

The Bridge



Vol. XX, No. IV

April 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.

Ah, music. A magic beyond all we do here!

J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*,

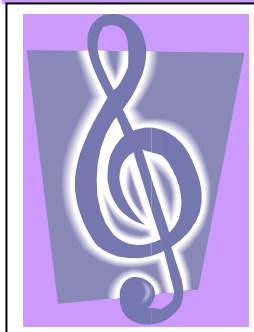
CONGRATULATIONS to all musicians from OHS and OMS who participated in the District Solo and Ensemble Festival on March 3rd in Middleton. Many of our students are going on to the State Festival at U.W. Platteville on Saturday, April 28. If you need more information on the festival, directions to Platteville and a festival schedule you can visit the Wisconsin School Music Association website at "www.wsmamusic.org" and click on State Festival Schedule on the home page. **GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU!!**



UPCOMING CONCERT DATES on page 2

Learn more about FOTO support of the

Composer Commissioning Project page 3



See page 4 for

4th Grade Notes 🎵

See page 5 to find out about **volunteering** for Friends of the Orchestra

UPCOMING EVENT

ON SATURDAY, MAY 12 from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. the OHS Rock Band known as Green County Border Patrol will present a benefit concert to assist the "Bring Shoab Back to School" Fund. Members Ryan McGrath, John Thompson and Neil Belanus are members of the OHS Chamber Orchestra (sophomores). This group won the OHS Battle of the Bands last month at the high school. Tickets will be on sale for \$5.00 at the door at OHS Performing Arts Center.

PLEASE check out the FOTO website for information on orchestra program advocacy, information on the arts in the curriculum and connections to the Oregon string faculty web pages. Leyla Sanyer's webpage has a calendar with important OHS orchestra dates! Visit the best location for school string info in southern Wisconsin at www.oregonfoto.org.



2007 Upcoming Concert Dates:

May 3 - OMS Orchestras at OHS PAC

6:00 pm

Pre-Concert Talk with
composer Catherine McMichael

7:00 pm

Concert featuring World Premiere of
"The Generous Land"
by Catherine McMichael

May 17 - OHS Orchestras at OHS PAC

7:00 pm

Concerto Concert
featuring World Premiere of
"Old Settlers' Picnic"
by Eric Ewazen

May 22 - 4th Grade Orchestras at PAC

6:00 pm

Brooklyn, Netherwood Knoll, & Prairie
View 4th grade Concert

May 22 - RCI Orchestras at OHS PAC

7:15 pm

RCI 5th and 6th grade Concert

FAREWELL SENIORS!

This has indeed been an eventful year at Oregon High School. With the leadership from a strong senior class of musicians, the Symphony Orchestra has tackled difficult literature and played with a tremendous amount of finesse. We wish you all luck as you graduate and head on to college, travel and work. We know that you will carry your music with you and hope you can make it back to OHS for a visit to let us know how things are going! Thanks and good luck to Erin, Greta, Rachel, Ellen, Matthew, Jessica, Leslie, Michelle, Nikki, Heather, Renee, Matt, Alicia, Corynn, Bridget, Maja, Megan, Chris, Shawn, Jay, Sonja, Adrian, Lexa, Danny, Jessica, Dan and Ben.

SHOAIB UPDATE ...

Thanks to all orchestra students and families who joined us in our efforts to help Afghan student Shoaib Faqeerzadeh (OHS '05) return to the U.S. to study medicine. With your help we were able to get enough donations to make an application to MATC for the fall semester. Now Shoaib will work on getting a visa and plane ticket. It is our hope to raise enough funds for him to attend MATC for one year. At that point he will hopefully be able to find alternate funding and possibly even enter the U.W. Madison. While in the area, Shoaib will be staying with the Nasserjah-Frank orchestra family who were his hosts in 2004-05 and have graciously invited him back into their home. We will keep you posted on our work and sincerely hope you will all have the chance to meet Shoaib when he is back in the Oregon area. Together we are making peace with music! In supporting Shoaib we will all truly make a difference!

Thank you...

Commission:

POSSIBLE

In Oregon, Wisconsin

The final concerts of the Oregon Middle School and High School orchestras will be the culmination of a year-long "Commission: Possible" project funded by a grant from the **Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission** and with further generous support from the **Oregon Friends of the Orchestra**. Two string orchestra pieces were commissioned from nationally known composers **Catherine McMichael** and **Eric Ewazen**--"*The Generous Land*" by McMichael for the middle school orchestras and "*Old Settlers' Picnic*" by Ewazen for the high school orchestras.

"*The Generous Land*" is a three movement suite inspired by the history and geography of southern Wisconsin. The first movement is titled "Ice" and it depicts the glaciers that shaped the geography and topography of this part of the state. The second movement, "Det Gavmilde Landet" (Norwegian for the generous land), uses a Norwegian melody to celebrate the Scandinavian heritage that is so much a part of Wisconsin's cultural history. The final movement, "Galena-Milwaukee Breakdown", uses a fiddle-tune type melody to describe the railroad that passed through Oregon and carried the ore that was extracted from the mines in this part of the state.

This musically exciting and challenging piece will be performed on Thursday May 3 at the Performing Arts Center. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will focus on local composers and the composition process. As well as Catherine McMichael's piece, the students will be performing works by Wisconsin composers Randy Sabien, Carrie Lane Gruselle, and Oregon graduate Michael O'Brien. The middle school students have been engaged in the composition process throughout the school year and have been learning about various compositional techniques that are used by composers when creating music. The students have been working alone or in small groups to

write short compositions and have learned to enter them on the computer using Finale composition software. One eighth grader, **Zach Green**, has taken this process a step further. Zach wrote "*Waltz in D Major*", a piece for seven part string orchestra. Zach will be conducting the 8th grade orchestra in a performance of his piece at the concert.

