



HOME OF THE BLUE DEVILS

DAVENPORT CENTRAL

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DAVENPORT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, DAVENPORT, IOWA

CHS ORCHESTRA Newsletter

Central Symphony Plays MetroFest

"We're thrilled that Central is so willing to help with MetroFest," said Lori Potts, event organizer and choir director at North Scott High School. "It will add to our performance having a quality orchestra."

This last minute addition to the CHS Symphony Calendar was a welcome one. It caused a lot of scrambling around, but the opportunity to support our vocalists and those from around the QC area was both an honor and challenge.

Background: Each year, the high school choirs from Central, North, West, North Scott, Pleasant Valley, and Bettendorf gather to perform the vocal music selected for the All State Choir concert in November at the Iowa State University. This local event, called "Metrofest," is a great way for students to prepare for All State Vocal auditions that take place in mid October and for all students to learn some of the great vocal works composed by a variety of composers. In the past, this event was held at Bettendorf High School and a few selections were accompanied by the Bettendorf Orchestra.

This year, the event was held at North Scott High School. Central's Symphony Orchestra was asked to perform with the massed choirs for two selections, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "America the Beautiful." With the cooperation of Mr. Hatcher, Mr. Hanson, and selected members of the band, we scheduled three rehearsals during school time to prepare our parts for Metrofest.

Glowing comments from teachers and parents best described the reaction of everyone to the Central Orchestra and their participation in Metrofest. Here's a few comments...

"The (CHS) orchestra elevated the musical experience."

"Wow, Central has a fine orchestra."

"I've never heard a better accompaniment, not even the All-State orchestra."

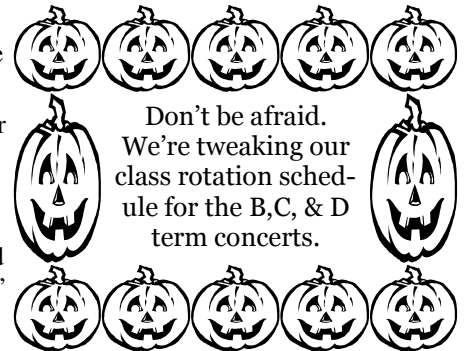
"Strings were in tune and the winds were exciting."

Orchestra Parents and Students: Guide to events, news, and other important stuff you need to know.

ALL-STATE RESULTS

Brian Higdon, Allison Stanger, and PJ Wiese braved the "Endless Day" of auditions at Fairfield. Enormous preparation went into their effort and we are very proud of them. It was a good experience, but no cigar this time. GOOD TRY!

REVIEWS OF FIRST CONCERT ON PAGE TWO



Don't be afraid. We're tweaking our class rotation schedule for the B,C, & D term concerts.

****FRUIT AND NUT MONEY DUE NOW****

\$ SENIORS LOOK AHEAD \$

As the year progresses, Seniors begin to look ahead to college. Now is the time to think about the financial opportunities that may await you if you take advantage of them.

First, some colleges and universities award scholarships to orchestra players even though they are not majoring in music. But, you have to list your orchestra experience on

your application and be aggressive in making contact with orchestra teachers at your prospective school

Second, there is a list of available scholarships at Central in the Counseling Center. It's worth your time to take a look.

Also, check the boards in and outside the Orchestra Room.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Musical "GODSPELL" | Nov. 1,2,3 |
| All-State Conference, Ames | Nov. 15-17 |
| Parent/Teach. Confer. | Nov. 28 |
| District MESSIAH Conc. | Dec. 4 |
| 2nd Ann. Scholarship Conc. | Dec. 12 |
| Winter Break Begins | Dec. 19 |
| School Resumes | Jan. 3 |

OUTSTANDING**FIRST Concert "EXCELLENT"**

After the last minute addition of MetroFest to the calendar, plans for the CHS opening concert, scheduled for October 17 could have been delayed.

