

Know the Score

Newsletter for the Walt Whitman Instrumental Music Program

Spring 2007

SPRING CALENDAR	
MAY	
3	Jazz Ensemble, Brookmont Church, 7:00 pm
5	State Solo and Ensemble Festival (Orchestra students)
12	State Solo & Ensemble Band Festival (Band students)
16	Festival of the Arts – Advanced Orchestra, Advanced Band, Concert Band
17	Festival of the Arts – Symphonic Band, Symphonic Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble
21	Awards Night/Dinner, 6:30 pm, students; 7:30 pm, parents
JUNE	
6	Graduation, DAR Constitution Hall, 7:00 pm

AWARDS NIGHT



Monday, May 21, is Whitman’s annual Instrumental Music Awards night. The event honors outstanding senior members of band, orchestra and jazz ensembles, as well as noteworthy participants in other grades.

Students will begin the evening with a 6:30 dinner in the cafeteria. At 7:30, parents are invited to join them for the ceremonies. Parent help is welcomed. To help set up, serve or clean up, please contact Francesca Slesinger at: 301-320-9470 or francesca@slesingermanagement.com.

YEAR-END TUXEDO RETURNS

Don’t forget that suit in the closet! All school-owned tuxedos must be returned to the music department by the end of the year. Seniors and others not performing at graduation should return them after Festival of the Arts. Students playing at graduation should hand them in after the ceremony, on June 6. Final grades cannot be released until the student’s uniform is in. For questions, call Libby Noyes-Palmer at 301-365-5852.



CELEBRATE WHITMAN’S FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

On May 16 and 17, our students’ award-winning music ensembles will perform for family and friends as part of the Whitman Festival of the Arts. Note these performance times, all in the cafeteria:

Wednesday, May 16:

- 6:00 pm – Jazz Ensemble
- 6:30 pm – General Chorus
- 7:00 pm – Concert Orchestra
- 7:30 pm – Treble Chorale
- 8:00 pm – Advanced Band
- 8:30 pm – Beauty & Barbershop Quartets

Thursday, May 17:

- 6:00 pm – Concert Band
- 6:30 pm – Men’s Chorus
- 7:00 pm – Symphonic Band
- 7:30 pm – Advanced Women’s Ensemble and Combined Choruses
- 8:00 pm – Symphonic Orchestra
- 8:30 pm – Chamber Choir

Volunteer docents will be on hand to guide the hundreds of guests, friends and performers’ families—many from Pyle Middle School—who come to enjoy the music. Please remember the need for quiet in the cafeteria and nearby during performances. To assist as a docent at the event, call Anne Hollander at 301-229-7277 or Jen Hohenboken at 301-765-9194.

AUDITIONS FOR NEXT YEAR



All band and orchestra students are required to audition in spring for Mr. Allen and/or Ms. Alvey to determine placement for the 2007-2008 school year in Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Symphonic Orchestra. Separate auditions will be held for Jazz Band. Auditions will take place after Festival of the Arts. Parents should remind students to practice and come prepared but to relax, too. Good luck to all!

POMP + ITS CIRCUMSTANCES (GRADUATION DETAILS)

Whitman's 2007 graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6 at 7:00 pm. *All non-senior members of Symphonic Band and Symphonic Orchestra are expected to accompany the ceremonies.* Performers will be bused to and from D.A.R. Constitution Hall for the event, departing Whitman around 5:00 pm Details will be announced soon.



A FOND GOODBYE TO SENIORS

With just a few weeks left before school ends, we extend congratulations and best wishes to our graduating seniors. You will be missed. Don't forget to come and see us in the fall, when you can also pick up a CD of this years' top performance groups. (All current instrumental music students will also receive a copy of the CD on its release.)

We hope your time in the band and orchestra room has prepared you for a lifelong involvement in the arts and your time at Whitman has prepared you for every other endeavor you undertake.

We'll look for you at future Whitman concerts!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC WEB PAGE

Calendars, teachers, course info and more are on our website. Go to www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/whitmanhs and click on "Academics," "Music," and "Link to Instrumental Music Website."

