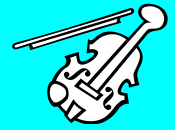


Strings & Things



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THANKS!



FOR YOUR CONTINUING
SUPPORT OF THE
DISTRICT 7 ORCHESTRA
PROGRAM!

Booster News



Tour de Strings

Please join us for the **2ND ANNUAL TOUR DE STRINGS** on Saturday, October 8!! This year's ride and walk will begin and end at **MINER PARK** in Glen Carbon (behind the public library). Like last year, we're offering a 10 mile ride or a 3 mile walk. Registration begins at 8:30am, and the ride begins at 9:30. After the ride, we'll play games, give out attendance prizes, and enjoy hot dogs from the grill. Please pre-register early! District 7 students will receive \$10 Annies gift cards for signing up five individuals for the ride at \$25 per person. For more information about Tour de Strings, ask your orchestra teacher or call Judy Kupsky at 656-7665.

EOB will be selling **HOLIDAY WREATHS AND SWAGS** again this year. Selling will take place between November 1 and November 12. Delivery of wreaths will take place Friday, December 2 from 6pm-9pm at EHS. For more information contact Caryn Mefford (gcmefford@aol.com).

EOB's various fundraisers, supported by **Scott Credit Union**, allow the Boosters to supplement the District 7 orchestra program. At its September meeting the EOB agreed to purchase **four new cellos** and **five new violins** for the District! Thanks to all parents and students for your continued involvement in the EOB and its support of the District 7 orchestra program!

CALLING ALL ORCHESTRA STUDENTS!!



We will once again participate in the **Edwardsville Halloween Parade** on Monday October 31st. This year's theme is **CARTOONS & COMICS**. Come help your orchestra shine by helping decorate the EOB float—our version of **DISNEY'S FANTASIA!** Float building will take place on Saturday 10/22 & 10/29 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at **Scott Credit Union**, 1100 Belt Line Road, Collinsville, Illinois.



Please contact Caryn Mefford (gcmefford@aol.com) or Theresa Fuesting (theresfuest@charter.net) for more information.

**COMING SOON TO A
WEBSITE NEAR YOU . . .**

EOB is in the process of developing a website which will contain District 7 orchestra news, information, dates and newsletters. The site should be ready soon. We will provide information on how to access the website soon.



**Find us on
Facebook!
Edwardsville
Orchestra Boosters**

If you have a string instrument that you would like to sell or if you are looking for a used string instrument, we would be happy to mention it in the EOB newsletter. E-mail Ellen Edmonds with information: (ellen@edmondslawoffice.com). Ms. Bates (Liberty orchestra teacher) recently had a lead on a used 3/4 size violin. If interested, contact Ms. Bates for more information.



News from Ms. McLaughlin-Heil regarding recent and upcoming EHS orchestra events:

- Bluegrass Club and Cello Club will be performing on Saturday, September 24 for "Family Fun Day"—a family event on Main Street in Edwardsville featuring performing groups, music, games, food and more.
- **DON'T MISS:** EHS will team up with the SIUE Orchestra, SIUE Suzuki Strings, the St. Louis Youth Symphony String Ensemble, and Charlene Clark, a soloist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, for a concert at EHS on October 13 to raise money for local orchestra scholarships.
- There are several upcoming "gigs" for which EHS students can volunteer to receive extra credit and points toward their letter, including an October 29 event in which the Community Service Chamber Orchestra will be playing for the Edwardsville Park District costume contest.
- Fiddleback's Victoria Brannan recently brought her friend, Grammy winning musician Matt Glaser, to visit EHS. Glaser has been the chair of the music department at Berklee College in Massachusetts, has published several string books, and is an expert in alternative string styles. Glaser was in town for the St. Louis Steel Guitar Festival.



Congrats to the Liberty Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Orchestra, which has been selected to perform at the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference in Peoria, Illinois on Friday, January 27, 2012 from 8:45-9:15 a.m. Liberty's excellent orchestra was chosen based on its recordings and written submissions. **Way to go Liberty!!!**

COMING UP: ALL DISTRICT AUDITIONS

All District auditions for middle school and high school will take place on **Monday, October 10** in Highland, Illinois. Check with your orchestra teachers regarding audition scales and pieces.

LISTENING OPPORTUNITIES



Listen to young musicians every Saturday night at 7pm on KWMU FM (90.7) during a show called **From the Top**. Every week host Christopher O'Riley interviews and then presents performances from the country's top young musicians. The interviews are candid and funny and show that even a world class musician is really just a kid like yours. Following **From the Top**, KWMU offers a live performance of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, beginning at 8pm. (Check out www.stlpublicradio.org, and www.fromthetop.org for more information.)

Please, tell us about your camps . . .



Feel free to contact the
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or questions:

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Micki Berry 656-9662
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We would love to provide District 7 students with in depth information about summer string camps. One of the best ways to do that is for those of you who attend string camps to share your information and experiences. So, if you have attended a string camp that you would recommend, please tell us about it so that we can share your knowledge and experiences with others.