"No, we'll be fine. I have complete confidence in the CHS Symphony string section. They can prepare for both the MetroFest and our own formal concert on the 17th," said director Fred Morden.

MetroFest, which asked CHS Symphony to accompany the massed choirs from the other high schools in our area required the preparation of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "American, The Beautiful" with full orchestra. In addition, our string section prepared for the standard repertoire music scheduled to be performed on Oct. 17th.

Cooperation and team work among the music faculty amid hectic schedules for the marching band, show choirs, and All State preparations for all three made the tricky addition of another performances work.

REVIEW

John Bernatz, DCSD Music Facilitator and longtime band director from Central was enthusiastic about our first concert. "Excellent," he said. "Simply outstanding for this time of year. A great start."

The first program of the year was a little scary because it took place so early, and the members were relatively new in each group. The Ninth Grade String Orchestra was made up of students from all over the QC area, not just our local JB Young and Sudlow Middle Schools. Last year's freshman joined the CHS Symphony for the first time since playing for graduation last June.

THE 9TH GRADE STRG. ORCH.

The Freshman Orchestra kicked off the concert with Bob Cerulli's "Faith's Waltz." Alternating between the front row and back players, students performed with good intonation, ensemble, but the tone was tentative as might be expected for a first performance.

"River Songs" demonstrated the sensitive dynamic range of the group with soft, muted tones for the "River" elements of the music contrasted with the solid presentation of the melodic lines.

Mr. Morden's "Bowing Etude" explored various bowing techniques within the context of an actual composition. This was a little rough going because of the newness of the technical demands and the difficulty of the music. Hopefully, we'll hear more of these classical bowing techniques in the future.

Finally, the Freshman String Orchestra concluded their portion of the program with Iowa Composer Tracey Rush's lush "Romance." Beautiful long bows, melodic line, and musical phrases made this performance outstanding for any 9th grade ensemble. The viola section was solid, performing arpeggiated figures under the violin dominated melody. Cello pizzicati and arco sections near the end were clearly defined and played with heart.

ONLYS

The "Orchestra Onlys," made up of string students in "only" orchestra without taking band or choir, featured movements of Mozart String Quartets.

The music of Mozart, while some of the best Classical music written, is difficult to play. It is transparent, exposing every player's performance with every note written.

The ONLYS were solid and together in their presentation of three movements of the masterful quartets of Mozart. Stylishly correct in both technical and musical aspects, the ONLYS made real music out of challenging ideas. The "Menuetto" revealed some difficult position shifting for the first violins, but their intonation and assertiveness as the dominant instrument of the quartet was clear and strong. Good spiccato playing in the violas and cellos provided a "Rock Solid" rhythmic base from which both 1st and 2nd violins could play with equal strength. The 2nds showed strength as they played demanding parts often as difficult as the 1sts. The "Fugue" was impressive. While most student ensembles fall apart during intricate counterpoint, this ensemble adjusted to slight variations in performance and tempo to hold the music together for an exciting conclusion to their part of the concert.

CHS SYMPHONY STRINGS

The growth and development of Central String program were obvious in the first few bars of Bach's Fugue No. XI. The good core string sound ignited the unison opening of this complex piece of contrapuntal writing. Each melodic, interweaving line was clear, intonation and tone color was well defined and played with intensity and enthusiasm.

Review continues...

Max Mayfield, cello, combined tonal strength with smooth bowing to bring Villa-Lobos's "Air" from BACHNIANAS BRASILEIRAS to life. A senior cellist and a member of the CHS Symphony for all four high school years, Max, who is also a successful CHS athlete, brought sensitivity and strength to his performance. The music, a combination of Bach imitation with a Brazilian flare, offered a challenge of sustained intensity and stretched intervals. Max played with good intonation and the haunting changes in dynamics and tone color to bring the soul of Villa-Lobos into the concert hall. The orchestra's quiet and respectful accompaniment allowed for a tender and introspective performance.

