

MUSIC NOTES

YORKVILLE CUSD 115
WINTER 2014-2015



2014 Class AAA SuperState Honors Band

Congratulations to the students of the 2013-2014 Yorkville High School Wind Ensemble on being named the Class AAA SuperState "Honors Band". This is the second time this outstanding band has received the distinction in the past three years. What is even more remarkable than earning the title twice is that they did it in two different classes.

This year, due to YHS enrollment growth to 1650 students, the Wind Ensemble was advanced into the Class AAA division at SuperState (1600 - 2500 students). Being named Honors Band is not only a statewide distinction of excellence, it is also an invitation to perform the following year without having to submit an audition and application. The 2015 SuperState Festival is on May 9th. Yorkville will perform as the last band in class AAA; the Honors Band. Mr. Anderson says, "In many ways, performing as Honors Band is more stressful than other years of participating because the expectations

from all who are listening is extremely high. And performing in the last timeslot of the class means the concert hall will have lots of people in it!" If Yorkville would like to return to SuperState in 2016, we will have to re-audition. The Honors Band distinction may not be awarded to any one band in consecutive years.

Under the Direction of Victor Anderson & Bobby Vrijezen the award winning performance featured *Ecstatic Fanfare*, by Steven Bryant and *Watchman, Tell Us of The Night*, by Mark Camhouse. Equally as exciting as the performance experience was the phone call from composer, Mark Camhouse (George Mason University), the day after the performance, congratulating the band and thanking them for performing the piece in, "what he heard was a masterful interpretation."



2014-2015 Wind Ensemble in concert at Wentz Concert Hall, NorthCentral College, Naperville, IL.

On Tuesday, November 18th, 2014, the YHS Wind Ensemble had the honor of performing a joint concert with the NorthCentral College Winds, under the direction of Dr. Lawrence Van Oyen.

COMPOSER WORKS WITH YHS BANDS

Dr. Charles Rochester Young, Professor of Composition and Music Theory at University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, WI, worked with the Yorkville High School Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band this fall. Both bands programmed a piece by the famous composer for their first concert cycle. The YHS Symphonic Band performed, *A Child's Embrace*, which the composer wrote in honor of the birth of his daughter, Katherine Anne Young.

Wind Ensemble performed a brand new piece of Dr. Young's entitled, *Escapade*. Yorkville is one of five schools who commissioned this new work by Dr. Young. Our Wind Ensemble's performance of this piece was only the fourth performance of the piece ever. *Escapade* is a character study piece based on the two main characters in the T.V. show, *White Collar*. The piece plays on the sultriness and quirkiness of the two characters. The students of the Wind Ensemble learned much about the commissioning and composing process as well as what it is like to prepare a brand new piece of music to the composer's intent.

Dr. Young's response after hearing our concert recording: "It is so clean, meticulous and every detail is in place! The rhythm, tuning, style, dynamic and balances, etc.... are all just great. Everything is also really expressive and exactly as I had hoped it would sound!!!!"



YHS CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRAS RELEASE FIRST CDs!

Last Spring, the YHS choirs and orchestras spent two days in the recording studio. The ensembles teamed up with RJ Recording to produce their first CDs. The CDs feature selected music performed during the 2013-2014 school



year by each ensemble, and are the first in what will hopefully become a yearly tradition. Cds are still available for \$8 each, and can be purchased by contacting Mrs. Gyssler (kgyssler@y115.org) or Mr. Smith (dsmith3@y115.org).

PRIVATE LESSONS ARE THE KEY TO SUCCESS:

Many private lesson teachers are available to Yorkville music students and more are becoming available each year as we continue to grow and attract more musicians to the area. Many professionals make a living playing music and are available to teach lessons to students at surrounding schools. We hope that you have taken a private lesson by now. If you haven't, this is the time to start! At

Yorkville, we expect a lot out of the music students because we know what is possible when you really want to BE GOOD! It's no secret that the best musicians in our schools are the ones that take 30 minutes to an hour out of their week and study privately with a professional. Find a private teacher on the private instructor lists on our music web-sites.

21st Annual YHS Madrigal Dinner

The 21st annual YHS Madrigal Dinner will take place on December 12-14 at the YHS Cafetorium.

The family-friendly show highlights a night of festive music, delicious food, beautiful costumes and decorations, and moments of witty puns, outrageous comedy, and heartfelt sentiment.

