

SPRING 2014

WALTON ORCHESTRA

Notes

Letter from the Orchestra Presidents

Happy Spring Walton Orchestra Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We are Tom and Chris Ronchetti, and we are honored to be the new Walton Raider Orchestra Guild Board (WROG) Presidents for the 2014-2015 School Year.

As a new term begins for WROG and our Board, we would like to start this letter by thanking all of our outstanding and, sadly, outgoing 2013-2014 Board Members. First, to Patti Morgan. We do not know a harder working, more committed person than she! Under her two year leadership, we created our new WROG Booster Club, witnessed the passage of SPLOST IV (of which Patti was a key Committee Member) giving us not only a new building, but finally the space and stage the Orchestra needs, and saw the highest attendance for an Orchestra concert ever! WOW! Second, to Grace Cover and Michele Brodsky, our Financial/Fundraising V.P.s. Under their lead, WROG saw the highest participation ever for our main fundraiser, the "Patron Program". This program consists of seeking and maintaining the sponsorship of local businesses who donate to our orchestra by purchasing ads for our concert programs. Third, to Janice Mathis, our Treasurer, who has kept our financial records in order as well as all of our accounting. I personally thank you as your time and attention to detail made ALL of our jobs easier! Fourth, to Barbara McLoughlin, our Concert Chairperson and official "Little Dynamo"! You can thank Barb for all of the advertising, organization, chaperone finding, pizza getting, Costco shopping, and the list goes on, that she did for every concert this past year! Ladies, on behalf of the WROG Board, parents and students, Thank you! You will be missed!

As we say good bye to our former members, this spring we welcome three new ones. Mr. Bill Aaron will serve as V.P. of Administration and ease into the role of President during the latter part of 2015. We also welcome, Mr. Doug Burton as our Board Treasurer, and Mrs. Jana McClendon as our Board Secretary. Bill, Doug and Jana are excited about their new roles, and we are so very fortunate to have them. If becoming a future WROG Board Member, Committee Chairperson or Volunteer sounds exciting to you, we invite you to talk with any one of our Board members or volunteers at any time to see where you can be of help. Not only will you enjoy yourself, but you will be actively involved in helping your child succeed in a program that is nationally recognized as one of the best. Please consider becoming part of our team. We would love to have you!

If you have not done so already, please mark your calendars for 6:30 pm, May 1st and come to the WHS Main Gym for our last concert of the year. The famous "Walton Dessert Concert" is where over 400 of our talented students from Walton, Dickerson and Dodgen come together for one night to "rock the house"! In addition to the great music and delicious desserts, this is the evening to turn in all required paperwork (notaries available), sign up for summer camp, and purchase a Walton Tervis Tumbler.

On a personal note, we cannot tell you how proud we are to serve on this Board. Ever since our son (to our great surprise) began playing the violin in 6th grade, we saw a change in him. A fairly quiet young man, he began to come out of his shell, and we saw great potential. When he entered Walton's program, under the direction of Dr. Holbrook and Mrs. Grimes, not only did that potential become talent, but he found a "home away from home", and as parents, we are so very thankful. We assume many of you have had the same experience. If you get a chance, please thank our directors for their endless commitment to your child's growth and success! They truly love what they do!

Finally, we want to thank all of you, the WHS Orchestra parents. Without you and your time, donations, suggestions, and especially your precious children, we would not have one of the best high school orchestras in the country. Tom and I look forward to meeting your wonderful students and sharing another great year full of spectacular performances with you!

