

MUSIC MAKES US

METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 2013

Dear Music Colleagues and MNPS Principals,

The new semester brings a rush of anticipated annual events and concerts, foremost among them the 4th Annual Keep the Music Playing All Stars Concert on February 19, 6 p.m. at Schermerhorn Symphony Center. Sponsored by the CMA Foundation, the concert features ensembles from Meigs Middle School, Oliver Middle School, Croft Middle School, Sylvan Park Elementary, Nashville School of the Arts and Antioch High School. Groups are selected annually on a rotating basis, giving many students the extraordinary experience of performing before an audience of friends, family and the community in a professional setting in a world class concert hall.

Country music star Scotty McCreery plays host to this wonderful celebration of music. Join us as we anticipate an exciting announcement regarding CMA's Keep the Music Playing support for the coming year. The concert is free and open to the public. (Music teachers should have received an invitation to the concert and reception in a separate email.) We hope to see you there!

Warm regards,
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Inside this issue:

Teaching & Learning Practice	1
Disney Musicals in Schools	2
Recognition & Celebration	2
Music Makes Us Update	3
Upcoming Events	3
"Do It Now" Opportunities	4
Summer Camp	4

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TEACHING AND LEARNING PRACTICE

Master teacher Frank Troyka believes that by involving students from within the evaluation process, they become self-directed, independent learners. Recently, Mr. Troyka shared his methods for getting young musicians to embrace and go beyond playing tests on the path to becoming skilled, passionate performers. Click [here](#) to see the clinic synopsis and download the handout.

Disney Musicals in Schools

For the second consecutive year, “Disney Musicals in Schools” will continue in Nashville through the partnership between the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Metro Schools, and Disney Theatrical Group. The first pilot project outside of New York City public schools, the local program will double its impact in 2013, engaging an additional five MNPS schools which were named earlier in the year.

Participating schools: Eakin Elementary, Julie Green Elementary, Napier Enhanced Option, Norman Binkley Elementary and Park Avenue Enhanced Option.

At no cost to them, the five schools will receive a performance license to the Disney KIDS musical of their choice, comprehensive resource materials, and in-school support from two TPAC teaching artists for 15 weeks.

Four of the five schools which participated in the pilot last year will again produce musicals in their schools, receiving rights and Disney “show kit” at no charge. They are Glengarry Elementary, Hattie Cotton Elementary, Hull-Jackson Montessori Magnet and Kirkpatrick Elementary.

Participants will present a public performance at their schools this spring, and TPAC will host a “Student Share” event, open to the public on Thursday, May 16th at 10:00 a.m., at which schools will stage one musical number from their show in a professional setting.

Congratulations again to those schools and their teams who were selected!

Recognition & Celebration

A Gift from Gibson

Metro guitar programs recently received a terrific boost from Gibson Guitar Corp, who donated 100 electric guitars to MNPS. In addition, the Gibson Foundation, the charitable arm of the corporation, has made a 4-year \$100,000 pledge to Music Makes Us. We are grateful to Gibson for their ongoing commitment and support of our programs.

Mr. Holland’s Opus Recognizes Isaac Litton Middle School

Litton Middle School will receive new instruments to augment their emerging band program, directed by Allison Winstein with the support of principal Tracy Bruno. In announcing the grant from [Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation](#), program director Tricia Steel stated, “I am impressed by your dedication and passion to bring the best out of students through music, wonderful things are happening at Isaac Litton Middle School under your care and direction.” She further acknowledges “the Music Makes Us program clearly demonstrates the serious commitment Nashville has to music education which captured our attention and infused us with excitement to support your schools.” The donation is made possible through funding from Warner Music Nashville as well as individual donor, Bob Ezrin, who also serves on the Music Makes Us Advisory Council.

KHS of America Donates Drum Sets

KHS of America, parent company of Mapex Drums, donated 24 Mapex drum sets – from beginning to advanced levels -- to Metro Schools. As we work to advance our goals to support a contemporary curriculum in addition to traditional music courses, the drum sets will be a welcome addition to existing as well as emerging jazz and rock bands and other contemporary ensembles.

World Percussion Teacher Teams with Life Skills & ESL Students

Hamilton Moore, World Percussion instructor at John Overton High School, was recognized for an innovative collaboration using adaptive techniques. A recent article in Technology Access Center describes the collaboration, resulting in two performances since beginning inclusive music instruction this school year using accessible and adapted music instruments and iPads with music apps. Students received instruction in percussion along with English as a Second Language (ESL) students at the High School. [Technology Access Center](#) and school personnel gave a presentation about this project and the student’s instruments on Thursday November 29 at the [Tennessee Association for Assistive Technology](#) conference in Murfreesboro. The project was also featured in a January edition of the [Nashville Arts Magazine](#).

Music Makes Us Update

New Teacher Advisory Council

In support of overarching goals to advance music education in Metro Schools, it is essential to utilize the expertise of our teacher leaders to help build the capacity for excellence and leadership among our faculty. To that end, we are inviting a core group of music teachers to serve on the inaugural Music Makes Us Teacher Advisory Council. In selecting the council, we considered the following:

- * Evidence of outstanding teaching through best practice in music education
- * Evidence of leadership
- * Subject area concentration
- * Experience

We are asking that teacher leaders participate with the full acknowledgement and support of their principals. Quarterly meetings will be scheduled to minimize instructional disruption. Look for an announcement in the next newsletter about this group's progress.