Harpist Christine Jensen joined the string section for Ravel's "Le jardin feerique." Concertmaster and violin soloist Brian Higdon displayed clean high position work and strong sound as the remainder of the strings played with clarity and good balance.

Movements of St. Paul's Suite, with soloist Brian Higdon and Kayleigh Orcutt (viola), were exciting and dynamically performed. The famous "Dargason" finale, combining "Greensleeves" with the fiddling jig, was thrilling as the orchestra held together by a thread, but held together nonetheless.

Congratulations string players. A solid and strong start to an exciting year of music making at Central High School. Keep it up.

REST OF THE YEAR

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|-----------------|--|
| Nov. 17 | ALL-STATE CONFERENCE |
| Dec. 4 | MESSIAH/HOLIDAY Concert at the Lyceum |
| Dec. 12 | 2 nd Annual Orch. College Scholarship Concert |
| Jan. 8 | 9 th Grade Orchestra/Choir Concert |
| Jan. 24, 26, 27 | Music Department VARIETY SHOW |
| March 4 | Orch./Choir Concert at Centennial Hall, Augustana |
| April 12 | IHSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival |
| May 2 | IHSMA Large Group Festival |
| May 20 | "Farewell" Concert |
| June 8 | Graduation |

SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT SET FOR DEC. 12

Each December, the CHS Orchestra presents a Scholarship Concert. The proceeds from this program are deposited into the Davenport Schools Foundation under "Central High School Orchestra College Scholarship Fund." With a formula that will maintain the fund for many years, a fraction of the balance is withdrawn and given as scholarships to graduating seniors who will major or minor in music in college. It is a way to "Pay Forward" and preserve music education in the future.

THEORY (Music Fundamentals) CLASS Available at Central

Planning on Majoring or Minor in music in college? READ CAREFULLY Almost all colleges require its entering freshman to take a placement test in music theory. If the student scores well, they enter the beginning level theory course. If the score is too low, they must take a remedial course which will, in many cases, delay their graduation by requiring an added year of college. Why the delay? Music Theory is a prerequisite course for many other music courses like Music History, Orchestration, Musical Form, etc.. Music Theory is also the largest group of credits you will earn in college. Many remedial courses offer no credit even though they may be required. If you have any questions, see Mr. Morden soon.

PRIVATE MUSIC TEACHERS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Michelle Nemmers | Violin, Viola | 355-5236 |
| Dortha DeWit | Violin, Viola | 359-7465 |
| Robert Swinney | Viola | 359-4265 |
| Ann Balderson | Cello | 309-793-5007 |
| Julie Winc | Cello | 762-2439 |
| Sara Tinsman | Bass | 332-0429 |
| Clint Grover | Bass Cell | 435-757-6822 |

These are just a few names.
Mr. Morden has a more complete list.

Kelly's (McDonald) Korner

You Know You're an Orchestra DORK When...

- You know the names of at least three summer music camps.
- You know Mozart's full name
- You get a copy of BMG's Encore Magazine twice a month
- You judge people's coolness by how well they play hoe-down
- You go nuts when you hear the school bell go off because you try to figure out what pitch it is

You're a Theory DORK When...

- You have devised your own tuning method.
- You keep a notebook of useful diminutions.
- You have composed variations on a theme by Anton Webern.
- You know the difference between a Courante and a Corrente
- You're fascinated by enharmonic spellings.

Comments?
mordenf@
davenportschools.org
At School.....
323-9900
Ext. 167

NEED A TEACHER?

Are private lessons required in order to participate in the CHS music program? Private lessons are a huge help in advancing students to higher levels of musicianship, but

they are not required to participate in the CHS music program.

But, the reality of learning to perform music is that a great deal of instrumental and vocal music requires the accumulation of skills, both physical and mental.

And, there is one indisputable fact about those students who sit at the front of their sections or are selected to sing solos, most all take private lessons. Private teachers bring more intense personal attention and motivation to young musicians. See Above for more info.

