

MUSIC MAKES US

METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DECEMBER 2012

Dear Music Colleagues and MNPS Principals,

'Tis the season for holiday concerts! Over the next several weeks, there are 75 concerts, parades, musical open houses, recitals and more in Metro Nashville schools. We invite you to take a look at the breadth and depth of these holiday offerings on our new online music master calendar by following this [link](#). A pop up box will appear. Click 'Yes' on the pop-up box, and the calendar will sync automatically with Outlook or I-Cal. Please remember to send information about your future performances, showcase events and musical celebrations to [Valerie Harbin](#). The information is only as accurate and complete as what you provide to us.

We look forward to experiencing all the sounds of the season and to celebrating your musical successes with you and your students.

Thank you for all of your efforts this semester! It has been an eventful and productive Fall. As always, if we can assist you in any way please contact us at the music office. (If it is an urgent need, type "help" in the subject line.) We wish you peace and joy in the upcoming holiday season!

Sincerely,

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A SPECIAL REQUEST

A Writing Exercise Worth Its Weight in Tubas

Instrumental teachers who have received generous contributions of Keep the Music Playing instruments - please ask students to write letters of acknowledgement to the Country Music Association Foundation. Please feel free to use the writing prompts that follow. The assignment can serve as

a common core component and may be included in your school newsletters and posted in your rooms as evidence of writing artifacts. Think creatively about these letters/notes/videos/blogs! Please forward the originals to the music department through school mail or send electronically to [Valerie Harbin](#), and we will deliver to the CMA.

Deadline: December 10, if possible. Submissions after that date will also be accepted.

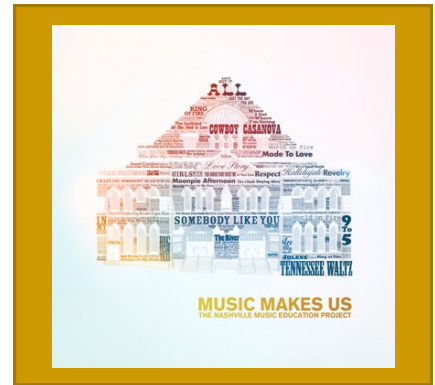
Writing Prompts:

- When I play music, I feel...
- One exciting thing I learned in music class is ...
- When I pick up my instrument, the first thing I do is ...
- I know I am making progress in music when I ...

Music Makes Us Updates

Staff Roles: “Who’s on First? What’s on Second?”

Some of you have asked for clarification about the roles of the Music Makes Us staff. First, it must be said that we work as a team—a small, but mighty one. Although we have different jobs to do, we function as a unit and gain strength by our abilities to complement one another’s skills and abilities.



As director, Laurie Schell has overall management oversight for the music department, including strategic visioning/planning, budgeting, and resource allocation and development (fundraising). Her focus is two-fold: 1) cultivating relationships and building strategic partnerships with the mayor’s office, music industry, arts and culture community, and corporate and philanthropic leaders in order to sustain a vital music education program; and 2) building an effective internal infrastructure that will support our goals.

Dr. Nola Jones, Coordinator of Music, is primarily focused on curriculum and instruction and professional and leadership development. Working closely with teachers, principals and administrators, Dr. Jones is charged with implementing the new non-traditional aspect of Music Makes Us while strengthening chorus, band and orchestra programs.

Senior Secretary Valerie Harbin does anything she is asked, and then some. Her official duties include producing this newsletter, requisitions/purchasing, budget tracking, equipment work orders, string and piano/keyboard repair requests and staffing leadership events. Her unofficial duties have included tracking down lost instruments at Goodwill and playing flute at the recent Nashville Sings! event.

Harley Tatarksy, Instrument Repair Technician, is the go-to guy for brass, woodwind and percussion instrument repairs. Harley is transforming a wing of the Old Hickman school into a functioning instrument repair facility, supported by a generous donation from Keep the Music Playing, Country Music Association Foundation. Stay tuned for a launch date.

