



Know the Score

Newsletter for the Walt Whitman Instrumental Music Program

Winter 2006

Parents - Tune In

As we rush headlong into the holiday season, the students and faculty are once again working hard to make this an outstanding year of great music at Whitman. The pep band, as well as the marching bands, added great spirit and entertainment to the fall football season. Students Shana Ferguson and Andrew Berger, our marching band conductors, did a terrific job leading the marching bands and pep band at all the home football games.

The annual garden party was a wonderful event again this year. We could not have had a more perfect day and everyone had a great time. A special thanks goes to Ann and Tim Mealey, Susanna Membrino, Susan Wexler and Alejandra Vallejo who planned and coordinated this lovely event.

The pit orchestra mastered a challenging score and provided a wonderful accompaniment to this season's musical, *Funny Girl*. It was a great show and the orchestral accompaniment was amazing. Many, many thanks to Ms. Alvey and to all the students for their countless hours of rehearsal time.

Holiday Concert – December 14

The holiday concert will be Thursday, December 14 at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium. Parents of freshmen are asked to send one 2-liter bottle of ginger ale and parents of sophomores and juniors (not seniors) are asked to send finger foods on a disposable plate for the post-concert reception. Please drop off the drink and food donations in the cafeteria before the concert.

The woodwind quintet, string quartet and jazz combo will perform before and after the concert. Please stay for the reception after the concert, which will be held in the cafeteria. If you can help before or after the concert, contact Suzanne Abu-Sharr at 301-320-6181 or Rana Kahn at 301-365-0239.

A Salute to Frankie Ball

Our beloved Frankie Ball, the instrumental music teacher for 26 years at Pyle Middle School, will be retiring at the end of the current semester. To honor his three-decade long career with Montgomery County Public Schools in which he enriched the lives of thousands of students, a benefit concert has been scheduled for 2 pm on Sunday, January 7, 2007 at Walt Whitman High School.

Mr. Ball's former students are welcome to perform at this concert as part of a concert band, string orchestra or jazz ensemble. Interested current Whitman students who would like to participate should contact Mr. Allen. Interested Whitman alumni should contact Laurie Keller at 301-320-2827. Parents who would like to help with the preparations for this event should contact Diana Deem at 301-229-8263.

Tickets may be ordered in advance by sending a request to Anne Hollander at 6904 Carmichael Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20817. Tickets are \$10 per person and checks should be made payable to Pyle Middle School. If a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed, the tickets will be mailed back; otherwise they will be held at the will-call window in the box office. *Mail-order requests for tickets must be postmarked by December 15th*. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis as determined by postmark. Once all auditorium seats have been filled, overflow tickets to view the in-house televising of the event will be provided.

After December 15, remaining tickets will be sold through the Whitman box office. Box office ticket sales will be held from January 2 – 5, 2007. If you would like to help with box office ticket sales, please contact Anne Hollander at anne@mccreery.org.

Net proceeds from the ticket sales for this event will be contributed to the American Society for Clinical Oncology Foundation, per Mr. Ball's request. Additional contributions are most welcome; please make checks payable Pyle Middle School and send to Anne Hollander at the address listed above.

MUSIC BOOSTERS MEETING

Thursday, November 30, 2006

in the Band Room at 7pm

All parents are urged to attend!

Spring Trip to Chicago

This year's music trip will be to the windy city of Chicago, Illinois. As a reminder, students in concert band, symphonic band, symphonic orchestra and jazz band participate in this trip. Students will leave for Chicago in the early evening of Wednesday, March 28th and will return on Sunday, April 1st. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Alvey.

Spring Trip Payment Schedule

First Payment of \$175 was due September 15, 2006

Second Payment of \$175 was due October 27, 2006

Third Payment of \$175 is due **December 15, 2006**

Final Payment of \$200 is due **January 26, 2007**

Many Thanks

We wish to give our heart-felt thanks to the uniform volunteers for their hours of work ensuring that our musicians look their best on the football field and in concert. Libby Noyes-Palmer, Cecilia Parajon, Robin Baldwin and Leslie Shedlin helped with the tuxedo and t-shirt distribution. Jen Hohenboken, JoAnne Murray, Sallie Holdrich, Anne Hollander, Emily Bartlett, and Amy Golen fitted the female musicians for the new concert dresses.

