



Walton High School *Chamber Orchestra*

The Midwest Clinic
12.20.22

Our road to perform at the 2022 Midwest Clinic started two days before the pandemic lockdown. We were excited to be accepted in 2020, but the anxiety of the pandemic and the inevitable cancellation of our performance was disheartening. In 2021, we were re-invited, and were so excited. On the Friday before our Monday departure in December 2021, our ensemble became directly impacted by COVID-19. While everyone recovered from the illness, our spirits were dampened. During the dark times of January 2022, Stephen Lawrence and the GMEA Executive Committee provided us an outlet to perform at the GMEA, which provided much needed closure on this repertoire. After a masterclass with Eric Whitacre, our students became impassioned about reapplying for Midwest Clinic 2022 and worked very hard on the application material. We were so thankful that the Midwest Board allowed us to apply and even more grateful when we were accepted again. To the classes of 2020, 2021, and especially, 2022, thank you for sticking with us, for making music with us, and for helping us realize our dream to perform on the Midwest Clinic stage, finally.



Mark Arshavsky

Larry Cai

Claire Cameron

Leena Khan

Abhishek Kona

Abhinav Kona

Rachel Li

Denis Melnichenko

Maryn Rhea

Cynthia Ruan

Jonathan Shu

Yui Sugino

Asad Yamin

Emory University

John Hopkins University

University of Limerick

Georgia Institute of Technology

Rice University

Rice University

Georgia Institute of Technology

University of Georgia

George Washington University

Boston University

Purdue

Keio University

Stanford University

Economics and International Affairs

Applied Math and Public Health

Economics and Finance

Biology

Bioscience

Bioscience

Economics

Mathematics

Astrophysics

Hospitality Management

Computer Engineering

Economics

Bioengineering

Walton High School Orchestra

Walton's Orchestra has 380 students enrolled in six orchestra class and is the largest program in Cobb County and one of the largest in the country. The orchestra has been accepted to the prestigious, international Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic eight times: 2000 (string orchestra), 2005 (string orchestra), 2009 (first high school chamber music performance), 2012 (symphony orchestra), 2016 (chamber music), 2020 (chamber orchestra), 2021 (chamber orchestra), and 2022 (chamber orchestra). In 2014 and 2015, the orchestra program won the National Championship in the Mark of Excellence competition and was a Commended Winner in 2020. The Walton Chamber Orchestra has been invited to perform at the national ASTA conference three times (2009, 2012, 2018). In 2021, the Walton Orchestra Program performed at the state GMEA music conference for a record-breaking tenth time. The Walton orchestras have completed six European tours (2000, 2004, 2007, 2000, 2015, 2017).



Scan the code to learn more about
Walton Orchestra



Cello



Preston Bowen



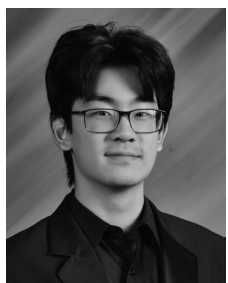
Caitlyn Chen



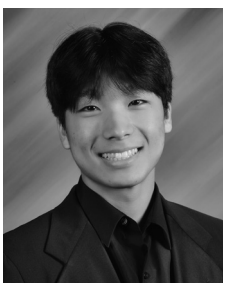
Michael Fong



Faith Huang



Zhikai Huang
Piano



Daniel Lee



Ethan Lo



William Sasadu

Bass



Sean Jiao



Collin Marbutt

Viola



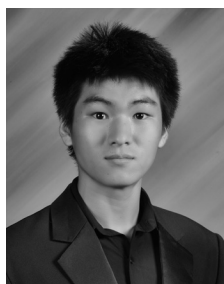
Jacob Chen



Kang Lee



Benjamin Priest



Jason Xu



George Young



Annie Zhao



Carolyn Ziolo

Harp



Ashley Rice

Clubs, Activities, and Awards

Pre-professional Dancer; Georgia Governor's Honors Program; Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society); Spanish Honor Society; Interact Club; Environment Club; Orchestra Leadership Team; Habitat for Humanity; Chess Club; Walton Robotics; Beta Club; Chinese Club; Student Government Association; Habitat for Humanity; Global Connections; Information Center Ambassador; National Honor Society; Senior Class President; Walton Air Rifle Team; Reflections winners in music, art, and dance; Science Olympiad; Walton and Georgia Junior Classical League; East Cobb Branch Alliance of Youth Leaders in the US; Tennis; Student Leadership Committee; Book Club; Walton Tennis; Rowing; Math Team; Academic Bowl; Mock Trial; National Art Honor Society; Drama Club; Robotics Club; Walton Chorus; Green Team; CrossFit; Walton Golf Team; Ultimate Frisbee Team; K-Pop Dance Club; Piano Competition Winners; and Homecoming Queen

Violin



Dina Arshavsky



Joanna Cai



Nikita Chacko



Christian Hable



Sunny Kim



Sophie Landrum



Angelina Lee



Eugene Li



Liana Liang



Ethan Liu
Piano



Evan Lohbrunner



Jameel Maayah



Zoe Mocklar



Elise Park



Ariana Syed



Ryan Tan



Isha Varughese



Grace Xie



Harry Yang



Stephen Zhu

Fun Facts

George Young (viola) and Elise Park (violin) are the only two students left who played on our original 2020 Midwest Clinic submission. They were freshmen.

