

Know the Score



Walt Whitman Instrumental Music Boosters Newsletter – Summer/Fall 2015

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Select Dates to Note

View more online at

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

8/25,26,28	(mandatory) Band Camp
9/3	Back-to-School Night
9/4	1 st Home Game (Band)
9/24	Music Boosters Meeting
10/25	Boosters Annual Party
12/10	Winter Concert
4/15-4/17	Spring Music Trip
4/20	Strathmore!

GREETINGS FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR TERRY ALVEY

Music Booster Appreciation: I hope this finds everyone having an enjoyable summer. As we begin the 2015-16 school year, I would like to take a moment to thank all of the many the parents who helped in ways big and small (but all important) during the last school year. You are all an essential part of the success of our program, and the music faculty looks forward to working with you again during the coming school year.

Very special thanks go to Yuriko Gandolfo, our now "former" Music Booster chair, for her leadership and commitment to our Instrumental Music program over the past several years. Yuriko has accomplished many essential tasks behind the scenes, as well as serving as the Music Booster Treasurer for two years, and then as the Instrumental Booster Chair. While Yuriko is stepping down from the Chair position, she still plans, as always, to help out where she can. Thank you so much, Yuriko, for everything!

Joining us this year as our new Booster Chair is Ellen Wright. Ellen is the mother of Whitman sophomore and trumpet player Patrick and two Pyle musicians: Jack, an 8th grade percussionist and Ryan, a 7th grade clarinetist. Ellen met with Yuriko, Amy Golen and myself earlier this summer to get "the lay of the land" and has already been sending out emails and reminders to you via the Instrumental listserv. Music related emails will continue to come from Ellen, and please welcome her as she takes the helm.

And here's a shout out and special thank you to Amy Golen, former music booster chair and friend, who has been lending an extra hand whenever needed. Although both of Amy's children have graduated, she continues to graciously give her time to assist with transitions in our program.

Many, Many Thanks to the Whitman High School Foundation: I want to acknowledge the Whitman Foundation and its Chair, Ellen Singer, for their generous support of the Whitman Music Department. In the past two years the Foundation has provided our Department with the funds to purchase Promethean boards for both choral and instrumental classrooms, and for a professional development opportunity for me to attend an extraordinary conducting workshop. Most recently, the Whitman Foundation funded the purchase of a much-needed set of concert chimes, which will be debuted in our winter concert on December 10th. We are grateful indeed to have this organization that works tirelessly to support the needs of our school and students. From our music faculty and students, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

2015 IN REVIEW: Congratulations to ALL instrumental ensembles for receiving Superior ratings at District II Band and Orchestra Festivals; to Whitman's Jazz combo, AJ's Half Dozen, for winning third place at the Mid- Atlantic Jazz Festival Combo Competition; and to the Jazz Ensemble for an incredible 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 Nashville, 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 2015-16: 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 to Philadelphia combined with a performance at Bethesda's very own Strathmore Hall. 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 concert dates for all ensembles:

* Winter Concert, Thursday, December 10, 2015

* Festival of the Arts, April 13-14, 2016
(see below for format changes to this year's music program)

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 25, 26, 28), 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. We are constantly updating the web site to provide information about our faculty, ensembles, important dates, volunteer opportunities, concerts, festivals, the annual spring trip, how to pay suggested dues, and the many accomplishments of our talented musicians.

Among other music dates, please mark your calendar and plan to attend **the Annual Music Booster Party on Sunday, Oct. 25th, from 4-6pm** (host and location TBA). This informal potluck cocktail party is a wonderful way to meet and mingle with other Music Booster parents, as well as members of the Music Department faculty, while listening to some great student ensembles! As a new parent to Whitman and the Music Program last year, I personally found this to be an especially helpful and enjoyable event. I hope to see you there!

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 Thursday, September 24, 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, as well as throughout the year to families and our 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!

Ellen Wright
Instrumental Music Booster Chair

AUGUST BAND CAMP and FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (Marching Band)

As posted on the pylonet, whitnet, and Instrumental listervs, all incoming freshmen and others new to Whitman bands are expected to attend (the free) Band Camp from **10 am to 2 pm, Tuesday-Wednesday, August 25-26 and Friday, August 28** 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. 4 (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. This year's **Homecoming is October 23** – save the date! Please see the music website calendar (www.waltwhitmanmusic.org/calendar) for other game dates and call-times.

HONORS ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS: Sooner Than You'd Expect!



are a learning experience.

Why audition? MCPS (also known as 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 student musicians. Participation is a great way to energize a student's play and practice; even the auditions

What's involved? Auditions for **All-County ensembles** are held in the fall. These groups 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. Auditions for **All-State ensemble** are overseen by the [Maryland Music Educators Association](http://www.mmea-maryland.org) (www.mmea-maryland.org). Following fall auditions, these groups 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 interested in auditioning for All-County (MCPS) Honors and/or All-State ensembles should begin preparing early in the school year to allow for preparation assistance from private teachers and/or Whitman staff. Audition and other relevant information will be available and discussed in music classes and posted on the band room board.

