

Know the Score

Walt Whitman Instrumental Music Boosters
Newsletter – Summer/Fall 2014

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Select Dates to Note

View more online at

<http://www.waltwhitmanmusic.org/calendar>

8/19,20,22	(mandatory) Band Camp
9/4	Back-to-School Night
9/5	1 st Home Game (Band)
9/22	Music Boosters Meeting
10/26	Boosters Garden Party
4/15-4/19	Spring Music Trip

GREETINGS FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR TERRY ALVEY

I hope this finds everyone having an enjoyable summer. As we begin the 2014-15 school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our past year. A million thanks to outgoing Booster Chair Amy Golen for her dedication and boundless energy. Amy has been an involved music booster volunteer for many years and served as co-chair and chair for the past three years. Along with thanks to Amy, I send a shout-out to Mandy Katz, whose behind-the-scenes savvy has made our online newsletter a must-read. Congratulations to Amy and Mandy as they graduate and move on to the collegiate world. Thank you both so much for your commitment to Whitman music, you will be missed.

For the upcoming year, our Instrumental Music Booster program will be ably chaired by former



Treasurer Yuriko Gandolfo, assisted by a strong group of dedicated parent volunteers. Yuriko brings tons of experience and energy, and Amy has been very gracious in making sure the transition is a smooth one. This summer, I have been working with Amy and Yuriko, as well as other volunteers, to help make the coming year a success and bring you the information that follows.

MEET OUR NEW MUSIC FACULTY MEMBER: And as the new school year approaches, I want to welcome to our new music faculty, **Ms. Heather Borsum** to the Whitman music family! Ms. Borsum brings an array of skills to Whitman music. She will be teaching piano, guitar, conducting concert band and assisting Mr. Davidson with Women's chorus. Ms. Borsum is familiar with Montgomery County Public Schools having taught in MCPS since 1996. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and was the first instrumental music teacher in MCPS to achieve that certification. She has degrees in percussion performance from Carnegie Mellon University and Catholic University and is a proud product of MCPS, having graduating from Magruder High School. Ms. Borsum adjudicates both solo and band festivals throughout Maryland and has coached the percussion section of the MCPS honor band for many years. She maintains a private teaching studio and performs throughout the Washington DC area. Undoubtedly, her musical talents and teaching skills will enhance the tradition of excellence of the Whitman Music Department.

2014 IN REVIEW: Congratulations to ALL instrumental ensembles that received Superior and Excellent ratings at District II Band and Orchestra Festivals, Whitman Jazz for winning first place for the second year in a row at the Mid- Atlantic Jazz Festival and an awesome end of the year performance at the Bethesda Blues and Jazz Club. These accomplishments, as well as three outstanding school concerts, an outstanding pit orchestra performance, an awesome and musically rich trip to Florida, and two very impressive Classical Me concerts made for an amazing year. As always, we thank our supportive parents as the excellence of this program is a collective effort. But most importantly, thanks and kudos go to our students for their commitment to excellence and to the Whitman music program.

AND ON TO 2014-15: We are excited about the upcoming year and have been busy choosing music, discussing goals for each ensemble, and planning our spring trip, which as you may have already heard, will be a return to Nashville, one of our favorite musically rich destinations. I join my music faculty colleagues Jeff Davidson and Heather Borsum in welcoming new students and parents. We 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 and the parent-led Music Boosters, as well as our nifty, online calendar. Please mark relevant dates on your family calendar—especially these concert dates for concert dates for all ensembles:

[Winter Concert, Thursday, December 11, 2014](#)

[Festival of the Arts, April 29-30, 2015](#)

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your continued support of our program. We are excited about the upcoming school year and look forward to seeing new students at Band Camp (Aug 19, 20, 22) and all of you at our first concert!

Terry Alvey

Director, Instrumental Music

WELCOME FROM THE MUSIC BOOSTER CHAIR

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 an encore of exciting events, challenging competitions, and beautiful music throughout the school year.