Singers include seniors Danielle Alicz, James Arnold, Adam Dwyer, Isaiah Jackson, Josh Lindholm, Maddy Nauert, Vincent Pizzo, Jessica Vacha, and Edric Yu; juniors Mackenzie Burke, Nick Damato,

Carleigh Heriaud, Allyson Johnson, Levi Lindholm, Connor Lord, Jori Stewart, Declan Weaver, and Liz Welter; and sophomores Chad Castilla, Chase Lewey, Taylor Neville, Alicia Rosier, Bri Smith, and Emma Whaley. Music will also be provided by the Yorkville Brass and the Madrigal Strings.

Advance tickets are recommended, and include a full meal including both grilled chicken breast and pork chop. Tickets can be purchased at www.showtix4u.com until December 11.

RED PAW CHILI SUPPER

The 7th Annual Red Paw Chili Supper was held Saturday, November 1, 2014. With the YHS Football team making the playoffs, we shifted the time of the Chili Supper to accommodate those attending the football game. Taking into account the time change we still had almost 400 family and friends come out for an afternoon of great music, food and raffles. A variety of Chili was served along with toppings and desserts. Everyone was given the opportunity to vote for their favorite chili. We had a repeat winner of the coveted traveling trophy, the Schweikert Family, with their "Dragon's Breath Chili" followed very closely by the Robbins' Family "Hank's Elgin Chili as channeled by Rob". Music entertainment during dinner was provided by the Yorkville Brass, Yorkville Chamber Strings and Yorkville Madrigals. The Yorkville Marching Band performed their Field Show "Jersey Boys" at the Football Playoff game.

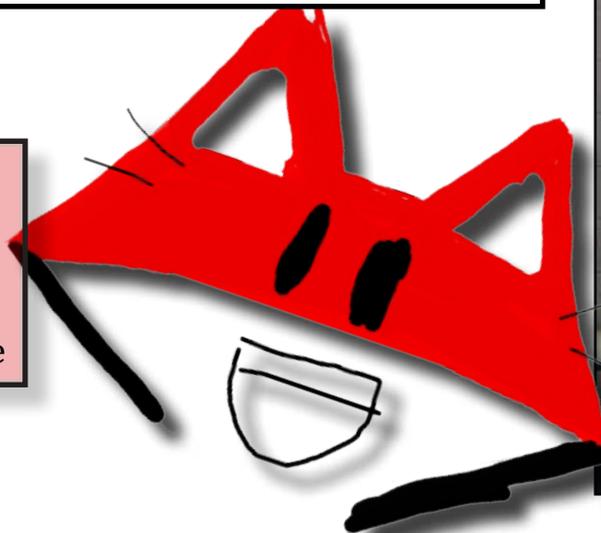
The Yorkville Music Boosters would like to send a great big Thank You to all of the families and businesses for their donations and countless volunteer hours in making this event a success raising over \$3000 for Yorkville Music Boosters programs. We would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations for our raffle baskets: Amber Milliron, Austin's Violin Shop, Bristol Troop 34 Boy Scouts, Blackberry Creek, B&H Martial Arts, Chili's, Ellman's Music, Fast Burrito, Jimmy John's of Yorkville, Mike & Denise's of Yorkville, Millhurst Ale House, Mongolian 211, NCG Cinemas, Nova Nails, Rosati's Pizza Pub of Yorkville, Smokey's Woodpit BBQ of Yorkville, Starbuck's, Treasure Bread, Walgreen's, Yarn.It.All (Alison Senft), Yorkville Munchies, YHS Music Department. **Please support these businesses to thank them for supporting our music programs.** Thank you also for basket donations by the following families: Burks, Gartung, Katula, Lubecke, Chuinard, Clementz, Doles, Whaley, Krauss, Maly and Sandor.

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of Yorkville
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Yorkville
Starbuck's
Treasure Bread
Walgreen's
Yarn.It.All (Alison Senft)
Yorkville Munchies
YHS Music Department

Winners of the Silent Auction Baskets were:

Band - Linda Duy
Choir - Rob Robbins
Orchestra - Donna Lubecke



Marching Foxes

Congratulations to the Marching Foxes on another successful season! This year's Marching Foxes performed at the Phantom Regiment Red and Black Fall Classic at Northern Illinois University, Oswego Marching Panther Review, University of Illinois Marching Illini Festival and Downers Grove South Mustang Music Bowl. In addition to the various competitions, the Marching Foxes performed at all home football games, which included a first round playoff game vs. Crete-Monee.