High School Concert Performance Festival

We are very excited to announce that our first MNPS large group performance assessment festival will take place February 25 and 26 at Cane Ridge High School. Eighteen ensembles from twelve of our high schools will perform over the two-day event. Adjudicators will evaluate the performances, offering feedback on what we are doing well and how we can improve. After the concerts, each ensemble will participate in a thirty minute clinic with one of the adjudicators. Thanks and appreciation to Chris Wilson, band director at Cane Ridge HS, for his leadership in organizing the event and Principal Michel Wall for her support and encouragement. Participating groups are:

- ◆ Antioch High School directed by Scott Miller and Caryn Miller
- ◆ Martin Luther King High School directed by Marsha Hartwein and Will Sugg
- ◆ Hillsboro Orchestra directed by Leah Stufflebam
- ◆ Hunters Lane Concert Band directed by Matthew Thornton
- ◆ Whites Creek Concert Band directed by David Dismuke
- ◆ Hillwood Concert Band directed by Jacob Maurer
- ◆ Maplewood Concert Band directed by Joe Shelton
- ◆ Hillsboro Wind Ensemble directed by Leah Stufflebam
- ◆ Hillwood Wind Ensemble directed by Jacob Maurer
- ◆ Cane Ridge Concert Band directed by Chris Wilson
- ◆ Overton Orchestra directed by Debbie Burton
- ◆ NSA String Orchestra directed by Mira Painter
- ◆ McGavock Concert Band directed by Jeff Beckman, Jacob Campos and John David Hazlett
- ◆ Stratford Concert Band directed by Johnny Croft
- ◆ Overton Concert Band directed by Debbie Burton and Laura Boucher
- ◆ NSA Symphony Orchestra directed by Mira Painter
- ◆ McGavock Wind Ensemble directed by Jeff Beckman, Jacob Campos and John David Hazlett
- ◆ Overton Wind Ensemble directed by Debbie Burton and Laura Boucher

Upcoming Events

February 12th
The Love of February
1st Grade Performance
Westmeade Elementary
6:30 p.m.

February 12th
1st and 2nd grade performance
Glengarry Elementary
6:30 p.m.

February 18th
Music Makes Us
Teachers Advisory Council
Martin Center
8:00 a.m.

February 19th
Keep the Music Playing All Stars Concert
Schermerhorn
6:00 p.m.

February 21st
Black History Program
Gra-Mar Middle
2:00 p.m.

February 21st
Black History Celebration
Cane Ridge Elementary Gym
6:00 p.m.

February 21st
Brotherhood/Sisterhood Program
Cumberland Elementary
6:00 p.m.

February 25th and 26th
1st Annual MNPS Large Group
Performance Assessment Festival
Cane Ridge High School

February 26th
Celebrate the Arts Night
McMurray Middle
5:30 p.m.

February 27th
Music Makes Us Advisory Council
Hume-Fogg High School
4:30 p.m.
featuring the Hume-Fogg Jazz Band
under the direction of Richard Ripani

Don't forget to send us your events so we can add them to the department calendar which can be accessed 24/7 via this [link](#).

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

Grammys Announces Music Educator Award

In recognition of the significant role of teachers in shaping their students' musical experiences, the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy are partnering to present the first Music Educator Award. Open to current U.S. music teachers kindergarten through college, the Music Educator Award will be awarded annually starting in 2014 during GRAMMY Week and will include a cash honoraria of up to \$10,000. The nomination process will launch [online](#) beginning Feb. 11. Deadline for submissions is April 15.

Piano Competition for High School Students

The John W. Work III Memorial Foundation invites Metro students to participate in a high school level piano performance competition on May 18, 2013 at Lipscomb University, with prizes of \$500, \$400, and \$300 to be awarded. There is one required piece and a piece of your choice. Deadline to enter is April 18, 2013. For the required piece, details, and contest rules, please contact [Dr. Michael Kurek](#).

Announcing Music Summer Camps in Metro Schools

We are pleased to announce the dates and venues for the acclaimed summer music camps at Metro Schools. The camps will again be ably led and directed by Susan Waters (Band Camp) and Beth Voltz (Orchestra Camp).

- Middle School Band Camp @ West End Middle School, June 3-14
- Middle School Orchestra Camp @ Croft Middle School, June 3-14

In response to parent and teacher feedback, we are making the following improvements in summer camp enrollment procedures:

Cost of the program will remain the same at \$200; however, we will offer an early bird discount of \$25 to students who register and pay their deposit before March 15th.

Payment may be structured in two installments, as follows:

- Prior to March 15: \$75 deposit, final \$100 payment due May 1.
- After March 15: \$100 deposit; final \$100 payment due May 1.

All payments are non-refundable

Brochures will be printed and sent to your school as well as distributed electronically. Camps will be marketed through Metro Schools' announcements and websites as appropriate. A URL link will be provided in the coming weeks for you to include in your concert programs, newsletters, and parent emails.



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