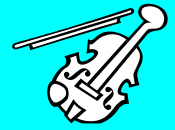


Strings & Things



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Booster News



The second annual EOB Tour de Strings bike/walk in October was a success. We had beautiful weather and a great turnout in Miner Park. Thanks again to **Scott Credit Union** for all the help in putting on this event. Looking forward to the third annual Tour de Strings next fall!



THANKS!



FOR YOUR CONTINUING
SUPPORT OF THE
DISTRICT 7 ORCHESTRA
PROGRAM!

The EOB Halloween float was a sight to see at Edwardsville's 2011 Halloween



Parade. We had a huge turnout of students wearing sorcerer hats and walking with the Fantasia-themed float pulled again by the folks at **Scott Credit Union**. Thanks! The best part: the hard work of the students, parents, and teachers

paid off—the EOB float won second place in the parade's youth group category. Pretty cool for just our second year in the parade!!

The EOB wishes to congratulate various scholarship recipients in the District 7 orchestra program. You may remember that in October the Lincoln School Alumni Association held a "Fall Festival" music benefit concert at the high school to help raise money for private lesson scholarships. Eight District 7 students were

OUR WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING . . .

orchestraboosters.com



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recipients of scholarships from that organization: **Paige Frick, Sheyenne Daugherty, Amy Terry, Kyndal Ward, Sonia Daniels, Jacob Burns, Lynde Hampton, and Linnea Turner.** The Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation also awarded three scholarships to District 7 high school students. **Emily Laurent** won the Senior Solo Award; **Brandon Ansbro** won the Summer Camp Scholarship; and **Lindsey Wolford** won the Private Lesson Scholarship. We're proud of these students for their hard work and achievements, and we wish to express our appreciation to the Lincoln School Alumni Association and the Greater Edwardsville Area Community Foundation for their support of these deserving students. If you would like to donate to either of these organizations, feel free to email us for details.

Congratulations to the many District 7 students selected to perform at the All District Festival in November in Carbondale, Illinois!! A special congratulations to the high school students who have also been selected to participate in the All State Festival in January: **Evie Kupsky, Emily Laurent, Kristen Schlueter, Andrew Serfas, Lauren Grant, Brandon Ansbro, Jacob Burns, Louisa Lecroy, and Samantha Greytak.**



Lincoln All District participants



We hope you all had an opportunity to attend the District 7 orchestra concerts this fall and winter. They were really wonderful!

The EOB recently completed its annual wreath and swag sale. We had our best sales ever this year which means that hundreds of beautiful and great-smelling fresh wreaths and swags are currently on display at homes all over town. One of our happy purchasers emailed us this photo of an EOB wreath which she personalized with her own decorative touches.



EOB continues to support the District 7 program through this and other fundraisers. In addition to numerous instruments purchased this school year, EOB

purchased additional uniforms for the high school's growing orchestra program, funded alterations for high school uniforms, and continues to fund activities and events for District 7's orchestras, including a recent high school orchestra bonfire at Mills Apple Farm. EOB will be paying the hotel expenses of the high school orchestra students attending the All State Festival. Thank you to all parents for your involvement in the Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters. A special thanks to Booster parents **Jeff and Susie Schaefer** who arranged for a \$500 EOB donation from Jeff's employer Newbold Dealer Group along with a referral program which will provide an additional \$200 to EOB for each car purchased through the referral program. Feel free to contact us if you would like more information.



EHS orchestra students recently enjoyed a visit from Justin Branum, the 2010 U.S. Grand Master Fiddler Champion. The students learned about different fiddling and jazz techniques as well

as how to compete in fiddle competitions.

Students at Liberty have been busy this fall. For a second year in a row they won the Liberty D.A.R.E. door decorating contest in the extracurricular category, and the 7th and 8th grade students are working hard to prepare for their upcoming performance this January at the Illinois Music Educators Association's All-State conference in Peoria. Liberty was selected to perform based on an application that included recordings from and information about the orchestra. They are scheduled to perform on Friday, January 27, 2012 from 8:45-9:15 a.m. Please come out and show your support.