Throughout each fall, the Marching Foxes serve as ambassadors for Yorkville CUSD #115, Yorkville High School, and the city of Yorkville through various performances and community events. Each year, the Marching Foxes are an integral part of the assem-

bly that kicks off "Instrument Demo Week" for all fifth grade students.

This season, the Marching Foxes field show was entitled "Jersey Boys: The Music of Frankie Valli." The Marching Foxes were under the field leadership of drum majors Leah Erb, Lucas Erb, and Vanessa Ramos. A special thanks goes out to all the parents who volunteered extra time and services throughout the season. This ensemble would not have been able to achieve what they did without the countless hours of dedication and hard work by all those involved.

8th Grade Band Performs at YHS Homecoming

The 8th Grade Band students at Yorkville Middle School got a taste of the stadium lights at the YHS Homecoming football game earlier this fall. The first performance of the year for YMS students was alongside the Marching Foxes during the pregame festivities at the varsity Homecoming game. Students arrived early to rehearse with the marching band and learned the pregame formations for Yorkville Loyalty and The Star Spangled Banner, parade marching, as well as basic commands like "horns up", "attention" and "parade rest". This performance was the first experience for many of the students

to perform memorized music, and they were definitely up for the challenge! YHS students were great mentors and teachers to the 8th graders and despite the weather being on the cold side, a great time was had by everyone!



Introducing : YHS Philharmonic Orchestra

Philharmonic Orchestra is the newest addition to the Yorkville High School Music Department. Due to the student growth in the YHS Orchestra program we were able to add this third ensemble comprised of 31 students in grades 9-12. Each February students perform placement exams to see what ensemble will best suit their musical needs in music. Along with the Symphony and Concert Orches-

tra, Philharmonic students perform in four major concerts a year: the Fall YMS/YHS Orchestra Concert, Prism, Fine Arts Festival, and the YHS Spring Orchestra Concert. All orchestra students have benefited from the addition of the new orchestra, which has allowed for more leadership opportunities, musical challenges, and performance growth.

"Philharmonic orchestra has challenged me to try harder and expand my musical experience this year. I can feel myself becoming a better musician already!"
- Freshman Violist, Hunter

"Philharmonic Orchestra is awesome! Everyone puts in the effort to sound great, not just good." - Junior Bassist, Terry



"I'm proud to be a Philharmonic student this year, the pieces have challenged me and have made me work to my full potential. I have grown as a student, but more importantly a musician." - Sophomore Cellist, Cassie

"Philharmonic is basically what I've been wishing for since freshman year. It gives those who want a challenge but don't live and breathe orchestra a chance to show what they can do and learn at a pace and level that really helps them to become even better musicians." - Senior Cellist, Heather

POP & PRETZELS

On Friday, April 24th the Orchestra Department will host our fifth annual Pop and Pretzels concert. This concert will feature performances by the 6th Grade Alternative Strings, YMS Alternative Strings and the High School Chamber Strings, along with a guest performance by the YHS Cello Choir. During the concert we will be serving pop and pretzels, and

will have candy available for purchase. We will also raffle off music accessories, concert tickets, sheet music, and more! Presale tickets will be available for \$3 each starting April 1st. If you would like to volunteer to help for this event please contact your child's Orchestra Director. We hope to see you there!



FACULTY RECITAL



The Yorkville CUSD #115 Music Faculty once again presented their Annual Music Faculty Recital. The event was held on Monday, November 17th, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the YMS Auditorium. There were hundreds of parents and students in attendance. The program was eclectic and featured 20 of the 22 district music faculty.

The program included:

- Faculty Orff Ensemble performing The Four Seasons “Spring” by Antonio Vivaldi/Arr. Van Oostrom
- Ms. Pezel & Mr. Griffith performing traditional fiddle tunes
- Ms. Rhoades singing “Misty” by Erroll Garner
- Mrs. Beyer, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Gyssler, & Ms. Pezel performed Sonata in D Major, Mvt. III by Mozart
- Mrs. Carroll and Mr. McHugh sang “Already Home” by Axel and Vaccherino
- Orchestra Faculty Quartet performed Black Dogy by Led Zepplin, arr. Richard Henrickson
- A faculty Trombone Quartet performed Inveni David by Bruckner/arr. McDunn and Barnes
- Mr. Martinez sang In Summer from Frozen by Robert & Kristen Lopez
- Ms. Fischer performed an alto saxophone solo entitled, Air for Alto, by Arthur Frackenpohl
- The entire Music Faculty performed on Summer Nights from Grease in a very suspenseful Musical reveal



CAMERATA Woodwind Quintet Visits YHS

The Western Illinois University Faculty CAMERATA Woodwind Quintet from Macomb, IL stopped at YHS on their annual fall tour of schools on Wednesday, October 15, 2014. The Quintet performed a brief concert of music written for woodwind quintet (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, french horn) and presented a clinic on music literature and ensemble playing to 11th period music students. The students demonstrated great demeanor and response to the presentation.