Parent Volunteers A Partnership For Success. No First-Class high school music program could do what they do without the support, devotion, and commitment of parents and the groups and leaders who head their effort. Instruments, equipment, travel, are just a few of the many items the CHS Band/Orchestra Parents Association provides our department. IF YOU are interested in insuring the level of support our instrumental department receives and experience our students enjoy, let us hear from you. It is a successful partnership for everyone. The Orchestra Representative to the B/O Association is Irlene Higdon. Irlene is a veteran Central music parent with two sons who are alumni and senior Brian. She also chairs the big "Fruit and Nut" sale that is so successful. Thank you Irlene!

For a COMPLETE, up to date, CHS MUSIC DEPARTMENT DOWNLOADABLE CALENDAR

www.dcbands.org

Click on "Downloads"

Click on "Revised Calendar"

WE ALL NEED TO FOLLOW THE RULES

HERE IS A QUICK REVIEW OF THE CHS MUSIC DEPARTMENT POLICY FOR ATTENDANCE.

"It's about WE not just Me."



CHICAGO SYMPHONY TRIP IN WORKS

GREAT NEWS:

Ever want a chance to have a symphony orchestra demonstrate the important aspects of the music they are playing? Well, here it is!

Chicago Symphony Lecture/Concert
Symphony Hall, Chicago

Repertoire: Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4
January 13, 2008

Here is a wonderful way to reveal Tchaikovsky's thinking and musical expression of personal conflict, anguish, hope, triumphant, and folk song inspiration with one of the greatest world-class orchestras as your guide. The first half of the program features a discussion and demonstration of the various aspects of Tchaikovsky's breathing taking Sym. No. 4. The second half of the program is a complete performance of the work.

Here's our working itinerary:

| | |
|---------|---|
| 10:00am | Charter Bus Departure from Central |
| 12:00 | Lunch at Oasis in Dekalb |
| 1:00 | Depart Oasis |
| 2:00 | Arrive Symphony Hall |
| 3:00 | Lecture demonstration 1st HALF 2nd HALF Sym. No. 4 Complete. |
| 5:00 | Board Charter bus for return trip |
| 6:30 | Dinner at Oasis in Dekalb |
| 8:30 | Arrive at Central |

The CSO will offer us ticket prices that range from \$15 in the nose-bleed section of the Gallery

\$20 in the upper balcony

\$30 in the lower balcony

\$45 on the orchestra floor

We're working on the bus fee now. More to come!

CHS MUSIC DEPARTMENT POLICY:

"Student attendance to all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Performances are viewed as major tests. A performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room. The level of concentration required in a public performance assists each student in developing an insight into his/her own level of performance. A performance is an important evaluative tool, allowing a comparison of the student's performance in relation to classroom objectives presented and with past performances. Absences from performances are only excused in the event of an extreme emergency, serious illness or hospitalization of the student, death in the family, religious holiday, or other reasons deemed excusable by the directors. Performances missed (excused only) will be made up through an agreement with the director. Failure to do so will result in the loss of one full letter grade."

The reasons for an excused absence are narrow and reflect the value we place on each individual's contribution and obligation to the group and the consequences that result from poor planning and/or indifference to the ensemble experience.

Why is attendance such a big deal in the CHS Music Depart.?

With the exception of music theory, ALL music classes at CHS are ENSEMBLE (group/team) experiences. Unlike other academic subjects that students take, such as math, English, etc. that depend only on the individual performance, music is a group activity where the group is evaluated by the collective ensemble performance of everyone together. Directors carefully choose the level, style, difficulty of the music by the number of students in the ensemble, what they play, their abilities, number of rehearsals scheduled, and the assumption that students will attend rehearsals and performances. When students are absent from a rehearsal or concert, the group/musical result and therefore the quality of the educational and aesthetic aspect of the experience is diminished for everyone. Every music student plays at Central. No one sits on the bench.

If you have questions about any music dept. policy see your director.