Garden Party

The annual Garden Party Gala was a great success this year with approximately 120 people in attendance. We raised just under \$4,000 thanks to the extremely generous donations from many of you! Special thanks go to the many volunteers who provided food and drinks and who helped set up, serve and clean up at the party. All their hard work helped to make this a wonderful afternoon.

Music Lab Fee is Past Due

The music lab fee of \$115 is required of all students participating in the instrumental music program. Our thanks go to all the families who have already paid this fee. Unfortunately, we still are missing payments from 42 students. If you have not made this payment, please do so ASAP. If you are unsure if you have made this payment, you may contact our treasurer, Maria Beck, at 301-229-7815. Payments should be turned in to the student's music class. Please consult Mr. Allen if the fee creates a financial hardship.

See Your Kids at Their Best

If you have never seen your child in a county or state music competition, this is the year to find out what you've been missing. It's every bit as exciting as watching them on the playing field. Their poise and professionalism are truly impressive. Plan to attend one or more of the county or state festivals taking place this year. The schedule is as follows (locations will be announced as available):

County Jazz Festival	Dec. 9
All-County Band & Orchestra Gala Bethesda- Chevy Chase HS	Feb. 3
All-State Band & Orchestra Concert Morgan State University	Feb. 25
County Symphonic Orchestra Festival	Mar. 13
Chantilly Jazz Festival Chantilly, VA HS	Mar. 17
All-State Jr. Orchestra Festival Frederick	Mar. 18
County Symphonic Band Festival Walt Whitman HS	Mar. 20
James Madison University Jazz Festival	Mar. 24
County Concert Band Festival	Apr. 17
State Band & Orchestra Festival	Apr. 24

Instrumental Music Web Page

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Whitman Instrumental webpage is now up and running! This website provides another invaluable resource for our parents and students to stay informed about all the musical activities at Whitman.

A special thanks goes to Ike McCreery, junior, for designing this website. Anne Hollander, Terry Alvey and Chris Allen provided much of the content. Doug Pearson provided the pictures and Diana Deem provided oversight and countless hours fine-tuning this project.

To access this website, use the following link:
<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/whitmanhs/departmentsmusic/instrumentalmusic/01index.shtml>

You may also access the website via the Walt Whitman school website. Click on the drop-down menu for "Academics" and select "Music". On the "Music" page, click on the link to the "Instrumental Music" webpage.

On the homepage of this new website, on the right-hand side, there is an area entitled "What's New in Instrumental Music". We will be using this space to provide breaking news and information about upcoming events and deadlines.

Whitman Instrumental Group

As a reminder, the Music Boosters has created the online Whitman Instrumental Group, a Yahoo-groups list-serve that will let us email notices directly to instrumental families. If you have not already joined this Yahoo group, we would ask that you consider doing so as this will be the best way to ensure that you receive all pertinent emails regarding instrumental music activities. Please send your contact information, including your name, the name of your student and your email address to Carol Freedman at cf2@verizon.net. If you have any questions, you may call Carol at 301-229-7070.

2006-2007 Committee Chairs

Co-Chairmen	Diana Deem Wendy Marberg	229-8263 320-6187
Treasurer	Maria Beck	229-7815
Secretary	Leslie Shedlin	320-5859
Newsletter		
Editor	Mandy Katz	915-0999
Mailing	Kathleen Sahn	320-6677
Tuxedos/Uniforms	Libby Noyes-Palmer	365-5852
Concert Dresses	Jen Hohenboken	765-9194
Garden Party		
Hosts	Ann & Tim Mealey	365-5620
Invitations	Susanna Membrino Susan Wexler	229-1154 229-0156
Food/Volunteers	Alejandra Vallejo	229-0128
Winter Concert	Rana Khan Suzanne Abu-Sharr	365-0239 320-6181
Awards Night	Francesca Slesinger Mary Quigley	320-9470 229-2998
Historian	Douglas Pearson	229-6395
Music Trip Luggage		
Check-in	Donna Roberts	229-8606
Festival of the Arts	Anne Hollander Jen Hohenboken	229-7277 765-9194
Judges' Luncheon	Kathleen Sahn	320-6677
Music Web Page	Anne Hollander	229-7277
Whitman Instrumental Group Moderator	Carol Freedman	229-7070

Private Music Lessons

Having trouble finding a teacher for your child? There is a county-sanctioned list of music teachers available from Mr. Allen, 301-320-6542.