ILMEA HONORS

Each year, thousands of students throughout Illinois audition and compete for a spot in the Illinois Music Educators Association Honors Band, Orchestra, and Choir. The state of Illinois is divided into nine districts; Yorkville is in District IX. It is a tremendous musical accomplishment for students who are selected to perform in their District Level Honors Concert. Congratulations to all students who auditioned and those who were accepted.

ILMEA District IX Junior festival was on Saturday, November 8th. Students worked with guest conductors in rehearsal during the morning and afternoon and performed a concert that same day at 3:00pm at Metea Valley High School in Aurora, IL. The ensembles all sounded outstanding and the students had a great time performing with students from various parts of the state. The guest conductors for the festival were Robert Boyd (choir), Margene Pappas (band), and Greg Schwaegler (orchestra).

The District IX Illinois Music Educator's Association (ILMEA) held its annual Senior High Music Festival on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at East Aurora High School. Yorkville High School Music Department sent three students to the event. Participating students played very challenging music with other excellent musicians and were conducted by professional conductor/educators. This year's conductors were Mr. Stephen Pratt, (Professor of Music, Indiana University - Jacobs School of Music), Dr. Allan Dennis (Music Director, Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra), and Dr. Brad Holmes (Director of Choirs, Millikin University, Decatur, IL).



YMS ILMEA Choir Students (left to right): MaryGrace O'Connor, Destiny Vasquez, Courtney Hall, John Harker, Corey Mitchell, and Carter Shimp



YMS ILMEA Band/Orchestra Students (left to right): Jason Wilcox (clarinet), Katie Friel (clarinet), Zach Karpel (bassoon), Ryan Kummer (bass clarinet), Luke DeVol (violin), Riley Herbst (bassoon)



YHS ILMEA Band/Orchestra/Choir Students (left to right): May Priegel (violin), Bri Smith (alto), Michael Pansera (bass trombone).

*We've got chills,
they're multiplying...*



That's right, coming to you this April 10-12, 2014 in the YHS Fine Arts department is "GREASE!" the musical! We could not be more thrilled to present this fantastic theatrical opportunity to the students of Yorkville. Bridging the gap between a well-known, timeless classic from the generation of their parents and a very successful homecoming theme from this year, we look forward to facilitating a production that is truly a community experience.

It is our genuine hope that this production raises the recognition of and showcases the true, artistic talent that the students of Yorkville possess, both on and off stage.

What you can expect from the process:

- Constant communication between the production team, students and parents
- New and exciting fundraisers that involve the community and alleviate the cost of this large-scale production
- An audition "workshop" that encourages students who have and have not yet auditioned for a musical to come out and learn about what we are looking for in a musical audition. Come one and all! You can never be too prepared
- A collaborative cast community. Expect a lot of team building exercises throughout the rehearsal period. Musicals never come together because of one single person- they happen because of the family that is born from the process.

We hope you join our experience and sing along through the entire production process! More information regarding workshops and auditions to come to you before the winter break so that you may plan for second semester accordingly.

"You're the one that [we] want!"
-Joe Fitzpatrick
Director of Grease!

YHS Wind Ensemble Clinic with Dr. Van Oyen

Dr. Lawrence Van Oyen, Director of Bands, NorthCentral College, working with YHS Wind Ensemble. Dr. Van Oyen worked with the Wind Ensemble in preparation for their joint concert with the NorthCentral Winds which took place on Nov. 18th. (see page 2). Dr. Van Oyen was very complimentary of the Wind Ensemble and was not only impressed by their musicianship, but by their responsiveness to the suggestions and changes he was making. The clinic focused mainly on musical phrasing and re-defining the "function" or "purpose" of notes within a musical phrase.