With much gratitude,

Tom and Chris Ronchetti

CONTACT INFORMATION

Presidents

Chris and Tom Ronchetti
uftr34@msn.com

Vice President

Bill Aaron
billaaron@me.com

Treasurer

Doug Burton
dlburton4@bellsouth.net

Student Accounts

Shizuko Mori
shizukomori@kpmg.com

Secretary

Jana McClendon
sjmclendon@comcast.net

Camp Director

Troy Metcalf
metcalftr@yaho.com

Uniforms for Ladies

Sarah Fortier
sarah4tier@aol.com

Uniforms for Gentlemen

Maureen Lovell
mlovelldr@gmail.com

SAVE
THE
DATE

JULY 29-25 • 2014

Summer Camp at
Reinhart University



Notes from the Director

What a great year this has been! Our students have performed amazing repertoire and worked their hardest to improve their skills. We've played here at Walton, Kennesaw State University's Bailey Center and Lassiter's Concert Hall. The iConductor collaboration with the Walton Robotics Team and having Jay Christy of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra solo with the orchestra were memories that our students will never forget. Chamber Orchestra completed an amazing recording session of their Bach and Elgar pieces. Our classes have grown as musicians, and we are so proud. Auditions for the 2014-2015 school reflected so many students' hard work, and we eagerly look forward to the fall.

Orchestra Camp will be here before we know it. There are approximately six weeks worth of instruction during camp, and it's a great way for all students to progress their skills. Additionally, the friendships that are created through camp are so valuable, especially for our incoming freshman students. Please consider sending your student to camp...you won't regret it!

As we look forward to the summer, we would be remiss if we did not thank our outstanding parent board. Thank you for your year(s) of service! We have an incredible group of volunteers that are outgoing on our board. Thanks to the tireless effort of board president, Patti Morgan, we were able to form our own booster organization, Walton Raider Orchestra Guild (WROG). Patti has done so many little things that may go unnoticed by the general public, and we are so grateful for everything she has organized and coordinated. Grace Cover has dedicated so much time to the fundraising aspect of our booster organization with the help of Michele Brodsky. We made our budget thanks to their untiring efforts. The Patron Program, Tervis Sales, and soon Dessert Concert have been a labor of love, and we are so thankful to Grace and Michele. Janice Mathis has served as a treasurer, keeping the WROG books and paying the bills. Barb McLoughlin created new publicity for our concerts and helped increase our audience count. Her receptions in the fall were great ways for the entire orchestra family to mingle and celebrate our wonderful students. We are excited to welcome our new board members and committee members thank them in advance for their tireless effort.

We hope that more of you will become involved even if it's "just" helping with tuxedo fitting. With so many students in the orchestra program, any little bit of extra help enables us to be better teachers and give more time to your students.

Senior Spotlight

This year Walton Orchestra has a number of seniors planning to study some sort of music major in college. Here are just a few....



Mary Vavra

A talented viola player in Chamber Orchestra, Mary Vavra wants to study Music Education in college. Mary said she can't picture doing anything other than music for the rest of her life and she wants to inspire young musicians the way her teachers have constantly inspired her.

In addition the Walton Orchestra, Mary plays in the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra (GYSO). During her years in GYSO, Mary said she was encouraged to try different ways of playing, to learn more about her instrument and became incredibly passionate about her music. As an added bonus Mary made great friends through the years.

Like so many graduating seniors Mary said that her best memory of Orchestra would be Orchestra Camp during the summer before her freshman year. While Mary only knew 2 other people going to camp that year, and was a little anxious about the experience she said it was during that week that she officially became part of the Walton Orchestra Family! Midway through the week at camp 2 seniors approached Mary. The seniors invited Mary to eat lunch with them and welcome her to Walton. Mary learned that she would actually be in the same orchestra as these 2 seniors and would be able to ask them anything at all about beginning a freshman at Walton.

University of South Carolina, Ohio State and Florida State are Mary's top choices for colleges and those schools would all be very fortunate to have Mary enroll. Mary's advice to Freshman Orchestra students is to do what you love. If music is what you love, be patient with yourself and acknowledge all your improvements and milestones. Your musical talents will constantly improve during your years at Walton. Good luck and much success to Mary Vavra!



Ian Connolly

One of the senior cellist in Philharmonia Orchestra is Ian Connolly. Ian's lifelong love for music along with his time in orchestra at Walton has led him to want to study Music Education in college. Still in the running for college choices for Ian are University of Georgia, Furman

University and The University of South Carolina. Ms Mary Kenny, Ian's private teacher has had a very strong influence on Ian's music during the past 4 years.