Carol Crittenden, Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator, is now working exclusively with dance, theater and visual arts. She does consult with the music department regularly. We are most appreciative of her deep knowledge and institutional memory for all things related to MNPS and music.

Partnership with Little Kids Rock

Little Kids Rock (LKR), a national non-profit organization whose mission is to transform children’s lives by revitalizing music education in the public schools, is deepening an ongoing partnership with MNPS by providing instrument donations, curricula, professional development and ongoing instructional support for music teachers. Mark Hale, music specialist at Mt. View Elementary School, is the newly designated Regional Program Director in Nashville for LKR. Mark will be spending two days each week visiting schools that have LKR-trained teachers and equipment, in addition to continuing his regular teaching duties at Mt. View. We are pleased to expand our partnership in mutual support of the goals of Music Makes Us and Little Kids Rock.

Happenings in the Music Department

Middle School Honors Orchestra

The MNPS Middle School Honor Orchestra was held on November 15 and 16 at Creswell Arts Magnet School. Mr. Joe Lee served as conductor and provided a rich musical experience for over 100 of our students. Participating schools included Two Rivers directed by Sarah Johnson, MLK directed by Sally McFadden, JT Moore directed by Alice Lloyd, Croft directed Anna Maria Miller, Bellevue directed by Genevieve Simons, Meigs directed by Matthew Taylor, and IT Creswell directed by Beth Voltz. We are grateful to IT Creswell Principal, Ted Murcray, for allowing us to hold the event at the school. A special thank you goes out to Beth Voltz, for organizing and hosting the event!

Mid-State Results

Congratulations to all schools, directors and students for the outstanding results in MTSBOA High School All Mid-State Honor Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Choir! These auditions promote outstanding musicianship in our ensembles and have a positive impact on every student. Thank you to the dedicated teachers, who stay long hours before and after school to prepare students for this important event. This year over 75 MNPS students were selected for this prestigious award. Good luck to all middle schoolers in upcoming auditions! Visit [MTSBOA's website](#) to see the results.

Nashville Christmas Parade

All of our MNPS Marching Bands will be participating in the Nashville Christmas Parade on December 7 at 7:00 p.m. Come out and support them as they share the gift of music with our community.

Middle School Honor Band

Middle School band directors met on November 19 and November 29 to discuss the 2013 MNPS Middle School Honor Band concert. If you were unable to attend either of those meetings, a final make up meeting will be held at 4:30 pm on December 10 at the Bransford office in the cafeteria meeting room. Attendance is required in order for your students to participate.

High School Band Director Meeting

There will be a high school band director meeting at Bransford in the cafeteria meeting room at 3:30 pm on Monday, December 17. We look forward to seeing all of you there!



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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Have a topic you
would like covered
in a future
newsletter? [Email](#)
us your ideas.

"DO IT NOW" OPPORTUNITIES (Anything with a deadline)

Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards

The Kennedy Center is accepting nominations from the general public for teachers who made a significant impact in their lives. The Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards is series of annual grants that recognizes inspiring teachers in the United States. Both students and/or teachers are eligible to submit a [nomination](#). Deadline: December 16, 2012.

2013 National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Awards

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is [accepting applications](#) for the 2013 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards. The 12 winning programs will receive \$10,000 and the opportunity to accept their awards from First Lady Michelle Obama at a ceremony at the White House. Afterschool and out-of-school time arts and humanities programs sponsored by museums, libraries, performing arts organizations, educational institutions, arts centers, community +service organizations, businesses, and eligible government entities are encouraged to consider submitting an application. Deadline: February 4, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. PST. Apply [here](#).

Tennessee Arts Commission Arts Education Grants

The TN Arts Commission is accepting applications for arts education grants, including artist-in-residence, mini grants, teacher training, and at-risk youth grants. Deadline: January 14. For more information, [click here](#).

TEACHING AND LEARNING PRACTICE

The Female Changing Voice

The adolescent female voice is not often given the attention needed because so much time is spent on the changing male voice. Female voices also change, and moving effectively through these changes is as important as the focus given to males. [Adolescent Singing Voices](#) by Leslie Leedberg offers good insight about the female changing voice.