



Vol. XX, No. III

February 2007

A Newsletter for Oregon Friends of the Orchestra

The mission of the Friends of the Orchestra organization is to serve all orchestra students, grades 4 through 12 throughout the Oregon School District, and to provide support to their directors. This mission will be accomplished through fundraising, volunteer efforts, and parent and community support.

Thanks for your
Generous Donations to
Oregon Friends of the Orchestra!

Matt & Bev Meyer
Steven Johnson & Dianne Byerly
Donation in Honor of Lydia Russell



SEE PAGES 6 & 7 for SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION INFORMATION!

UPCOMING CONCERT DATES

February 20, 2007 7:00 p.m.
OMS Orchestra - 8th Grade Recital
At OMS

March 1, 2007 7:00 p.m.
RCI Orchestra - 5th Grade Recital
At RCI

March 5, 2007 6:30 p.m.
PVE Orchestra Recital
At OMS

March 6, 2007
RCI 6th Grade Orchestras at RCI

6th Grade Green 6:15 p.m.
6th Grade Terra Cotta 7:30 p.m.

March 12, 2007 7:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Orchestra & Choir
At Brooklyn

March 13, 2007 7:00 p.m.
NKE Orchestra
At OMS

March 13, 2007 7:30 p.m.
OHS Orchestras - 7:30 p.m.
At OHS Performing Arts Center

Girl's Basketball Concessions Update



Another basketball season is almost over and we have had fun providing concessions for the girl's basketball games to benefit the Friends of the Orchestra. We have had volunteers from all the elementary schools, RCI, OMS and OHS. Students and parents who volunteer enjoy the chance to get acquainted with new people and to work with friends. In addition to having lots of fun, the young people who work in the stand learn the lost art of making change without the benefit of a cash register. We continue to receive compliments from the players, parents and visitors who have been our customers this season. As a trial, we added fruit juice and healthier baked chips to our menu this year and these items have been well received. At this point we are on target to make a profit of about \$2000 this year with two games yet to go. Donations of about \$150 from orchestra families were used to purchase food and supplies which has decreased our expenses.

I would like to personally thank all of the wonderful volunteers who have helped this year. Their names appear below. When you see them, thank them for their time and effort. A special thank you goes out to Lorrie Best, Clara Thompson, and to the Frautchiger,

Milski and Whip families who worked not once, but twice this season. Special recognition goes to Diane Frautchiger who deserves 'superhero' recognition for working for us on the evening of January 20 after being in charge of the very large concession operation for youth wrestling earlier that same day.

What a great group of volunteers we have! They are:

Lorrie Best, Morgan Hacker, Lori Riss, Barbara Petrie, Steve Potter and Patty Zach; Kayla, Megan, Emma and Cindy Whip; Abbie and Jacque Milski; Elizabeth, William and Diane Frautchiger, Hannah and Ken Brady; Emily and Susan Reinicke; Jere and Ellen Bauer; Luke and Judy Belanus; Lukas, Sam and Rebecca Mueller; John and Clara Thompson; Shelbey and Julie Hagen and the LeBrun and Steinberg families



NOTES ON OHS ORCHESTRAS' SPRING TRIP

47 members of the OHS orchestras and 7 parent chaperones will travel to Minnesota on March 16-18 to clinic at St. Olaf College, hear the Minnesota Orchestra, visit the Science Museum and Walker Art Center and attend a Shakespeare performance at the Guthrie Theater. Bus transportation will be paid by the Friends of the Orchestra.

First Concert an Indication of Great Things to Come!

The 4th grade orchestra concert was a success and both Rebecca and I have received many compliments from parents, teachers and students! The students have learned so much in the past three months and we hope they feel a great sense of accomplishment. We would like to give a big “thank you” to all the parents, teachers, administrators and custodial staff that help us every day to make our program successful.

Some of our future events include “buddy day” where each fourth grade orchestra student receives a one on one lesson with a high school orchestra student. We will also be preparing for Pioneer Day and seeing a performance of the RCI fiddling club.

Our next concert is a recital concert where students pick their own pieces to play either alone or with a small group and also prepare some large group pieces. We are working hard on reading notes on the staff and learning lots of new types of music. This can sometimes feel frustrating to a student but we want both students and parents to know this is a skill that takes time and we as string teachers understand this. Just like other subjects, some students will learn this concept faster than others – and that is just fine. Long range benefits of a task only come from long range commitment and dedication.

This is the time of year when some students’ interest dips. This is completely normal. Playing their instrument is not “new” and the work progresses. We are working hard to find fun and different things to do at school, but we are asking for parents to help keep their students motivated at home with some EXTRA encouragement during the next few weeks.