2014 New Music Faculty



Nika Plattos graduated summa cum laude from Illinois State University in 2007 with her Bachelor of Music Education. While at ISU, she was a member of Madrigal Singers, Concert Choir, Secondary Dominance, and the Big Red Marching Machine. After graduating, she started her career

in Baton Rouge, Louisiana teaching K-5 general music. She soon returned to Illinois and spent the next six years teaching general music at McDole Elementary School and John Shields Elementary School in Kaneland CUSD #302. In Decem-

ber 2013, Miss Plattos received her Master of Arts in Special Education from Aurora University.

Outside of school, Miss Plattos is an active member of Stage Coach Players in DeKalb, where she serves as treasurer and often music directs their musicals. She teaches private piano and voice lessons to students through Avenue J Studios and is a fitness instructor at Synergy Kettlebell, both in North Aurora. In her spare time, she loves spending time with family and friends, reading great books, and planning her wedding with her wonderful fiancé!

Currently, Miss Plattos teaches general music at Bristol Grade School and Yorkville Grade School. As a 2003 graduate of Yorkville High School, she is thrilled to be giving back to the school community that played a big part in her childhood.



Chelsea Rhoades received her Bachelor of Music Education Degree summa cum laude from Millikin University in the spring of 2014. At Millikin, Ms. Rhoades was an active performer in the Millikin University Choir, as well as the vocal jazz ensembles, and a student-

formed a cappella group called Perfect Fifth.

Ms. Rhoades previously student taught at Oswego East High School, and graduated from Waubonsie Valley High School. She is so excited to be back home in the Southwest Suburbs. Currently, Ms. Rhoades direct the YHS choirs, teaches Introduction to Guitar, and Beginning Piano Keyboarding. She is a new resident to Yorkville, where she lives with her roommate, a third grade teacher at Bristol Bay Elementary. Ms. Rhoades is so honored to be a part of the Yorkville Community and join the wonderful music department.



Tom Shuman received his Bachelors of Music Education and Bachelors of Music Performance degrees from Northern Illinois University in the Spring of 2009. After completing his student teaching in Indian Prairie School District 204 he accepted a position working for their school district as

band director of their newly opened middle school, Fischer Middle School. During his three years in the district Mr. Shuman was involved in several extracurricular activities including: Wind Ensemble, solo and ensemble, coaching middle school football & basketball, 5th grade chorus, and 5th grade drum ensemble. Currently Mr. Shuman works as one of the band directors at ACES and YIS, working with both the 5th and 6th grade bands. In his free time, Mr. Shuman enjoys learning more about photography and anything regarding technology.

2014 New Music Faculty



Linda Duy is native to Yorkville and holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Morningside College. She has taught previously in Oxford Junction, IA and Earlville, IL. Mrs. Duy is also co-founder of the Yorkville Com-

munity Band which has performed during the Fourth of July celebrations for 22 years! She lives in Yorkville with her husband and daughter and enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Sara Pezel is currently the 5th and 6th grade orchestra director at Bristol Bay and Grande Reserve Elementary Schools. This is Ms. Pezel's first year teaching in public schools, and she is very excited to be teaching orchestra in the

Yorkville School District. She currently holds her bachelor's degree, cum laude, in Music Education from Northern Illinois University (2014). In her free time she plays violin in a bluegrass band, violin/guitar in a rock band, and loves to read.

A New Voice In Town

Mrs. Leigh Kiesewetter has joined the Yorkville Music Department! Mrs. Kiesewetter is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), judges vocal competitions all over the state and has previously taught at Metamora High School, Lions Township High School, Pontiac High School and Washington High School. This esteemed vocal coach is now providing technique lessons during the day at YHS! This allows the students to have a 20 minute lesson, within their choir class. There are still slots open for Varsity Choir, Treble Choir and Concert Choir lessons. If you or your student is interested in starting voice lessons with Mrs. Kiesewetter, please let Mr. Smith or Ms. Rhoades know.

Please join us to celebrate the talents of our Fine Arts students at Yorkville's fourth annual Fine Arts Festival open house on Saturday, March 14th from 9AM-4PM at Yorkville Middle School, 920 Prairie Crossing Drive, Yorkville, IL 60560.

This free event features the talents of Yorkville CUSD #115 students in music and art. Artwork will be on display throughout the school, and musical groups will be performing continuously throughout the day.

Additional parking will be located in the Yorkville Intermediate School and Circle Center Grade School parking lots. A shuttle bus will run every 15 minutes. For more information on the Fine Arts Festival please contact your child's music teacher.

PATRON LIST 2014 - 2015

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As a Thank You:

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- Receive 4 VIP seats to the annual Prism Concert & invitation to the VIP Reception
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