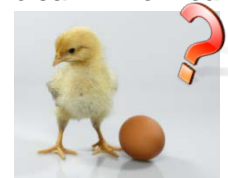
Focus on Strings



The Viola

History of the Viola

The viola and violin family developed around 1500. It is not clear **which came first—the violin or the viola?** Some argue that the viola must have come first since the term “viola” was initially used to describe all instruments in the violin family. The instrument we now know as the viola retained the original name, and the names of other instruments in the family derived from the word “viola.” (E.g., the Italian “violino” literally means diminutive or small viola.)



Andrea Amati was one of the first luthiers to make violas. The earliest violas came in various sizes. Over time, the smaller of the early violas were played more. As a result of extensive use, few of the smaller early violas survive whereas many of the



Fun Facts

(about some of our District 7 orchestra seniors!)

- ◆ Weird places where some of our seniors have practiced their instruments:
 - Emily Laurent**—in a stairwell
 - Jordan Thompson**—in the bathroom
 - Steven Slaby**—
“Really? Given the size of the instrument . . .”
- ◆ **Alina Gonzalez** scrapbooking is her hobby
- ◆ **Josh Slaby’s** favorite childhood stuffed animal: fox
- ◆ **Lauren Grant** hates “every single type of fruit”
- ◆ When she was a kid, **Jordan Thompson** wanted to be a Rockette
- ◆ **Emily Laurent** plays the ukulele
- ◆ **Steven Slaby’s** favorite food: tacos
- ◆ **Alina Gonzalez** loves all the “Family Guy” characters
- ◆ **Jordan Thompson** knows sign language
- ◆ **Emily Laurent** is a good whistler

larger ones still exist. Because some of these early, larger violas made by the masters still exist in their original state without alterations by others, these violas have historic importance in demonstrating the early practices in making string instruments.

Historically, string instruments were used to double the singers in a piece. Violas were typically given the middle voices of alto and tenor. In early orchestral music, the viola’s only role was harmony. The first published piece that specifically had a part for a viola was in 1597. Violas were used prior to that date, but the parts were not specifically assigned to violas and could be played by several different instruments. At first, the viola was regarded as clumsy to play and uncomfortable to write for and has been called the “Cinderella” of the string family. In the 20th century the viola increased in regard and is now featured as a solo instrument. The thanks for this rests in large part with English violist Lionel Tertis who actively promoted the viola throughout his life. He published books about the viola, including “*Cinderella no more*” and his autobiography “*My Viola and I*” which he wrote at age 97! Tertis was born in 1876, and he described his mission in life as “the establishment of the viola’s rights as a solo instrument.” He accomplished this mission through various means, including asking his composer friends to write solo music for him to play on viola.

The SIUE Suzuki program this year added an advanced viola group to its list of ensembles—the ***Viola Camerata***—which had its debut performance at the Suzuki winter ensembles concert in early December. Several District 7 students participate in Viola Camerata. The Viola Camerata along with the SIUE Suzuki Violin Tour Group are planning a performance tour of Ireland for June 2012.

Oldest/Most Expensive Viola

Although there appear to be no definitive answers regarding the oldest and most valuable violas, the oldest surviving viola we can find reference to is a 1561 viola by *Gasparo da Salò*. The consensus is that the most expensive viola would likely be a Stradivarius. Stradivari made very few violas, and of the ten that remain, only two are said to be in playable condition. The best know of these is the “Archinto” dating from 1696 and named for one of its owners, Count Archinto of Milan. On the Internet you can find video of Phillip Dukes playing the Archinto in a March 2011 recital at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Famous Violists

Among the great composers, several preferred to play the viola in ensembles, including Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Franz Schubert, Felix Mendelssohn, and Antonín Dvořák.

Our Senior Violists

Our EHS seniors this year who play viola are Jordan Thompson and Lauren Grant. These students are leaders for a younger and growing generation of violists, and the EOB would like to thank these seniors for their hard work and dedication over the years.