Catherine McMichael will be in Oregon for a two-day Composer-in-Residence as part of the commissioning project. During her two days she will meet with the orchestra classes, clinic students on their performance of "The Generous Land", and work with individual students who have a strong interest in composition. On the evening of the concert, Catherine will give a talk about the composition she wrote for the Oregon students and will answer questions that community members might have about the piece. This lecture/discussion will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the PAC.

Juilliard music composition professor Eric Ewazen will visit Oregon High School on May 16 and 17 for two days of clinics and the premiere of his work based on the history of Oregon, specifically a general description of the 1941 centennial celebration. In the 1941 program is a photograph of the first "old settlers picnic held at the home of W.L. Ames in 1897." The four movements are titled "Morning Parade," "Afternoon Games," "Evening Waltz," and "Nighttime Tales." Mr. Ewazen is noted for his accessible style of writing that combines a contemporary feel with wonderful harmonic progressions that appeal to students. The evening concert on May 17 will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the OHS PAC with four concerto movements performed by high school soloists **Jackie Kursel (cello), Bradley Riss (cello), Adrian Swanson (cello) and Robert Smeaton (tuba)**. The high school orchestras have also composed a collaborative suite with melodic material written by individuals in each orchestra and arranged by their peers. This work will be performed by the large combined orchestras, followed by the Ewazen premiere and year end awards program.

♪ 4th grade orchestra NOTES ♪

Brooklyn Elementary, Prairie View Elementary and Netherwood Knoll Elementary recital concerts were all a great success. This year, we had more music and more diverse music choices. Students should be proud of their accomplishments. Parents, thank you for the wonderful recital concert receptions. Your hard work is greatly appreciated by all.

All fourth grade orchestra students had the opportunity to see the 6th grade fiddling club perform. It was great. Those 6th graders can really play. We also saw students play the guitar, mandolin, mandola, and Irish drum. It was a fun performance! Thank you 6th grade fiddling club☺

A reminder that Prairie View Orchestra will be playing for Pioneer Day May 11 (a Friday) for closing ceremonies. Please remember your instrument and music that day for the performance.

All 4th grade orchestra students are working hard on their spring music concert packet. Please make sure your student musician is practicing regularly so they are prepared for their lessons. There is a lot of music to learn, but we try to pick pieces that are fun and interesting to play.

The all district 4th grade orchestra concert is May 22nd at the Oregon High School Performing Arts Center. It involves all three elementary schools in the Oregon School District so over 150 string students will be performing at once on stage! Because of the large number of students involved, your child may not be sitting in the front of the stage. Please feel free to take pictures before the concert. The RCI concert directly follows our concert that evening. You are

welcome to stay and see what your child will be doing next year in orchestra.

We have a huge group of students continuing in 5th grade orchestra next year, so it should be a really fun experience. Please return your scheduling sheet or call RCI to sign up if you haven't done so already. I encourage all students to continue next year as the program is outstanding and there are many opportunities to play at any level of ability.

Summer school lesson scheduling forms are due. We also have a large number of students signed up for summer lessons and scheduling these lessons will start soon. If you did not sign up during online registration, you can sign up at walk in registration starting April 24 through the summer school office. Once you are signed up, please fill out a lesson scheduling sheet available from your string teacher. You can either return the sheet filled out to your string teacher or to the summer school office. Summer lessons are more relaxed and the fee you pay is used for books the students may keep. You may request friends for summer lessons. If you have any questions, please contact your string teacher or the summer school coordinator, Nancy Bogucki, at 835-4040.

The 4th grade orchestra students have done an outstanding job this year. They are a great group of students and Ms. Eggerichs and Mrs. Mann have enjoyed teaching them. They have all accomplished so much in orchestra this year. Good job, students! We also thank all the parents and adults that love and support their young musicians.

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your children.

-Ms. Eggerichs and Mrs. Mann

FOTO Seeks Volunteers for 2007-2008

Have you been wondering how you can become involved in FOTO to support your child's orchestra program? Well look no further, as we have a many opportunities that require a small commitment of your time!

We are currently seeking nominations for the following officer positions within FOTO:

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary

Individuals interested in becoming more involved, getting to know the orchestra teachers, and having a little fun on the side, might enjoy these positions. Generally, these positions require 2-3 hours of commitment per month during the school year, with occasional exceptions.



The Treasurer position is not as difficult as it sounds. If you can balance your checkbook and have basic math skills, then you, too, can be treasurer. The job basically consists of paying bills when they are received, making deposits (which are sometimes large sums of cash from the concession stand proceeds)

and compiling a monthly report for board meetings. In addition, a yearly budget is put together with the help of the entire board.

Additionally, we are looking for a co-chair (to work with Robin Potter, the current chairperson) to coordinate the girl's basketball concession stand. Robin has graciously been running this fundraiser for a few years and is willing to discuss the needs and commitment with anyone who might be interested in learning the job with her next year. This is an important source of income for the group and has a steady flow of help for games from regular family helpers. Please consider contacting Robin at 835-3007 or rlpotter@wisc.edu. to learn more.

Our children receive great benefits from our experienced teachers in the orchestra program in Oregon. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Webber at 219-2707 (lisa.webber@charter.net) or Kate Hughes at 835-3799, (howiepat225@aol.com). Please consider supporting this top-notch program by becoming actively involved in Friends of the Orchestra

NEXT MEETING DATE- May 30
(Dinner with Directors) - Location TBA



For donations to FOTO from the following:

Anonymous

Brian Christensen and Donna Hendrickson-Christensen *in honor of Emma Syth*

**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.