This newsletter contains essential information about the instrumental music program at Whitman and details about upcoming events. We encourage you to read it carefully, noting key dates and deadlines, and to refer to an additional resource for all things music at Whitman: the Music Boosters website, including a convenient calendar, at www.waltwhitmanmusic.org. Please bookmark it, and visit often to find new and archived newsletters and learn about faculty, ensembles, important dates, volunteers, the annual spring trip, how to pay suggested dues, and the many accomplishments of our talented musicians.

To stay informed, please also be sure to sign up without delay for our email listserv (instructions follow), and come to the first Music Boosters meeting on Monday, September 22, at 7 pm in the Whitman Band Room. We will discuss this year's exciting calendar and the many volunteer opportunities for parents.

The Whitman Music program brings music daily to our students, families, and community. We thank our administration, faculty, and musicians for keeping the arts alive through their hard work and dedication. And we thank all of you for your continued enthusiastic support, time, and donations to help sustain their efforts.

See you in September!

Yuriko Gandolfo

Instrumental Music Booster Chair



AUGUST BAND CAMP and FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (Marching Band)

For all incoming freshmen and others new to Whitman bands, free, mandatory Band Camp will meet from **10 am to 2 pm, Tuesday-Wednesday, August 19-20 and Friday, August 22**, in the Whitman Band Room. Students should bring a bag lunch; water will be provided. As this is the only opportunity to learn music and marches for football games before the school year begins, attendance is required. If your family has a scheduling conflict, please contact Ms. Alvey at 301-320-6542 or [Terry S Alvey@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Terry_S_Alvey@mcpsmd.org).



Returning band members are also more than welcome, though their attendance is optional.

The Marching Band performs at all home football games. The first game is Friday, Sept. 5 (5:30 call-time for 6:30 game) and includes Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble only; Concert Band participates for the remaining four home games. Homecoming this year is **October 10** – save the date! See the music [website calendar](#) for other game dates and call-times.

HONORS ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS: Sooner Than You'd Expect!



Why audition? MCPS/All-County and All-State groups bring together the area's finest young musicians who want to challenge themselves, work with some of the top youth conductors, and socialize with peers from other schools. It's a great musical and social experience for all participants. Participation is a great way to energize a student's play and practice; even the auditions are a learning experience.

What's involved? MCPS/All-County ensembles usually rehearse one night during the school week for five to seven weeks starting in early January, culminating in a final performance for family, friends, and others in early February. All-State ensembles, following auditions in fall, gather for a two-night hotel stay over one weekend later in February, rehearsing intensively for a gala public performance presented at the close of the weekend.

When? Ms. Alvey will distribute audition music in early September. Students should begin practicing it as soon as possible, reviewing it with private teachers if they have them. Note the following sign-up deadlines and audition dates:

- Sept. 19 MCPS Honors & All-State Ensemble Audition *sign-ups* due to Ms. Alvey
- Sept 29 MCPS Honors Jazz *auditions* (4pm-9pm at Frost MS)
- Nov. 11 MCPS Junior Band/Orchestra (gr 9) *auditions* (6pm-10pm Rockville HS)
- Nov. 15 All-State Junior Band/Orchestra (gr 9) *auditions*
- Nov. 18 MCPS Senior Band/Orchestra (gr 10-12) *auditions*
- Nov. 22 All-State Senior Band/Orchestra (gr 10-12) *auditions*

Students interested in auditioning for Montgomery County Public Schools (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. Auditions for All-State, overseen by the [Maryland Music Educators Association](http://www.mmea-maryland.org) (www.mmea-maryland.org), will take place on November 15 for juniors level, grades 7-9, and November 22 for grades 10-12.

Audition and other relevant information will be available and discussed in music classes and posted on the band room board.