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Whitman Instrumental Music Booster Club is the parent organization supports the instrumental music department. Volunteering is a great way to stay informed and meet other Whitman parents while showing our children you value their musical efforts. We have two "chair" slots open for 2007-2008. Other ways to help come up throughout the year, such as assisting with the spring awards dinner and fall garden party.

No experience needed! Rising freshman parents are welcome. Contact Diana Deem at 301-229-8263 or dianadeem@comcast.net to learn more.

2007-2008 Committee Chairs

<i>Booster Club Chair</i>	Diana Deem
<i>Treasurer</i>	Maria Beck
<i>Secretary</i>	Leslie Shedlin
<i>Manager, Student Database</i>	Anice Hoachlander
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Mandy Katz
<i>Mailing</i>	OPEN
<i>Tuxedos/Band Jackets</i>	Libby Noyes-Palmer Cecilia Parajon Allison Knight Robin Baldwin OPEN
<i>Concert Dresses</i>	Ann and Tim Mealey
<i>Garden Party Hosts</i>	Susanna Membrino Susan Wexler
<i>Invitations</i>	Alejandra Vallejo Suzanne Abu-Sharr Roberta Aronson Amy Golen
<i>Food/Volunteers</i>	Francesca Slesinger
<i>Holiday Concert</i>	Nancy Altman Mary Quigley Doug Pearson Amy Golen
<i>Awards Night</i>	Anne Hollander
<i>Historian</i>	Lorraine Driscoll
<i>Music Trip</i>	Bernice Kaufman
<i>Festival of the Arts</i>	Diana Deem
<i>Liaison</i>	
<i>Music Adjudicator</i>	
<i>Luncheon</i>	
<i>Music Web Page</i>	
<i>Instrumental Music</i>	
<i>List-Serve</i>	Carol Freedman

FOR RISING FRESHMEN: BAND CAMP

What's the best way for incoming freshmen to start learning their way around Whitman before the school year starts? How can new freshmen meet and get to know upperclassmen? Where can I learn the band music and marching skills I'll need for the half-time performances at football games this fall?

The answer to all these questions is: **BAND CAMP.**

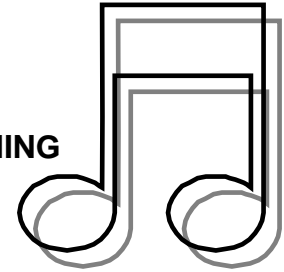
Save the dates of Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, August 21, 22 and 24 (the week before school starts) for this important program, free to all incoming 9th graders. Camp meets from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Whitman and is scheduled to avoid conflicts with sports team practices. **Attendance is important, so don't miss it!**

WHITMAN INSTRUMENTAL'S ONLINE LIST-SERVE

The instrumental music boosters invite and encourage all parents of band and orchestra students to join the Whitman Instrumental Group, a Yahoo-Groups list-serve that allows us to reach you with important emails. We enjoyed almost 100-percent participation this year and would like to continue the trend in 2007-2008, as this is the best way to quickly and conveniently get information to all instrumental music families.

For incoming 9th-grade families and others not yet signed up, now is the time to add your name to the email list. Simply send *your name, the name of your student, and your email address* to Carol Freedman at cfd2@verizon.net. Feel free to enroll multiple emails, such as home and work; mother and father; etc. Contact information on the list will be used for list-serve purposes only and is otherwise confidential. If you have questions, you can also reach Carol at 301-229-7070.

WELCOME, INCOMING FRESHMEN!



