Strings & Things



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Linda, District 7 will miss you!!!

Lincoln orchestra teacher **Linda Bristol** is retiring. We are so sad to see her leave but happy for her that she will have some extra time for "R & R." Linda will still be teaching in the Suzuki Strings program at SIUE, as she has for years.

Why we love Linda—in the words of her students . . .







for your continuing support of the District 7 orchestra program!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



EOB's Tour de Strings has been set for October 6, 2012 in Miner Park. The annual event will feature a 10-mile bike ride and a 3-mile fun walk on our scenic bike trails. Our thanks, again, to **SCOTT CREDIT UNION** for its continued help and financial support in putting together this and many other events throughout the year.

EHS Orchestra teacher Angelina McLaughlin-Heil will be hosting the Edwardsville

High School String Summer Camp July 16-19, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The camp flyer and registration form are available on the EOB website: www.orchestraboosters.com.

Ms. McLaughlin-Heil will also be teaching at Alton Youth Symphony's summer camp, which takes place July 23-27 and is open to middle school aged orchestra and band students. Cost is \$30. Application and information can be found at altonyouthsymphony.org.

SIUE will be hosting its annual SIUE String Camp July 10-13, 2012. Visit the SIUE Suzuki website for more information and for the registration form: http://www.siue.edu/artsandsciences/music/suzuki/summer_camp_dates.shtml.

Feel free to contact the 2011-2012 EOB board members with information or questions:

President: Lisa Browner 307-5510 Thebrownz@charter.net

Vice president: Sharon Voss 288-3742 <u>TristanVos@aol.com</u>

Secretary/PR: Theresa Fuesting 288-0190 theresfuest@charter.net

Treasurer: Caryn Mefford 288-4090 gcmefford@aol.com

Fundraising Co-chairs:

Judy Kupsky 656-7665 judyjoo@charter.net & Micki Berry 656-9662

Micki Berry 656-9662 illinibucks@msn.com

Newsletter: Ellen Edmonds 656-9765 ellen@edmondslawoffice.com

HEY, ALL YOU PHOTOGRAPHERS . . .

We are looking for at least one person from each school to volunteer to take pictures at your school's orchestra events. We will use them for the newsletter and combine all of the photos for an end-of-the-year slide show. If you are interested, contact Lisa Browner, 307-5510 Thebrownz@charter.net

2011-2012 EOB RECAP

Thanks to all who helped out in any way with EOB this year. With your help, EOB has had a very productive year. This year, we . . .

- Provided financial assistance to help Liberty and EHS students attend All
 State orchestra
- Bought numerous new cellos and repaired even more for our orchestras
- Purchased trophies for awards ceremonies
- Helped fund post-concert receptions
- Provided discretionary funding to the teachers for use in the classroom
- Paid private instructors to come to EHS to help students prepare for solo and ensemble
- Altered and repaired EHS uniforms
- Funded the EHS orchestra fall bonfire
- Participated in the Halloween parade (with an award-winning float!)
- Got our website up and running

Focus on Strings—The Bass



Our website is up and running!

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History of the Bass

The bass (also known as the double bass, string bass, bass viol, upright bass, stand-up bass, contrabass, bass fiddle and doghouse bass) is the largest and lowest pitched string instrument of the violin family. It is usually six feet high and has four strings. Three-string basses were common during the 18th and 19th centuries and are still used today in Eastern European folk music. Until the 19th century, the only means of playing the bass was by using a bow that was curved out. Later, musicians began to pluck the strings and use bows similar to violin bows which were curved inwards. Basses are not only used in orchestras and chamber music, they are also widely used in jazz and popular music today.

The bass likely originated in Italian workshops around Brescia and Cremona in the 1500s. The basses of this period were made with three big strings to increase the instrument's power, volume and sound. Interest in bass violins waned, though, due to the expense involved in making them until the first half of the eighteenth century when makers from Milan succeeded in making double-basses which were more economical.

Oldest/Most Expensive Bass

The most highly sought and expensive basses came from Italy and were made by Giovanni Paolo Maggini, Gaspar da Salo, the Testore family (Carlo Antonio, Carlo Giuseppe, Gennaro, Giovanni, Paulo Antonio), Celestino Puolotti, and Matteo Gofriller. One of the oldest in existence is a 1597 Maggini owned by bassist Barry Lieberman.

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Famous Bass Violinists

Famous classical bassists include Domenico Dragonetti, Giovanni Bottesini, and Serge Alexandrovich Koussevitsky. Famous jazz double bassists from the 1940s and 50s include Jimmy Blanton, a member of the Duke Ellington band, Ray Brown, Wilbur Ware, and Paul Chambers, a member of the Miles Davis Quintet.



Our Senior Bass Players

Bummer—we didn't have any this year! Maybe next year . . .