FUNDING THE MUSIC PROGRAM

MCPS guidelines limit music class lab fees to \$20 per year per student. (Additional assessments are permitted for festival entry fees and transport.) These accumulated fees amount to far less than is needed to maintain the excellence of our program. To make up this shortfall – and to avoid repeated, time-consuming fundraising throughout the year – the Music Boosters ask families for a *one-time, tax-deductible, dues payment of \$100 per student*, in addition to the mandatory \$20 class fee.

This is a voluntary contribution. We welcome and greatly appreciate any amount you are able to give in support of your student and to help maintain the high quality of the Walt Whitman Music program. These fees help pay for uniforms, sheet music, instrument maintenance and repair, guest teacher and clinician visits, an annual CD recording, the spring Awards Banquet, and scholarships for students unable to participate without assistance, among other needs.

Please pay the required \$20-per-student fee by check; it is due by September 4 (back-to-school night). Make checks payable to *Walt Whitman High School*. Please give your check to Terry Alvey at Back-to-School Night on September 4, have your student deliver it during the first week of school, or mail it, *attn: Ms. Terry Alvey, Music Dept. to: Walt Whitman High School, 7100 Whittier Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.*

Please do not combine payments! The \$20 required fee must be paid separately from any additional (tax-deductible) dues/donations. It is payable by check only; donations can be made by check *or* online, according to the instructions below.

And please...make the suggested tax-deductible dues payment of \$100 by check or by credit card online:

By check -- Make checks payable to *Whitman Music Boosters, Inc.* and deliver, by separate check from the \$20 required fee, in any of three ways: (1) to Ms. Alvey at Back-to-School Night, September 4; (2) via your student during the first week of school, or (3) by mail: *attn: Ms. Terry Alvey, Music Dept., Walt Whitman High School, 7100 Whittier Blvd., Bethesda, MD. 20817.* If you donate early (by September 4), it will help us plan the many programs that depend on your donation. Again, because Whitman Music Boosters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax deductible and you will receive a tax receipt acknowledging payment.

Online, by credit card:

1. Log on to www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com. (Link and directions also be found on www.waltwhitmanmusic.org.)
2. Select "Click here to create a new account." *If you are already registered, sign in and go 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. Or, select "Open Donation Amount" to enter another amount. Donations of every size are greatly appreciated.
6. While signed in, you may also make donations or payments to Whitman PTSA, Athletic Boosters, Speech and Debate Team, and the WHS Education Foundation;
7. At checkout, use a credit card or your PayPal account.

If you encounter problems registering, email Music Booster Treasurer Ellie Abramowitz at Ellie Abramowitz (ellie.abramowitz@verizon.net).

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

NSTRUMENTAL PARENTS' CHECKLIST

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, many of them organized by the Music Boosters. To become informed and involved, please be sure to:

- **Attend the Music Boosters' first meeting** of the school year, on **Monday, September 22 at 7 pm** in the Band Room. Hear from Ms. Alvey and parent volunteers about plans for the coming year, as well as opportunities for how you can participate.
- **Join the WhitmanInstrumental listserv** (if not already on it) to receive important updates throughout the year. This is the department's main means of communicating to families. To join, please send your name and email address with names and grades of your music students to ymagori@verizon.net. Please enter "**Join WhitmanInstrumental**" in the subject line.



- **Enter key dates on your calendar** -from page one of this newsletter and from the expanded online calendar (<http://www.waltwhitmanmusic.org/calendar/>). Calendar additions and updates will be posted on the listserv throughout the year.
- **Pay the required \$20 class fee and also (please)** make the much-needed, voluntary suggested Booster tax deductible dues payment of \$100, or a lesser or higher amount as is right for your family. (See FUNDING THE MUSIC PROGRAM, below.)
- **Volunteer** for Whitman Music Boosters by contacting Instrumental Booster Chair Yuriko Gandolfo (ymagori@verizon.net). For openings, see the subcommittee list at the end of this newsletter.