5% Freshmen
21% Sophomores
45% Juniors
29% Seniors

- 4.25 average GPA
- 267 AP Classes taken
- 40% have been in Georgia All State Orchestra
- 68% have been in District Honor Orchestra
- 54% started playing in 6th grade at our feeder middle schools
- 95% take private lessons
- 4 National Merit Semi-finalists
- 4 National Merit Commendations
- 36% of this group played on our re-audition recording in early 2022.
- 7 students are involved with youth symphonies (Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra)

Program Notes

Neon: I was looking for something flashy to use as a traditional opener, when Sara happened across a YouTube recording of Neon by Jonathan Glawe and Pioneer High School Orchestra. I was thrilled to see this new work. Kevin Day is a talented, young composer, and this is great addition to the repertoire. -Perry

Spoon River: We are delighted to have John Palmer, our esteemed head band director, conducting on the concert. As most band directors, John loves Percy Grainger's music for band, and this arrangement seemed like a natural fit. -Perry

One Summer's Day: I am a fan of the anime of Studio Ghibli and the music of Joe Hisaishi in particular. Given how this music resonates with my students, I have always wanted to do an arrangement for string orchestra. Hal Leonard's new ArrangeMe service enabled me to do this legally and feature one of our award-winning seniors on piano. -Perry

Serenade for Strings in E Major, Op. 22: Last year before our COVID cancellation, we were planning to do the Finale. This year, I chose the Waltz movement. In many ways, this movement is harder to play, but as a former competitive ballroom dancer, I am not sure what I enjoy more, dancing or performing a waltz. I find this movement charming and irresistible. -Perry

Thundersnow! As a life-long weather-junkie and snow lover, I was giddy when I stumbled upon Katie O'Hara LaBrie's piece. There is so much excitement and even lightning bolt accents. I programmed this work with our younger students on our November concert, and they have been begging to play it again! -Sara

Overture in C Minor, D. 8: About a decade ago, I was driving my then high-school daughter to a youth symphony rehearsal. This piece was on NPR, and I had to pull over and listen when I realized I wasn't hearing any wind players! I'm always looking for new repertoire ideas for large string orchestra. This piece is rental-only, but worth the process. -Perry

Primula: Yukiko Nishimura's Primula embodies the essence of spring. I also programmed this piece with my younger orchestra this fall, and one student remarked "it just makes me happy." It's great to feature a young pianist and harpist too. -Sara

Sleep: Eric Whitacre was supposed to guest conduct A Boy and A Girl with us last December. Upon hearing of our cancelled performance, Eric offered to give a masterclass to our students via Zoom. It was the highlight in a very a dark season for our orchestra program. Upon our acceptance for this year, I reached out to Eric to see if he had any repertoire suggestions. He responded that he was working on string-only version of Sleep, but invited me to help with the editing process. I'm thrilled to have collaborated with Eric on this work. This version of Sleep is no longer a manuscript, but available with Hal Leonard. -Perry

Miniature Mambo: When I heard this piece for teaching low 2s versus high 2s, I knew we had to play it to bring attention to this great work for beginning orchestras. It's fun, catchy, and a great teaching piece! Plus, it gave Perry an opportunity to talk about ballroom dancing again. -Sara

Georgia on My Mind: We are so proud to represent the state of Georgia at the Midwest Clinic this year along with our friends at Northview High School Orchestra and Johns Creek High School Orchestra. Walton Orchestra was the first ever high school orchestra accepted from the state of Georgia in 2000. I was fortunate to perform as a Walton student in 2000, and Perry was accepted as the second orchestra from Georgia as the director of Chattahoochee High School in 2001. We are proud to continue this musical legacy with our sixth performance at the Midwest Clinic. -Sara

Concerto for Orchestra II. String: One of my good friends and mentors, Howard Hsu (Valdosta State University), suggested this piece for our orchestra. String has become a stand-alone piece separate from the full Concerto for Orchestra. I must be honest--you'll feel like you have a tiger by the tail working on this piece, but we enjoy playing it. We hope you enjoyed our performance today. -Perry

From the Composer: Jennifer Higdon is one of America's most acclaimed figures in contemporary classical music, receiving the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her Violin Concerto, a 2010 Grammy for her Percussion Concerto, a 2018 Grammy for her Viola Concerto and, most recently, a 2020 Grammy for her Harp Concerto. Higdon's first opera, Cold Mountain, won the International Opera Award for Best World Premiere and the opera recording was nominated for 2 Grammy awards. In 2018, Higdon received the prestigious Nemmers Prize from Northwestern University which is awarded to contemporary classical composers of exceptional achievement who have significantly influenced the field of composition. Higdon enjoys several hundred performances a year of her works and her works have been recorded on more than seventy CD's. Her music is published exclusively by Lawdon Press.