Doug Pearson is Our Historian

Please pass on any photos that Doug Pearson may use for our new webpage or for documenting this year's instrumental music events. On- and off-stage candid photos are welcome! You can contact him by email or phone: dspearson@verizon.net or 301-229-6395. Additionally, pictures from the Garden Party, pit orchestra rehearsals, the homecoming game and recent jazz band concerts are available for viewing at <http://picasaweb.google.com/wwhitmanmusic>.

Budget 2006-2007

Did you ever wonder how the lab fees and money from the Garden Party are used? Below is the budget for the 2006-2007 Whitman Instrumental Music Boosters.

INCOME:

Annual Lab Fee (\$115x246 students)	\$28,290
Misc. Donations (estimate)	3,000
Garden Party Net Proceeds (estimate)	<u>4,800</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$36,090

EXPENSES:

Concert Dresses (new)	\$ 500
Tuxedos (new)	2,000
Dry Cleaning (uniforms)	600
T-Shirts	1,750
Sheet Music	4,700
Equipment Purchases	4,000
Instrument Repair	2,000
Scholarships	1,600
Clinicians	1,500
Festival Fees	600
Transportation to Festivals	5,000
Hospitality	600
Holiday Concert	300
Awards	2,240
Awards Banquet	1,020
Newsletter Printing/Envelopes	500
Postage	500
Professional Growth & Development	2,000
CD Recording	<u>4,500</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$36,090

CALENDAR

Note: All dates/times are subject to change.
Updated information will be posted on WhitmanInstrumentalNet

August

22,23,25 Band camp, 10 am–2 pm
21-26 Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra auditions

September

7 Back-to-School Night, 7 pm
8 Home football game vs. Gaithersburg, 6:30 pm
19 Music Boosters meeting, band room, 7 pm
25 All-County Jr. & Sr. Jazz Band auditions, 4-9 pm
29 Home football game vs. Quince Orchard, 6:30 pm

October

8 Music Boosters Garden Party, 4-6 pm
13 Home football game vs. B-CC, 6:30 pm
19 or 20 Home football game vs. Springbrook, 6:30 pm
28 All-State Sr. Jazz audition video due

November

3 Homecoming football game vs. Churchill, 6:30 pm
6 All-County Jr. Band/Orchestra auditions, 6-10 pm
11 All-State Jr. Band/Orchestra auditions
14 All-County Sr. Band/Orchestra auditions, 6-10 pm
16,17,18 Fall Musical
18 All-State Sr. Band/Orchestra auditions
30 Music Boosters meeting, band, room 7 pm

December

9 All-County Jazz Festival, 8 am-5 pm
14 Winter Instrumental Concert, 7:30 pm
15 Music assembly for students and teachers

January

25,26,27 All-State Sr. Jazz Band focus weekend, Towson University

February

3 All-County Band & Orchestra Gala Concert, B-CC HS
22-25 All-State Sr. Orchestra, All-State Jr. and Sr. Band, Morgan State University

March

6 Music Boosters meeting, band room, 7 pm
9 County Ensemble Festival, Paint Branch H.S., 4-10 pm
10 County Solo Festival, Paint Branch H.S., 9 am-5 pm
13 County Symphonic Orchestra Festival, 8 am-3 pm
16,17* Chantilly Jazz Festival
16,17,18 All-State Jr. Orchestra, Frederick
20 County Symphonic Band Festival at Whitman, 8 am-3 pm
23,24* James Madison University Jazz Festival
28,29,30 Spring Music Trip to Chicago

April

1 Spring Music Trip to Chicago
17 County Concert Band Festival, 8 am-3 pm
19,20,21 Whitman Talent Show, 7:30 pm
24 State Orchestra and Band Festival

May

5 State Solo & Ensemble Orchestra Festival
12 State Solo & Ensemble Band Festival
16,17 Whitman Festival of the Arts
21* Instrumental Music Awards Night & Dinner, 6:30 pm

* Dates are tentative