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September 2004

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.

**WELCOME FRIENDS OF THE
ORCHESTRA**

*Submitted by Dee Hall & Ellen Kursel,
co-presidents*

Welcome to all returning orchestra families, and a special welcome to families of new 4th grade students. The Friends of the Orchestra (FOTO) is a booster organization for grades 4-12. FOTO enhances our already high quality orchestra program through fundraising, volunteers and support for our talented directors.

To give you an idea of some of our accomplishments, last year we were pleased to award four, \$250 senior scholarships and provide \$1,950 in music experience summer scholarships to students at all grade levels. FOTO was also able to provide planning and financial assistance for the high school trip to Chicago, training for violinists and violists on technique, funding for a guest conductor for the final elementary concert, Irish fiddling instruction at Rome Corners and for the Goliards medieval musical group at OMS. And with your help, FOTO raised over \$990

by turning in Bill's receipts!

We would like to point out, however, that FOTO is more than a fundraising organization. FOTO also focuses on volunteer efforts and parent and community support. If you would like to volunteer your services, have questions about FOTO, or wish to share your ideas and input, we encourage you to contact a board member listed below or contact your student's teacher.

Also, check out our great website at www.oregonfoto.org for more details about FOTO.

Co-president – Ellen Kursel, 835-8385

Co-president – Dee Hall, 835-7996

VP – Lisa Webber, 835-0915

Treasurer – Sue Mielke, 835-5171

Co-secretary – Carol Landahl, 835-7360

Co-secretary -- open

FOTO board meetings are open to everyone. They are held in the high school orchestra room.

Please note the future meeting dates:

Thursday, Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 6:30 p.m.

NEW DIRECTORS!!!

Submitted by Ms. Sanyer, OHS director

We would like to welcome **Wendy Buehl**, Oregon Middle School orchestra director, and **Rebecca Eggerichs**, who will be teaching 4th graders at Netherwood Knoll and Brooklyn elementary schools.

Mrs Buehl attended Madison East High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in English secondary education, a certification in instrumental music and a master's in music education from the UW-Madison.

Before Mrs. Buehl taught in the public schools, she gave lessons on the violin and viola for about 15 years. She also worked with music groups for children and adults at her church. About 10 years ago she went back to the UW to get her certification for public school teaching. She then taught orchestra at Sherman Middle School and La Follette High School in Madison for eight years.

Mrs. Buehl's principal instrument is the violin, and she is a fine performer. She has played for over 25 years in the Madison Symphony Orchestra. Over the years she has also played in the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Waukesha Symphony, Madison Opera, Savoyards and as a guest artist with the Oakwood Chamber Players.

In her spare time, Mrs. Buehl loves to garden, knit, needlepoint and read.

"I am looking forward to getting to know the middle school students," she says, "and I hope that I can help them see new things in the music and learn to enjoy all types and styles of music."

Ms. Eggerichs may have gotten a late call to join the team in the Oregon orchestra program, but we're really excited to welcome her as well. Ms. Eggerichs went to Stoughton High School. Her first two years of college were spent at UW-Stevens Point and then she transferred to UW-Madison where she received her degree in music education earlier this year.

Ms. Eggerichs began teaching privately when she was a senior in high school. She did student teaching at LaFollette High

School and Sennett Middle School. She also has been an adjudicator for WYSO and the WSMA solo and ensemble festivals. This is her first year teaching in public schools and she is "very excited to see what the students and I can accomplish this year."

Cello is Ms. Eggerichs' principal instrument. And yes, there is an "s" on the end of her name, even though it's pronounced "Egg-er-rich." In her spare time, she is an avid reader (usually reading at least three books at a time), loves outdoor activities, performing, yoga, spending time with her family, traveling, fishing....phew!!

Ms. Eggerichs plays in a quartet for weddings and other events. She also has played in the Central Wisconsin Symphony, and every summer she performs with a group called the Superior String Alliance that meets in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. She also played with the UW Symphony Orchestra and toured Spain with them as a section cellist.

"I'm really excited to get to know the students, to work and learn with them."



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



OPPORTUNITIES FOR HELPING HANDS

It takes a lot of volunteers to put the extras into the orchestra programs at all of our schools. We are very fortunate to have many parents lending a hand for just an event or two, as well as those who contribute as building representatives, workers in the concession stand, officers on the FOTO board and in other ways.