Note the following sign-up deadlines and audition dates:

- Sept. 18 MCPS Honors & All-State Ensemble Audition *sign-ups* due to Ms. Alvey
- Sept 28 MCPS Honors Jazz *auditions* (4pm-9pm at Frost MS)
- Nov. 10 MCPS Junior Band/Orchestra (gr 9) *auditions* (6pm-10pm Rockville HS)
- Nov. 14 All-State Junior Band/Orchestra (gr 9) *auditions*
- Nov. 17 MCPS Senior Band/Orchestra (gr 10-12) *auditions* (6pm-10pm Rockville HS)
- Nov. 21 All-State Senior Band/Orchestra (gr 10-12) *auditions* (TBA)



FUNDING THE MUSIC PROGRAM: TWO-STEPS to SUPPORT EXCELLENCE

I. PAY LAB FEES: MCPS guidelines limit mandatory music class lab fees to \$20 per year per student. (Additional assessments are permitted for festival entry fees and transport.) **Please pay the required \$20-per-student fee by check; it is due by September 3 (back-to-school night).**

- and -

II. PAY BOOSTER DUES: The accumulated lab 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 – Music Boosters asks families for a **one-time, tax-deductible, dues payment of \$100 per student, in addition to the mandatory \$20 lab fee.** This is a voluntary contribution. We welcome and greatly appreciate any amount that 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 purchase, maintenance and repair, guest teacher and clinician visits, annual performance recordings, the spring Awards Banquet, and scholarships for students unable to participate without assistance, among other needs.

HOW To Do The TWO-STEP (Please Do Not Combine Payments):

I. The \$20 required lab fee must be paid separately from any additional (tax-deductible) dues/donations. It is payable by check only. Make checks payable to *Walt Whitman High School*. Please give your check to Terry Alvey at Back-to-School Night on September 3, 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*.

II. The Booster Dues suggested payment of \$100 and other donations can conveniently be made by check *or* online, according to the instructions below.

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 3; (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 3), 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!

INSTRUMENTAL PARENT 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 **Thursday, September 24 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, as well as from the expanded online calendar on our web site: (<http://www.waltwhitmanmusic.org/calendar/>). Calendar additions and updates will be posted on the listserv throughout the year.

➤ **Do the Two-Step! Pay the required \$20 class fee AND the much-needed 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 Ellen Wright (mbeaw@verizon.net). For co-chair openings, see the subcommittee list at the end of this newsletter. Other opportunities to volunteer for specific events will be announced via listserv (such as the Annual Party, the Winter Concert reception, Music Trip Luggage Check-in, the Awards Banquet).

AN EXCITING APRIL . . . AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

This year's annual music trip will be especially rich in opportunity and history. We have planned a two-part experience for the following ensembles: Concert Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble, as well as various choral groups.

Part I: From April 15-17, we will travel to **Philadelphia** to participate in workshops at Temple University lead by outstanding music educators and performers. This trip includes attending a performance by the Philadelphia Orchestra and, of course, touring highlights of the City of Brotherly Love.



Part II: Mark your calendar for **Wednesday evening, April 20** when we will perform at the **Concert Hall at Strathmore** in North Bethesda. What an extraordinary opportunity to make our own history performing on the stage of this world-class music venue!

More information about the trip itinerary, fees, registration, tickets for Strathmore, and other details will be provided on the listerv, music 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. Parent volunteers run the distribution of tuxedos, dresses, and uniforms. Students will receive more information during the first week of classes, and this will be adDRESSED (ha!) during the parent booster meeting on Sept. 24.

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

- **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*.
- **Chamber 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 in an informal setting. This year's event will take place on the afternoon of **Sunday, October 25 at a home of a music family, to be announced.** For families with both singers and instrumentalists, it will conveniently overlap with the Choral Boosters Annual Party.



Please note that the Annual Party invitation will not solicit donations. By that time, we hope that families will have already paid the required fee and suggested 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 information 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.

**"Ah, music! A magic far beyond
all we do here!"**

~ Albus Dumbledore, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

**2015-2016 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BOOSTERS
Subcommittee Chairs and Volunteer Openings**

To volunteer for openings below or other needs, please contact Chair Ellen Wright.

Chair	Ellen Wright	mbeaw@verizon.net
Treasurer	Ellie Abramowitz	ellie.abramowitz@verizon.net
Secretary	<i>OPEN</i>	
Jazz Band Coordinator	Ann Wright	annwright6258@gmail.com
Concert Dresses	Kate Slawta	kateslawta@gmail.com
Men's Uniforms	<i>OPEN</i>	
Annual Garden Party		
<i>Coordinator</i>	Kate Slawta	kateslawta@gmail.com
<i>Hosts</i>	TBA	
Winter Concert (reception)	Sharon Curry <i>OPEN</i>	sharon_curry@yahoo.com
Music Trip	Ann Hoogstraten	hoogs@verizon.net
Awards Banquet	Betsy Johnston Jennifer Snow	pejohns4906@verizon.net jreslush@aol.com
Photographer	<i>OPEN</i>	
Arts Festival Liaison	<i>OPEN</i>	
Listserv Manager	Yuriko Gandolfo	ymagori@verizon.net
Webmaster	David Abramowitz	david.abramowitz@verizon.net