SPRING MUSIC TRIP TO "MUSIC CITY"

This year's music trip heads to **Nashville, Tennessee**, on **April 15-19, 2015**, and includes the following ensembles: Concert Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble, as well as various choral groups. More information about fees, registration, and other details will be provided our website and at Booster meetings.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PERFORMANCE DRESS

Concert dress varies by ensemble and may require student purchases, so please review these requirements. Distribution of tuxedos, dresses, and uniforms is run by parent volunteers.

Students in **all ensembles need black dress shoes**. Other requirements are, for:

- **Marching Band (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band & Concert Band):** Uniform tees and jackets provided for students to wear with their *own jeans* and *black sneakers*.
- **Concert Band & Concert Orchestra:** Men wear their *own white dress shirt and black dress slacks*. Women wear their *own black skirt or slacks and white top, or their own black dress*.
- **Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble & Jazz Ensemble:**

Men: Each student will receive a tuxedo in his size for use until he graduates, outgrows it, or leaves the music program. Tuxedos are worn with students' *own pleated tuxedo shirts with wing-tip collar, black bow tie, cufflinks, and black metal studs*. Inexpensive sources for these accessories include Men's Wearhouse near White Flint, Macy's, and online outlets. Men may wear their own tuxedos, provided they are black with standard lapel. (No shawl collars or double-breasted jackets, please.) Students should keep their tuxedos clean and in good repair.

Women: In September, Music Booster volunteers will fit those students who need to purchase one of the required concert dress options: the dress/optional bolero combination (dress/\$60; bolero/\$50) or the pavilion pants/blouse (\$70). Students may also purchase these items, when available, from alumnae; they are sometimes listed for sale via the listserv or other means.



ANNUAL PARTY

The Boosters' elegant seasonal party – hors d'oeuvres in a Whitman home with music by student ensembles – is a much loved music department tradition and a chance for parents and faculty to meet and mingle. This year's event will take place on the afternoon of **Sunday, October 26** at the home of music parents Amy Hancock and Chris Weals. For families with both singers and instrumentalists, it will conveniently overlap with the Choral Boosters' similar event.

Please note that the Annual Party invitation no longer solicits donations. This is because we hope that, by that time, families will have already paid the required fee and voluntary dues and donations described above in "Funding." But we do need your contributions of tasty savories and sweets for the buffet table, so watch for more on the listserv!

Invitations will arrive a few weeks beforehand via email, and we will be verifying parent emails for that purpose during the first week of school. We hope to see you at this festive community event.



*Passion is one great force that
unleashes creativity, because if you're
passionate about something, then you're
more willing to take risks.*

- Yo-Yo Ma

2014-2015 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BOOSTERS Subcommittee Chairs and Volunteer Openings

To volunteer for openings below or other needs, please contact Chair Yuriko Gandolfo.

Chair	Yuriko Gandolfo	ymagori@verizon.net
Treasurer	Ellie Abramowitz	ellie.abramowitz@verizon.net
Jazz Band Coordinator	Ann Wright	annwright50@yahoo.com
Concert Dresses	Kate Slawta <i>OPEN</i>	kateslawta@gmail.com
Men's Uniforms	Jodi Rasch <i>OPEN</i>	tsunamibands@aol.com
Music Trip	Ann Hoogstraten	hoogs@verizon.net
Annual Garden Party		
<i>Coordinator</i>	Kate Slawta	kateslawta@gmail.com
<i>Hosts</i>	Amy Hancock & Chris Weals	hancock.ae@gmail.com
Winter Concert (reception)	Sharon Curry <i>OPEN</i>	sharon_curry@yahoo.com
Awards Banquet	Betsy Johnston Jennifer Snow	pejohns4906@verizon.net jreslush@aol.com
Photographer	<i>OPEN</i>	
Arts Festival Liaison	Jenny Sour	jenny_sour@yahoo.com
Webmaster	David Abramowitz	david.abramowitz@verizon.net