Ian would tell you that his best memory of his four years in the Walton Orchestra program would be the Midwest Clinic trip to Chicago in December 2012. The Walton Symphony was talked about as one of the top High School Orchestra's in the country that year at Midwest and the 100+ students that made the trip not only performed perfectly, they had a great time sightseeing in Chicago. Experiencing great food in the city and even attending a Chicago Symphony Concert were some of the highlights of that trip.

In addition to playing in Philharmonia, Ian was also selected to the Georgia All Honor Orchestra, plays in the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra (GYSO) and serves as a Walton Orchestra Officer. Ian's most important advice to a rising freshman in Orchestra is, "Pay close attention to Doc and Ms Grimes!" We wish Ian the best of luck and much success during his college years.

Orchestra Camp By: Robert Morgan

Although Orchestra Camp doesn't sound like a fun time I guarantee that it is. Like you, when I first heard about Orchestra Camp I thought to myself, "There is no way that I'm going to that camp. It does not sound fun at all." But boy was I wrong as ever! Orchestra Camp has turned out to be one of the most fun activities I have done every summer for the past three years. I ended up making very close friends, eating an exorbitant amount of food, and furthering my playing skills; all while having a fantastic time.

Upon first going to Orchestra Camp I didn't know a whole lot of people; actually, I knew my roommate and 2 other people, and that was it. I thought I would just stay with my roommate the whole time. This ended up not being the case. As a freshman at Orchestra Camp, I ended up making some very close friends; even with upper classmen. Most of these people are still very close friends of mine.

The amount of food you can consume at Orchestra Camp is monstrous. You have three meals a day that are provided by the kind-hearted staff of Reinhardt University. At these meals you can get as much food as you want! And you can go back for seconds, thirds, fourths, or as many as your stomach desires. But that is not where the food and eating stops. Every night there are awesome (and some even healthy) snacks, along with mounds of Ramen that you can eat before you go to bed. But wait, maybe you don't like the snacks that are laid out at night? That is not a problem! Every day, as one of the many activities you can do, we go to the local Dollar General in order to buy, yes you guessed it; mainly food. I myself usually snag a 12 pack of Yoo-hoo and a few bags of Doritos.

Attending Orchestra Camp makes me a much better musician. At Orchestra Camp you are either in sectionals or we play together as an entire group. Sectionals are the time where your section works with a really experienced clinician. This time is very helpful because it gives you the opportunity for the clinician to help you get better as a player and for the section to sound better as a whole. Also in sectionals you get the opportunity to perform in a quartet or in an ensemble. Now, once you get into the large camp orchestra Dr. Holbrook directs us through pieces which vary from Vaughan Williams to Bach to pieces even written by Dr. Holbrook himself!

So if you have actually taken the time to read this whole article by a lowly bass player, I'll assume you might be interested in Orchestra Camp. Well, I can promise you it will not be a mistake. Most everybody I know who went to camp with a bit of uncertainty came out of camp saying that they can't wait for next year. I hope to see you there!



Camp photos by Polina Bahktina

Orchestra Camp By: Sarah Krakowski

Orchestra camp is the greatest thing since sliced bread. I have yet to meet someone who hasn't had fun. We play our instruments in a small orchestra, quartets, trios, choir, etc., sectionals, and also a large orchestra that includes everyone at camp. Not only that, we have "forced fun" (which is actually fun), a dance, and games! There is no shortage of craziness and laughs the whole week. I can definitely say it was the best week of my summer, and I cannot wait to go back!

Some people may be nervous about playing about seven hours a day. I won't lie, it's hard work getting ready for a concert in a week, but every moment is worth it. You learn great skills that will put you ahead for the upcoming year. One of the best things is the music. It isn't boring music. It's actually the complete opposite! Last year we played an arrangement of Radioactive by Image Dragons written by Dr. Holbrook. It sounded amazing, and it was so fun to play! At the concert everyone wears the camp T-shirt, and they are pretty cool designs. I still wear mine.

