

# MUSIC MAKES US

METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JANUARY 2013

Dear Principals and Music Teachers:

Welcome back. We hope you had a wonderful holiday season.

Prior to the winter break, MNPS students were showcased in over 75 musical performances. Teachers, we are grateful for your efforts and the opportunity to hear many of your ensembles making excellent music. The Nashville community was treated to the fine results of your hard work, planning and preparation. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to providing these important learning experiences for your students.

At one of the December concerts, piano students at Nashville School of the Arts showcased their musical talents on a beautiful Yamaha baby grand piano. Miller Piano and Yamaha worked with teacher Laura Gabriel and Dr. Gregory Stewart, principal of NSA, to secure the use of this instrument and provide a wonderful performance opportunity to our students. We are grateful to Miller Piano and Yamaha for their support!

Congratulations to Isaac Litton Middle School, principal Tracy Bruno, music teacher Allison Winstein, and students Marcus Wanner from NSA and Joey Santoro from Hume Fogg. They were featured in a Chevrolet ad on the CMA Country Christmas Special, highlighting the importance of music education. More details on the Chevy/CMA/KTMP spot can be found [here](#) along with a link to the video.

We are all deeply saddened by the recent passing of Robert Crittenden, husband of Carol Crittenden. We know each of you will want to keep Carol and the Crittenden family in your thoughts and prayers. Memorials for Mr. Crittenden may be made to Nashville Cares at [www.nashvillecares.org](http://www.nashvillecares.org), where he was an active volunteer for many years.

Warm regards,  
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## Music Makes Us Updates

### **School Board Affirms Value of Music Education**

In the School Board meeting of January 8, the Board of Education voted to adopt a new Resolution affirming the essential value of music education in MNPS. School board member Anna Shepherd read the Resolution, which passed in a unanimous vote. Nancy Shapiro, Senior Vice President at The Recording Academy (Grammy Awards) spoke on behalf of the music community, an industry that is vital to Nashville and essential to the success of the initiative.

In a time of great challenges in public education, it takes extraordinary leadership to recognize that music and the arts are indeed essential to every child's education. Music programs around the country have been struggling, particularly those in urban environments with large populations of high poverty students. Not so in Music City. Not so in Metro Nashville Public Schools.

The MNPS Board of Education's commitment to and investment in Music Makes Us, to music education, enables us to fulfill our pledge to our students to guide them to excel—not only in music, but also in higher education, work and life. This commitment sets our schools apart from others and offers us the opportunity to lead from a position of creativity, innovation and strength. Click [here](#) to see a copy of the Resolution.

### **Impact of Music Education**

Music Makes Us has contracted with University of Kansas Center for Research to undertake a research study to evaluate the impact of the music program participation on students' musical and academic success and school engagement in the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. The multi-year study will use both quantitative and qualitative measures to determine what effect participation in MNPS traditional and contemporary music programs have on 1) students' musical success; 2) overall academic success; and 3) engagement with their own educational experience.

### **Instrument Repair shop update**

We are pleased to welcome Todd Liles, the new instrument repair apprentice, who is joining Harley Tatarsky in the repair facility. The shop is in final stages of renovation. Teachers should be on the lookout for new repair procedures in the coming weeks.



## Upcoming Dates

### **January**

- 10-12 – All Mid-State Bands
- 17 – MTSBOA meeting, Blackman High School
- 17-19 -All Mid-State Jazz & Orchestra
- 24 - Deadlines: Elementary Mass, ALL Choral Festivals
- 26 - All-State 2nd Tier Screening @ TBA
- 29 - Elementary/Middle School Honors Event @ TBA



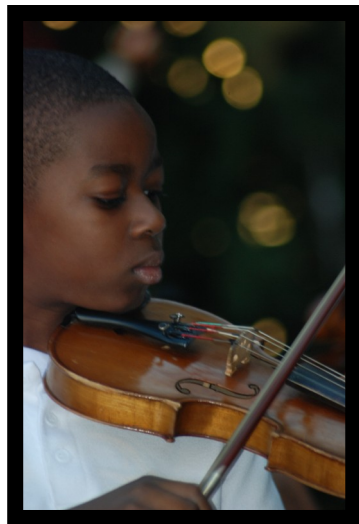
### **Save the Date: CMA Showcase Concert**

The 2013 Country Music Association's Keep the Music Playing Showcase Concert with MNPS schools will be held at the Schermerhorn Symphony Hall on February 19 at 7 pm. The schools to be featured include Meigs, Oliver, Croft, Sylvan Park, NSA and Antioch HS. The event is free and open to the public. Make your plans to attend this wonderful celebration of music, sponsored by the Country Music Association and highlighting our students.

*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)**

**Tennessee Arts Commission Arts Education Grants—**

***Final Reminder***

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**

**Recruiting and Retaining Students**

The Music Achievement Council (MAC) is an action-oriented nonprofit organization sponsored by the National Association of School Music Dealers (NASMD) and the International Music Products Association (NAMM). Check out the 24 Tips for Success [here](#). Featured [here](#) is Tip #4 on recruiting and retaining students.

**Band and String Teacher Resources**

The Conn Selmer Company website has excellent downloadable resources for band and string teachers. Check it out [here](#).

**Principals as Advocates**

In December, 20 MNPS instrumental music teachers traveled to Chicago to attend the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Band and Orchestra clinic, many of them at their own expense. We are grateful to the principals who supported the teachers' participation in the largest music education convention in the world, with over 18,000 registrants. Teachers attended excellent concerts, sessions on topics ranging from best practices in utilizing Title One funds for music education to conducting technique, and visited over 600 exhibits. We encourage you to [download](#) the clinic synopsis led by former Clark County Nevada Music Supervisor, "Making an Advocate of Your Principal: 10 Easy Things You Can Do in January".