As the parent of an orchestra student, you are automatically a FOTO member. Did you know that you can be a member of the board as well? Are you full of good ideas, or do you like to help out when there is a need? No special skills are needed and all are welcome. Every year we get new students in 4th grade, and every year we lose the seniors from OHS. So we never run out of space for enthusiastic parents on the board.

Please check the FOTO website and find out where you can help. Come out for a board meeting and get involved. Let us know your ideas for the schools. All of you returning students and parents have already, maybe even silently, benefited from FOTO. So buy a magazine or a sweatshirt with your child's name on it. Your student will benefit, and our wonderful directors have support as they design special programs and opportunities to enhance learning.

FUNDRAISING FUN

MAGAZINE RENEWALS AND SALES

FOTO will conduct its annual magazine subscription sale from Sept. 29 through Oct. 18. For every order, FOTO keeps 40 cents of every dollar, raising more than \$4,500 last year! Your son or daughter will be bringing

home more information at the end of September.

SHIRT SALE

The Oregon orchestras T-shirt and sweatshirt sale will take place Oct. 15 through Nov. 1. **Order forms are attached to this newsletter** and will be sent home. All orders will be delivered by the holidays.

GIRL'S BASKETBALL CONCESSION STAND

The Friends of the Orchestra will once again be in charge of the girls' high school basketball concessions, which earned FOTO more than \$1,600 last year. Orchestra students and families who've worked the concession stand in past years will tell you it's one of the most enjoyable ways to contribute to FOTO.

If you don't volunteer to work in the concession stand, please consider making a donation to help purchase food and supplies for the games. **If you can help in either way, please complete and return the form on the next page.** You may also use www.oregonfoto.org to sign up to volunteer.

BASKETBALL GAME DATES

Sat., Dec. 4	Fri., Jan. 7
Sat., Dec. 11	Sat., Jan. 22
Tues., Dec. 21	Tues., Feb. 1
Mon., Jan. 3	Thurs., Feb. 10

Your donation of:

- \$3 will buy a 12-pack of soda for a profit of \$6.
- \$6 will buy 30 hot dogs for a profit of \$30.
- \$12 will buy 36 bags of Skittles for a \$15 profit.

GIRLS BASKETBALL CONCESSIONS

____ We will donate \$ _____ to
FOTO for food and supplies.

____ We would like to work one
evening at the concession stand from 6
to 9 p.m.

(We especially need volunteers
between 7 and 8:30 p.m., so don't
hesitate to volunteer for just part of the
time.)

Student's name & grade:

Parent's name:

Phone number and/or email
address

Please mail this form to: Robin
Potter, 5475 Marie Road, Oregon,
53575. Make checks payable to Friends
of the Orchestra. You may also do
volunteer sign-up on the website. Please
contact Robin by phone or email at 835-
3007 or rlpotter@wisc.edu.

ORCHESTRA CALENDAR **2004-05***

**Please not: Many times are not yet set, and
dates are subject to change. Watch for
communications from directors. PAC is
OHS' Performing Arts Center.*

Oct. 25 - OHS orchestras, 7:30 p.m.,
PAC

Dec. 7 - OMS concert, 7 p.m. PAC

Dec. 9 -OHS orchestras, 7:30 p.m., PAC

Dec. 9-BKE orchestra, BKE

Dec. 14-RCI orchestras, PAC

Dec. 16-NKE/PVE orchestras, PAC

Mar. 3-RCI 6th grade recital, RCI

Mar. 5 – WSMA district solo and
ensemble festival, OHS, all day

Mar. 7- PVE recital, PVE

Mar. 8-BKE recital, BKE

Mar. 8-OHS orchestras, 7:30 p.m., PAC

Mar. 10-RCI 5th grade recital, RCI

Mar. 14-NKE recital, OMS

Mar. 15-District high school choral
festival, OHS

Apr. 12-OMS orchestras, 7 p.m., PAC

Apr. 18-22-OHS Fine Arts Week, whole
school

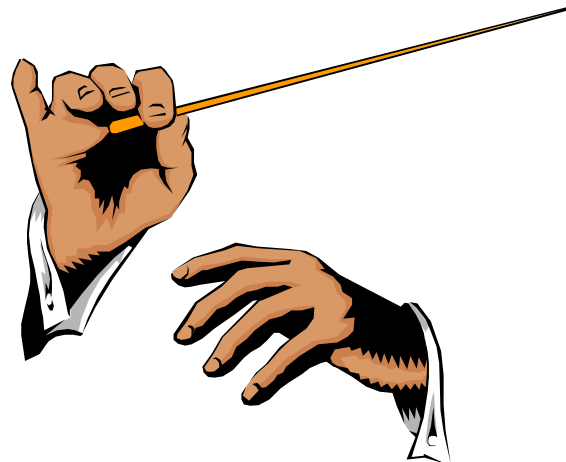
May 18-OHS honors night

May 19-OHS Concerto Concert, 6:30 or
7 p.m., PAC

May 26-All-district 4th grade orchestras,
6 p.m., PAC; RCI orchestras, 7:15 p.m.