At camp we have "forced fun" where you get a chance to meet most people at camp. This is fantastic because the orchestra is like one big family. As a rising freshman it's helpful to meet some older kids, so you don't feel so lost when you start at Walton.



Contrary to what you may believe, the upperclassmen aren't mean. We also had a dance one night. Everyone danced the whole time! The only time people stopped was to get a drink of water. My favorite part was the dress up days. Every day is a different dress up day, and you definitely want to participate! Everyone dresses up, so don't be the awkward freshman not dressed up.

There is not one bad thing I could say about orchestra camp. You fine tune your playing skills, meet new people, and have fun! To make sure you meet someone new, every rising freshman at camp will be assigned a big brother or sister. They can answer any questions you have about orchestra or school in general. Orchestra camp gets you super excited for the year in orchestra. Once you go, you won't want to do anything else with your summer. I can guarantee you will be exhausted by the end of the week from having so much fun if you make the right decision and come to camp!

SAVE THE DATES!

Dessert Concert

Thursday • May 1, 2014

It is an amazing site to see over 300 talented high school musicians play together on this fun night in the Walton High School Main Gym. Please enter through front doors of Walton High School and proceed to the tables in the Theater foyer. Notaries and Board Members will be there to greet you and take all your registration paper work, camp registration, banquet payments, etc.

The Dessert Concert order form is in your SPRING PACKET and DUE NOT LATER than April 25th



Photo by Jackson Moody

Annual Orchestra Awards Banquet

Friday • May 9, 2014

at the Atlanta Country Club

(current Walton students only)

Ticket sales and table reservations will be taken in the Orchestra Room PRIOR to Dessert Concert. Tables that sign up and pay together will be given preference. All parents are encouraged to join us for this memorable evening. Very last day to buy tickets is May 1st at the Dessert Concert.

Bravo to these Outstanding Students!

Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra

Bailey Holbrook, Eri Kudo, Logan Lysaght, Robert Morgan, Hana Oberst, Ruolin Yang

Cobb County Honor Orchestra

Amy Liu	Sujay Sreenivasan	Eddy Chiao
Derek Kang	Raman Vineet	Julie Kim
Daniel Chao	Amber May	Abhita Moorthy
Ian Connolly	Connie Li	Eujin Jang
Dylan Kim	Samantha McClendon	Ayoung Song
Sarah Tsai	Abhi Nathan	Dong Yoon Jang
Nathan Wu	Katherine Ng	Sophia Foppa
Donian Chyong	Nicole Valerioti	Luke Ronchetti

Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra

Ian Connolly, Mary Vavra, Tori Walker, Vineet Raman, Abni Moorthy

Selected to Georgia All State Orchestra

Julie Kim, Eujin Jang, Keren Park, Sarah Tsai, Nathan Wu, Katherine Ng, Austin Wang, Hana Oberst, Eri Kudo, Mary Vavra, Jimin Park, Bailey Holbrook, Raymond Zhang, Logan Lysaght

Selected to Georgia Statewide Honors Orchestra

Grace Oberst, Samantha McClendon, Sujay Sreenivasan, Abhita Moorthy, Bethany Chou, Dylan Kim, Robert Morgan, Abigail Fortier, Donian Chyong, Connie Li, Ayoung Song

Welcome to the Youngest
Walton Orchestra Member
Charlie Grimes
Born September 24, 2013



WALTON ORCHESTRA

Please remember to visit
the orchestra
website:

www.waltonorchestra.org

Important Walton Orchestra Dates

April 29	TUESDAY: Tuxedo Returns to Orchestra Room – 7:30 to 8:30 am
May 1	THURSDAY: Dessert Concert at Walton High School
May 2	FRIDAY: All Concert Credits due to Ms. Grimes
May 9	FRIDAY: Orchestra Banquet at Atlanta Country Club 6-9pm
July 13	SUNDAY: Mandatory Orchestra Camp Meeting
July 19-24	Orchestra Camp