Lincoln orchestra students Allison Mefford and Grace Thompson attended **BLUE LAKE FINE ARTS CAMP** in Michigan this summer, and shared the following information with us:

BLUE LAKE FINE ARTS CAMP is set in the heart of the Manistee National Forest in Michigan. Complete with rustic cabins and a beautiful outdoor amphitheatre, this 1,300 acre camp combines daily musical instruction with other fun outdoor summer activities. Students come from all around the country to practice their art and students have the option of selecting a minor course of interest in addition to their musical study. The teaching staff is comprised of Professional musicians along with Graduate Music Students. Blue Lake offers an international exchange program for returning campers.



Lincoln students
Ali Mefford and
Grace Thompson

Campers can expect 2-3 hour of rehearsal per day which culminates in a final performance at the end of the session. Grace and Ali were recipients of \$150 scholarships from Metro East String Association, which they applied toward their camp tuition. Of her camp experience Grace says "I really enjoyed it. It was a great way to spend my summer, and I learned a lot of new things. I really improved my violin

playing." Ali says "through Camp Blue Lake I found friends, happiness and a renewed love for the viola and music." For more information on Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp please visit BlueLakeFineArtsCamp.org

Focus on Strings

Last year *Strings & Things* featured a different District 7 orchestra teacher in each of the four issues. Since all of the teachers have now been featured, each of the four issues this year will feature a different orchestra instrument and recognize our high school seniors who play that instrument—starting with the violin . . .

The Violin

History of the Violin

The violin is believed to have originated in Italy in the early 1500s. It evolved from earlier stringed instruments including the *rebec*, the *lira da braccio*, and the *viol*. The first violins were made by Gasparo di Bertolotti da Salò and Andrea Amati. (Famous violin maker Antonio Stradivari was an apprentice to Andrea Amati's grandson.) Early violins had a neck that was shorter, thicker and less angled than today's violins; the fingerboard was shorter, and the bridge was flatter. Initially, violins were not very popular and were considered a musical instrument of "low



Fun Facts

(about some of our District 7 orchestra seniors—more to come in the next issue!)

- ◆ Weird places where some of our seniors have practiced their instruments:
 - Lauren Grant**—outside using a bush as a music stand
 - Josh Slaby**—in a tree house
 - Alina Gonzales**—in the shop dress room
- ◆ **Steven Slaby's** favorite childhood stuffed animal—"Ms. Bunny"
- ◆ As a kid, **Lauren Grant** wanted to be Pocahontas when she grew up.
- ◆ **Steven Slaby** wanted to be a Transformer.
- ◆ **Josh Slaby** plays guitar and loves to ski.
- ◆ **Alina Gonzales** can write with both hands.

status." However, their popularity and prestige began to increase in the 1600s. The first electric violins were produced around 1935. Acoustic violins are most commonly made of spruce for the belly, maple for the back and scroll, ebony for the fingerboard, and ebony, jacaranda or boxwood for the pegs and tailpiece. Electric violins are available in many different materials ranging from wood and metal to all acrylic.

Oldest Surviving Violin

The oldest confirmed violin still in existence, the "Charles IX," was made by Andrea Amati in Cremona, Italy in 1564.

Most Expensive Violin

Although people are probably most familiar with Stradivari violins which have sold for in excess of *two million dollars*, instruments made by Stradivari's rival Giuseppe Guarneri are considered to be even rarer. One Guarneri sold for almost *four million dollars* in 2008. Another Guarneri, the "Vieuxtemps Guarneri"—dubbed the Mona Lisa of violins, was recently offered for sale for the tidy sum of *eighteen million dollars!!*

Famous Violinists

Some famous violinists over the years include:

Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)
Franz Schubert (1808–1878)
Isaac Stern (1920–2001)
Itzhak Perlman (living—born 1945)
Joshua Bell (living—born 1967)

Itzhak Perlman and *Joshua Bell* are among the lucky violinists who have played the Vieuxtemps Guarneri, considered to be the most expensive musical instrument in the world. (See above. Video of Bell and others playing the Vieuxtemps Guarneri can be seen on the Internet.) As part of an experiment by Washington Post columnist Gene Weingarten, *Joshua Bell* donned a baseball cap and played for 45 minutes in a Washington, D.C. subway station. Of the 1,097 people who passed by, only seven stopped to listen. Only one recognized Bell. Bell collected \$52.17 in tips, including \$20 from the person who recognized him. Weingarten won a Pulitzer Prize for his article on the experiment. (Video of this performance is also available on the Internet.)

EHS orchestra student Tristan Voss, his mom (District 7 accompanist and EOB officer Sharon Voss), and family recently met *Joshua Bell* at a concert in New York City. →



Joshua Bell with EHS student Tristan Voss, Sharon Voss and Elliot Voss

Our Senior Violinists

Our EHS senior violinists this year are **Alina Gonzales**, **Emily Laurent**, and **Josh Slaby**. The boosters are very proud of your years of hard work and dedication!