

# MUSIC MAKES US

METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## NOVEMBER 2012

Dear Music Colleagues and MNPS Principals,

Marching band season is over; fall and winter concerts are beginning; solo and ensemble auditions are happening. And so begins the time of year when you see MNPS music specialists – from elementary general music teachers to middle and high school band, orchestra and choral directors to world percussion, rock and mariachi teachers-- working from dawn until well into the evening, preparing students for performances across the county. Opportunities for music making are everywhere.

We hope you take a moment to review the upcoming concert schedule, opportunities for professional and leadership development, and other timely announcements. We also invite you to visit the updated [Music Makes Us webpage](#) on the MNPS website.

As always, please feel free to forward the newsletter to your colleagues and don't hesitate to email if you have questions.

Sincerely,  
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Please send all upcoming concert dates to [Valerie Harbin](#) if you have not already done so. We will send out the master schedule to all of the principals and teachers next week, so you will want to be sure your school is included.

Please forward links, articles, or other information your colleagues might find useful for inclusion in future newsletters.

### CHECK IT OUT—ARTS & THE MIND PBS DOCUMENTARY

[Arts & the Mind](#), a recently launched PBS project hosted and narrated by Lisa Kudrow, reveals the crucial impact of the arts on the human brain across our lifetimes, and explores its

particularly vital role in human development during youth and older age. This two-part [documentary](#) shares stories of how music, dance, painting, poetry, and theater markedly

improve well-being at both ends of life, and reveals the cutting-edge science that explains the powerful, positive impact of the arts on our brains.

## Happenings in the Music Department

### ***Scanners***

Our friends at the CMA have purchased one scanner for every music department in our middle and high schools. These have all been delivered to your schools. If your department has not received one, please notify [Valerie Harbin](#) immediately so that we can track who signed the receipt.

### ***SmartMusic***

All of our high schools should have their SmartMusic programs up and running. Please send us an update with information on how you are using it with your programs. If you need assistance, let us know.

### ***Drum Major Leadership Summit***

Seventeen of our MNPS Drum Majors attended a Leadership Summit on October 18. Our host for the event was Country Music Television. Facilitators included drum majors from TSU and MTSU. Special guest speakers included former drum majors Mr. Jay Steele, Associate Superintendent for High Schools and Dr. James Bailey, Principal of White's Creek High School. The final session will be held on November 14 at the W.O. Smith School of Music from 8:30-2:00. All MNPS music educators are invited to drop in any time during the day.

### ***New Instrumental Teacher Summit***

On November 2, ten Metro Instrumental Music Teachers were guests at Oliver Middle School for a special in-service geared toward new teachers. Highlights of the event were a performance by the Oliver Middle School Wind Ensemble, sessions on classroom management and best practices for instrumental music instruction. Thank you to Susan Waters and Marsha Hartwein for your willingness to mentor our new teachers.

### ***Nashville Sings***

Over 1,000 elementary music students from MNPS participated in Nashville Sings as part of Artober Festivities on October 27. Twenty elementary schools were represented, conducted by Margaret Campbelle-Holman. The highlight of the event was the premier performance of MNPS teacher Rebecca Pearson's composition "Nashville Sings." Thank you to all who made the event a success.

### ***MNPS Middle School Honor Orchestra***

String players from Two Rivers, MLK, JT Moore, Croft, Bellevue, Meigs, and IT Creswell will participate in the MNPS Middle School Honor Orchestra at IT Creswell on November 15 and 16. Guest clinician Joe Lee and the students will perform Friday night, November 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Creswell auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public.





### Happenings in the Music Department Continued

#### *Contest of Champions*

Congratulations to our marching bands who competed in the 51st Contest of Champions at MTSU. Participating bands included Antioch, McGavock and John Overton. We are so proud of you and your students! Special congratulations to fifth place McGavock and sixth place John Overton in a year when competition was extremely fierce.

