band/Orch. auditions

December

- 8** All-County Jazz Festival (Jazz Ensemble)
- 20** Winter Instrumental Concert, 7:30 pm
- 21** In-school music department concert

January

- 8** All-county ensembles commence weekly Tues-night rehearsals, 6:30-9 pm
- 24-26** All-State Jazz Focus Weekend
- 28** Deadline: County Solo and Ensemble Festival sign-ups (juried performances)

February

- 2** County Honors Band/Orchestra concert
- 20** Whitman music department concert at Pyle MS
- 26** Boosters meeting, 7 pm
- 28-3/1** All-State Senior Band/Orchestra weekend
All-State Junior Band weekend

March

- 1** All-State weekend concluding concert
- 7** County Ensemble Festival
- 8** County Solo Festival
- 13-15** All-State Junior Orchestra weekend
- 18** County Symphonic Orchestra Festival
- 19** County Symphonic Band Festival at Whitman, 8am-3pm
- 20** Deadline: State Solo and Ensemble Festival sign-ups (juried performances)

April

- 1** Whitman Talent Show auditions
- 8** Spring music trip^x luggage check-in
- 9-13** Spring music trip^x to Orlando
- 22** County Concert Band Festival
- 24-26** Whitman Talent Show
- 29** State Symphonic Band and Orchestra Festival

May

- 10** State Solo and Ensemble Orch. Festival
- 17** State Solo and Ensemble Band Festival
- 14-15** Whitman Festival of the Arts
- 22** Instrumental Music Awards Dinner



*All football games are a 5:30 pm call time for the selected ensemble; rehearsals run 5-7 pm the preceding night.

^xSpring music trip involves: Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble and Concert Band.