May 31-OMS 7th grade recital, 7
p.m., OMS

June 2-OMS 8th grade recital, 7 p.m.
OMS



"Oregon Supports" and "We Care"

Submitted by Karen Debilzen

FOTO participates in the "Supports
Oregon" program through Bill's Food Center
in Oregon. Each time you shop at Bill's,
simply ask for an orange sticker for your
receipt. Students can drop off receipts in the
collection box located in every
orchestra room.

We are also part of the Pick 'n Save "We
Care" program. Register at any Pick 'n
Save for the "Advantage" card and list
Oregon Friends of the Orchestra 578675 as
your group of choice.

BUYING AN INSTRUMENT?

Submitted by Mrs. Fenske

Parents, when your son or daughter signed up for orchestra in 4th grade, you had no idea how this new opportunity was going to take hold. If you see a real love of music beginning to grow in your child, it might be a good time to think about purchasing a quality instrument. It does not pay over time to continue to rent from a music store for years and years when a good instrument will maintain the investment you put into it.

As teachers, we strongly urge you to ask us for assistance in selecting an instrument. We would always be happy to give you our assessment of instruments or to help you try some out.

We have seen a large number of students show up with new instruments in hand, and while many of them may be fine instruments, we find that often the instrument has been made very cheaply and of poor quality. This is found particularly with instruments purchased over the Internet. In those cases, you really do get what you pay for. There are no great deals. Many of those instruments were rejected by music stores for poor quality.

While there are a few catalog companies that deal with expert string specialists, many companies sell string instruments as a small part of their business. If ordering an instrument on the Internet is the only way you want to buy something, we would suggest either Southwest Strings (www.swstrings.com) or Shar (www.sharmusic.com). Both of these companies deal only with string instruments, and the instruments are set up well.

These instruments may be fine for the first several years of playing, but if a student is serious about studying his/her instrument, there will be many technical aspects of playing that cannot be done on a cheaply made instrument, even when it is set up correctly. Please note that you are also sacrificing the chance for a child to select an instrument that really matches him/her.

Since string instruments are made out of wood, every instrument sounds a little different depending on the quality of wood, varnish, and craftsmanship. The best way to choose an instrument is to have several to try.

Quality instruments have unique characteristics. We are fortunate to have excellent, high quality instruments available from people who deal full time with

string instruments in the Madison area. Many times, they try to meet with you at a location to try several instruments and help you choose.

Here are some questions you should consider when purchasing an instrument:

1. Is there a return policy? You need to have the option to return it if it is not acceptable.

2. Does it have a label inside? No label probably means it was rejected by the company that made it.

3. Does it have quality strings on it? Cheap strings make a very sneaky sound and are almost always on the Internet "specials."

4. Does the bridge fit to the instrument? Sometimes, Internet instruments are not even assembled, you have to put the bridge on yourself. A poorly fitted bridge will affect the sound and can often be way too high, making it very difficult and painful to play.

5. Do the pegs and/or tuners work? Many cheap instruments have pegs that do not stay in place or stuck and cannot be moved.

6. Is the grain of wood even, does it look like quality wood? On poor quality instruments, the grain looks painted or you can barely see the grain. Good instruments have wood that has been aged for years before they were carved.

Purchasing a good instrument does not need to cost a lot. It really helps to have someone who is familiar with how a string instrument is put together to check it out. Ask us to help!

FOR SALE: 4/4 Engelhardt cello, good condition, asking \$350. Contact Ann Tealey at 835-7500 or by email at art@medicine.wisc.edu.

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

FOTO plans to go electronic with the next issue of The Bridge. Please register on www.oregonfoto.org so we can send future issues to you electronically.

If you would like to continue receiving The Bridge in hard copy, please contact Dee Hall at 835-7996.

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