#### *Nashville Christmas Parade*

All of the MNPS high school marching bands will be participating in the Nashville Christmas Parade at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, December 7. We are very appreciative of your willingness to serve as musical ambassadors for Metro Schools.

#### *Mariachi Debut*

The Wright/Glenclyff Mariachi classes made their debut performance during a special field trip to Cheekwood Saturday, Oct. 27 for the Dia de los Muertos event. Students interacted with local mariachis, decorated sugar skulls, and took in the sights, sounds and smells of the beautiful gardens and special exhibits.

#### *Music Video Prize Winner*

Paragon Mills Elementary music specialist Barbara Laifer created a [Feelin' Good Dance Party](#) music video to win a top prize in the Healthy Classroom Challenge sponsored by the Office of Coordinated School Health and United Way during Child Health Week. The goal of the challenge was to demonstrate in a two-minute video how teachers and students incorporate physical activity into their daily classroom routine.

#### *Instrument Repair Shop*

There is progress in getting the repair shop set up for operations. We'll be sending out more specific information once we get closer to the opening day.

### Upcoming Performances

Friday, November 9  
10:00 am  
McGavock High String  
Ensemble Performance at  
NCAC Convention at  
Renaissance Hotel

Saturday, November 10  
2:00 pm  
West Side Story at Hume  
Fogg High School

Thursday, November 15  
6:30 pm  
2nd Grade PTO Program at  
Dan Mills Elementary

Friday, November 16  
6:00 pm  
MNPS Middle School  
Honors Orchestra at IT  
Creswell Auditorium

Saturday, November 17  
6:00 pm  
Oliver Middle School  
performance with the  
Nashville Singers at  
Hillsboro High School

Tuesday, December 4  
6:00 pm  
Winter Concert at Head  
Middle School Gym

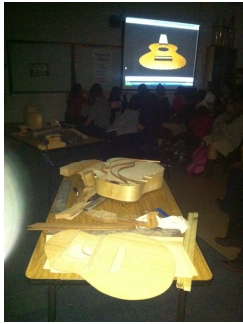
Tuesday, December 4  
6:00 pm  
2nd Grade Performance at  
Westmeade Elementary

Thursday, December 6  
6:00 pm  
2nd Grade PTO  
Performance at Dodson  
Elementary Cafeteria

## 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)

### ***Music Education Days at The 2013 NAMM Show***

Music Education Days at the 2013 NAMM Show offer educators access to inspiring musical performances, briefings and workshops on best practices and afternoon breakout sessions covering topics ranging from starting a mariachi program and technology innovations for music educators to adding group guitar to your program and tips for music teacher success. For 2013, Music Education Days will be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 26 and 27. For more information, click [here](#).

### ***Gates Foundation [College Knowledge Challenge App Competition](#)***

Deadline: November 16, 2012. College Summit and the King Center Charter School have partnered with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to launch the College Knowledge Challenge, a \$2.5 million fund to develop innovative apps on Facebook that will help students apply to, attend, and stay in college. The goal of these apps is to guide low-income and first-generation students throughout the process of applying to and attending college. The Challenge is open to both nonprofit and for-profit organizations from any field. Grants of \$50,000 to \$100,000 will be awarded to winning applicants.

### ***The Creative Community Leadership Institute: Spring 2013 Fellowship***

Deadline: November 12, 2012. Intermedia Arts is seeking outstanding fellows who are active leaders in community development. The Creative Community Leadership Institute provides comprehensive, professional-level training and support for community-engaged artists, organizers, educators, administrators, and developers. Up to 25 fellows within the community development and/or arts/culture field will be selected to participate in this program. For more information, click [here](#).

## TEACHING AND LEARNING PRACTICE

### ***Common Core***

Many of you have asked for assistance in planning with regard to common core. Howard County Maryland's [website](#) contains relevant information that may be useful. Please embed common core in your grading categories. Thanks to Marsha Hartwein for sharing.