Here are some ideas to help keep practicing fun:



- ♪ Ask them to play one of their assignments on their goal sheet
- ♪ Have them play a scale for you
- ♪ Have them play a dinner concert for the family
- ♪ Read through their goal sheet with them to make sure they are doing all of their assignments for the week and they can feel prepared for their lesson.
- ♪ Put their pieces or assignments in a hat and pick them out to play
- ♪ Let them practice in the bathroom (it sounds really cool)
- ♪ Help them pick a recital piece from the list provided
- ♪ Have them teach you a piece on their instrument

Please contact either Mrs. Mann (PVE) 835-4262 or Ms. Eggerichs (BKE) 835-4532 or (NKE) 835-4195 if you have any questions. We are anxious to do all we can to assist you in the successful development of your child’s abilities.

FOR SALE: Ms. Sanyer knows of a good 4/4 cello and 16" viola for sale. Please contact her if you are interested. Both come from local players who are moving up to better instruments

Are you thinking of purchasing a string instrument for your child?

By Maggie Fenske, RCI Orchestra Director

Parents, please remember that your orchestra teacher wants to help out in your purchase of a string instrument. We know all too well that the internet is filled with catalog order companies that sell cheaply constructed instruments. Because we are dealing with wood instruments, the craftsmanship of the instrument is even more critical. There are many options available, whether you want to purchase an instrument to last through high school and beyond, or just to get through the first few years to determine if they will stick with the instrument. When we recommend particular people or companies, it is because we know from experience that they are reputable and well respected. At no time do we ever get compensation from these music stores or individuals who provide quality instruments. We only want to be helpful to you. When a student plays an instrument that does not work well, it is like trying to draw a portrait with crayons. Many times the student is very frustrated because they cannot produce a decent sound out of their instrument or it doesn't stay in tune.

Some things to look for when purchasing an instrument are:

1. Is there a label inside? Most of the time, instruments with no identification inside means they are the cast offs that no reputable store would ever sell.
2. Is there a snug fit of the bridge on the body of the instrument? Poorly constructed instruments will have one bridge fits all, this can really affect the sound quality.
3. Do the fine tuners move easily? Cheap instruments will have tuners that are very painful to turn.
4. Does it stay in tune? This is probably the biggest problem. Often the pegs are poorly fitted and will either be very stuck or very slippery. Often, it is not worth the money to fix the pegs and many repair specialists refuse to work on them.

5. Does the instrument have good strings on it? Bad, cheap strings sound awful!
 6. Does the instrument have good, quality wood? Cheap instruments are like cheap furniture. Don't be fooled by the shiny new look! Look carefully at the grain of wood. The top should be made of spruce with the back and sides made of maple.
 7. Does the company have a return policy? If not, be very wary! Does the company sell only string instruments? If a company sells a lot of different things, it will probably not have a knowledgeable string builder making those instruments.
- Recommended people/companies to look at instruments
- Ralph Rabin - deals with the finest string instruments in the area and keeps a good supply of quality student level instruments. 274-8272 We will be happy to meet you at his house
 - Charles Pinckney - does excellent repair work as well, rents good quality instruments also. He will sell the more inexpensive Eastman violin models. 442-0416
 - Ward-Brodt Music Store - We will be happy to meet there to try several different models and price ranges.
 - Voigt Music Store - They will bring several instruments to school for you to try.
- Internet sites for economy instruments for a student's first couple of years:
- SHAR MUSIC** www.sharmusic.com or 800.248.SHAR(7427)
- Southwest Strings** www.swstrings.com or 800-528-3430
- Both Shar and Southwest Strings are good reputable companies that deal exclusively with string instruments.

Your orchestra teachers want to help you. All you have to do is ask ☺.

Also, check out our great website at

www.oregonfoto.org

for more information about FOTO.

News from RCI

Students are getting ready to perform individually selected songs in our March recitals. The 5th grade students will perform on Thursday, March 1st beginning at 7:00 in the RCI cafeteria. 6th Grade students will have a split recital with the students from "Green" teams performing at 6:15 and students from "Terra Cotta" teams performing at 7:30. This will help keep the concert from getting too long. Most students have completed a rough draft of their compositions and we look forward to playing them in class. Our 6th grade fiddling class is going strong, meeting on Monday nights. We will be performing for the elementary students in late March. A 5th grade fiddling class will start up just after spring break.



OREGON ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS:

OHS -- Leyla Sanyer, 835-4403,
les@oregon.k12.wi.us

OMS -- Wendy Buehl, 835-4819,
wjb@oregon.k12.wi.us

RCI -- Margaret (Maggie) Fenske, 835-4721, maf@oregon.k12.wi.us

PVE -- Adele Mann, 835-4262,
akm@oregon.k12.wi.us

NKE/BKE -- Rebecca Eggerichs, 835-4195,
rle@oregon.k12.wi.us

FOTO Contact Information

- To donate money, please send a check made out to Friends of the Orchestra to *Sue Mielke, 1546 Trusler Circle, Oregon, WI, 53575.*
- To join the board, contact Lisa Webber (lisa.webber@charter.net).
- To become a building rep, contact Kate Hughes (howiepat225@aol.com).
- To volunteer to sell concessions, contact Robin Potter (rlpotter@facstaff.wisc.edu)