Welcome, rising 9th graders, to Whitman's instrumental music program! You are about to embark on an unforgettable four-year experience of music, friendship, scholarship and fun. As an introduction, here's a primer on Whitman's six band and orchestra groups:

- Advanced Band** 9th grade students (no audition required)
- Concert Band** Mid-level band: 10th-12th grade students and selected 9th grade students accepted for second semester only (audition required)
- Symphonic Band*** Top-level band: 10th-12th grade students (audition required)
- Concert Orchestra** All grades, strings only (no audition required)
- Symphonic Orchestra** Full orchestra: 10th-12th grade students (Audition required) and 9th grade students by invitation only (audition required)
- Jazz Ensemble** 10th-12th grade students (audition required)

Other music opportunities include a variety of classes, marching band at home football games, the fall musical's pit orchestra (for symphonic orchestra students), a spring music competition trip, and other extracurricular music experiences supported by the music department.

For questions, contact conductors Chris Allen and Terry Alvey at 301-320-6542, or email them at: christopher_c_allen@mcpsmd.org or terry_s_alvey@mcpsmd.org.

WHITMAN WINDS (AND OTHERS) IN THE WINDY CITY



Whitman strings, brass, reeds, percussion, and, yes, *winds* had a great time, as did choristers and chaperones, on the music department's annual trip in April, this year to the "windy city." Their itinerary included Chicago's John Hancock Building, Magnificent Mile and city center plus a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan and Imax, rides and more at the Navy Pier. Our musicians enjoyed hearing one another's performances for adjudicators in a stunning auditorium at the music festival site. The event closed with a dinner for the more than one thousand participants from 15 schools at Medieval Times Restaurant, a behemoth venue featuring

OUR VIRTUAL TROPHY CABINET

For the seventh straight year in a row, Whitman's **Jazz Ensemble** won top honors at the Chantilly Jazz Festival with individual awards for Becky Sahn, Jordan DePetrillo and Will Seeber.

At county and state festivals, the **Symphonic Orchestra** and **Symphonic Band** earned Superior ratings across the board and **Concert Band** took home Superiors for performance and an Excellent rating in sight reading.

As spring break began, Whitman groups vied with 25 ensembles from as far as California, Florida, Kansas, and South Dakota at the Heritage Music Festival in Chicago. Our choral and instrumental musicians gained note as the festival's highest-scoring program overall, even edging an academy devoted to music and arts. Individually, our instrumental groups earned the following laurels:

Jazz Ensemble: First Place and Gold Award (Superior ratings) with individual recognition for Mandy Mamlet and Becky Sahn.

Symphonic Orchestra: Second Place and Gold Award

Symphonic Band: Third Place and Gold Award

Concert Band: Silver Award (Excellent ratings)

Symphonic Band and **Symphonic Orchestra** were also invited to the festival's "National Festival of Gold" competition. (Jazz ensembles are not eligible.) They do not plan to attend, but the invitation itself is an honor.

A PROFESSIONAL TOUCH Musical Guests Offer Expertise to Whitman Ensembles

Each year, Whitman Instrumental Music Director Chris Allen brings in top-level musicians to work with Whitman ensembles. Their workshops and master classes improve students' technique and musicality while introducing them to role models in the music professions. This year's guests have included:

Airmen of Note: Renowned jazz ensemble of the United States Air Force Band.

Alan Baylock: Airmen of Note's chief arranger and leader of the Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra, who also composes and arranges by commission for Whitman's Jazz Ensemble.

Paul Carr: Professional tenor saxophonist and private teacher and director, Jazz Academy of Music, Inc., a non-profit corporation providing year-round workshops and a summer camp.

John Cradler: Principal tuba, United State Marine Corps Band.

Michael Kamuf: Published arranger and composer and trumpeter for Woody Herman.

Tony Maiello: Conducting professor, George Mason University.

Allison Miller and her band, Agrazing Maze: New York-based jazz ensemble comprising Ingrid Jensen (trumpet), Enrique Haneine (piano), Carlo DeRosa (bass) and Miller on drums.

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In addition, a *delegation from Azerbaijan*, guests of Principal Alan Goodwin, included several rhythm-musicians who "jammed" with our jazz band.

APPRECIATION

We close the year by thanking the many parents who lend time and skills to the Music Boosters!

You make possible the quality music program we enjoy, so we thank you for helping with everything from databases and checking luggage to fitting uniforms and serving hors d'oeuvres.