Bring Shoaib Back to the U.S. for College

Some of the fund raising totals earned by OHS orchestra students in their recent fundraiser will go toward helping Shoaib Faqeerzadeh come back from Afghanistan for school. Shoaib was a U.S. State Dept. exchange student at Oregon High School during the 2004-05 school year. He learned to play violin and graduated with a degree from OHS. Many of the seniors and juniors knew him well. His hope is to get a degree in medicine and return to his country where he can help people. Different sources are working to raise the \$10,000 needed to at least get him accepted at MATC for a start. The U.W. Madison asks for a guarantee of \$70,000 for one year of school for international students, which is prohibitive so we are aiming for technical college as a starting point. Let Ms. Sanyer know if you have any ideas for helping to raise this money.

FOTO Senior Scholarships
Friends of the Orchestra will once again award scholarships to OHS Seniors who have shown exceptional commitment to orchestra. Applications are available in the OHS Student Services Office or the Orchestra room. Deadline for applications to be turned in is March 30, 2007. Winners will be announced at OHS Honors Night on May 23, 2007.

Elementary Orchestra Camp Opportunities

Students in their first two years of playing do not usually have a lot of opportunities to attend a summer music camp but Wisconsin is fortunate to have a group of dedicated string teachers in the Milwaukee area who started a three day summer camp for young string players several years ago. It has been very well received by Oregon students who have attended and many of them return to the camp the following year. It is called the WiSTA Elementary Orchestra Camp and you can get more information by calling Susan Stachelski at 414-423-0521, or e-mail WISTAcamp@earthlink.net

You can print a copy of the brochure from the American String Teacher website for Wisconsin at www.wi-asta.org Mrs. Mann, Ms. Eggerichs and Mrs. Fenske also have camp forms available for students to pick up. There are four different sessions and sessions do fill up quickly so it is not too early to start planning. Students can request roommates so friends can plan a trip together.

FOTO does provide a scholarship for interested students to help defray the costs of the camp. Students of all playing levels in grades 4-6 are welcome.



String Music Scholarships!

Scholarships will be available to string students enrolled in the Oregon School District Orchestra programs who submit an application to the FOTO Scholarship Committee by the deadline of June 1, 2007. Scholarships will be granted for the purpose of participation in special string music opportunities such as music camp, music clinic, bass camp, etc.

- **Any student interested in receiving a scholarship should fill out the application attached to this issue of "The Bridge". (See page 7) Additional applications are available from your student's orchestra teacher.**
- **Only one scholarship per student, per school year will be granted.**
- **Proof of acceptance of the student into the special music clinic must be provided before the scholarship is granted.**
- **If you have any questions, please contact your student's string teacher or call FOTO Treasurer Sue Mielke 835-5171 or e-mail at smielk@verizon.net.**

FOTO Board Meetings are open to everyone. They are held in the high school orchestra room at 7:00 p.m. Please note the future meeting dates for Friends of the Orchestra:
March 7, 2007
April 12, 2007
May 30, 2007 - Dinner with Directors

**2007 String Music Scholarship
Oregon Friends of the Orchestra (FOTO)**

Scholarships are available to string students enrolled in the Oregon School District Orchestra programs who submit an application to the FOTO Scholarship Committee by the deadline listed below. Scholarships will be granted for the purpose of participation in special string music opportunities, such as music clinic, music camp, bass clinic, etc. Any student interested in receiving a scholarship should complete and **submit the following application, enclosing a brief essay (described below) and proof of acceptance into the summer music program.** Only one scholarship per student, per school year will be granted. The scholarship stipend is sent upon proof of acceptance into the clinic, camp or workshop.

If you have any questions, please contact your orchestra director:
OHS - Ms. Leyla Sanyer, OMS - Ms. Wendy Buehl, RCI - Ms. Maggie Fenske, PVE - Ms. Adele Mann, NKE and BKE - Ms. Rebecca Eggerichs.

Mail completed applications **postmarked by June 1, 2007** to:

Sue Mielke - FOTO Treasurer
1546 Trusler Circle
Oregon 53575

Questions, please call 835-5171 or e-mail smielk@verizon.net

STRING MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ INSTRUMENT _____

GRADE (in Fall 2006) _____

MUSIC ACTIVITY YOU PLAN TO ATTEND (include dates and location)

Fee for this activity _____

Have you applied to participate in the activity listed above? Yes ____ No ____

If so, have you been accepted in the activity listed above? Yes ____ No ____

Please attach:

- A brief (100 words or less) explanation of what you expect to gain from your music experience.
- Proof of your acceptance into the program (if not yet received, send under separate cover.)

Student Signature

Parent Signature

No applications will be accepted that are postmarked after June 1, 2007.