Program

Title	Composer/Arranger	Publisher/Distributor	Year	Grade
Neon	Kevin Day	Murphy Music Press	2022	6
Spoon River	Percy Grainger/Michael Story	Belwin/Alfred	2021	2
<i>John Palmer, Band Director, Walton High School</i>				
One Summer's Day	Joe Hisaishi/Perry Holbrook	ArrangeMe/Hal Leonard	2022	3
<i>Ethan Liu, piano</i>				
Serenade for Strings in E Major, Op. 22 II. Tempo di valse	Antonin Dvořák	Boosey & Hawkes/Hal Leonard	1875	6
Thundersnow!	Katie O'Hara LaBrie	Excelcia Music Publishing	2022	2
Overture in C Minor, D. 8	Franz Schubert	Edition Peters/Alfred	1948	6
Primula	Yukiko Nishimura	Carl Fisher	2015	2
Sleep	Eric Whitacre	Manuscript		5
Miniature Mambo	Doug Spata	Wingert Jones Publications	2022	1
Georgia on My Mind	Hoagy Carmichael/Blake Neely	Hal Leonard	2000	3
Concerto for Orchestra II. String	Jennifer Higdon	Lawdon Press	2002	6



Conductors



Perry Holbrook ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Holbrook has taught at Walton High School since 2001. Since his arrival, orchestra enrollment has continued to increase from 130 to just shy of 400 string students. His groups have received eight invitations to perform at The Midwest Clinic (2001, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2022), have received three invitations to perform at the ASTA National Conference (2009, 2012, 2018), and have performed seven times at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference (2001, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2016, 2021). Dr. Holbrook's groups have also traveled and performed internationally, participating in four European concert tours (2004, 2007, 2015, 2018). String quartets (2009, 2010) from Walton High School have also performed in Spain (Salamanca).

Active as a guest conductor and clinician, Dr. Holbrook was a clinician for the 2021 ASTA National Orchestra Festival. Conducting engagements include the Alabama All-State Orchestra (2018); the Sewanee Summer Music Festival (2011, 2012, 2014, 2015); and the Orchestra America Summer Symposium (2006, 2007). He has guest conducted honor groups in Texas, South Carolina, and Georgia. Dr. Holbrook has presented clinics at the Midwest Clinic (2006, 2016); the ASTA National Conference (2004, 2009); the Georgia Music Educators Convention (2006, 2010, 2013); and the Texas Music Educators Convention (2005). In 2007, he was the featured clinician at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention, presenting a series of five clinics. In addition to teaching orchestra, Dr. Holbrook teaches AP Music Theory. He was named the S.T.A.R. teacher of Walton High School in 2004.

Several original compositions of Dr. Holbrook are being performed around the country. His composition Someday has been performed by the Kentucky Music Educators All-State Orchestra, the South Carolina Music Educators All State Orchestra and at the Indiana Music Educators State Convention. Recently, the Dodgen Middle School Chamber Orchestra placed first at the ASTA National Orchestra Festival performing this composition. He is proud to announce that Someday and his newest work, Never Summer Mountain, will be published by Excelcia Publishing in April 2023.

Perry Holbrook holds the Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, the Masters of Music degree from Arizona State University, and the Bachelor of Music degree from Wichita State University. He received his teaching credentials from the University of Georgia. Dr. Holbrook lives in Atlanta, Georgia. His daughter Bailey is a young, aspiring professional cellist who recently performed with the Chicago Civic Orchestra. In his free time, he can usually be found outdoors hiking and spending time with Susan Rogers, his fiancée of three years.



Sara Grimes EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sara Grimes has been the Assistant/Executive Director of Orchestras at Walton High School in Marietta, Georgia since 2010. Since 2018, she has been the Fine Arts Department Chair. As a graduate of Walton, she is proud to be teaching at her alma mater. Mrs. Grimes' prior teaching experiences include Barber Middle School in Cobb County and West Laboratory Elementary in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Additionally, she was the graduate teaching assistant at the University of Miami and taught undergraduate string techniques.

Additionally, Mrs. Grimes serves on the Orchestra Standing Committee for GMEA, District 12 Orchestra LGPE coordinator, and coordinator for the 11/12 GMEA All-State Full Orchestra. She is Vice-President elect for GMEA over Performance Evaluations. She will be presenting

at the 2023 GMEA Conference a session about assessments and assignments for orchestra. Formerly, Mrs. Grimes was the District 12 GMEA Orchestra Chair from 2019-2022. She was accepted to present a session entitled "Strategies for Teaching Students Not in Your Top Orchestra" at The Midwest Clinic in 2020. Previously, she presented sessions at the Georgia Music Educators Association Conference in 2020, The Midwest Clinic in 2015, Florida Music Educators Association Conference in 2009, and presided over sessions at American String Teacher Association conferences in 2008 and 2009. Mrs. Grimes has previously conducted at the Midwest Clinic with Walton High School in 2012 and 2016 and performed as a student with Walton in 2000.

Sara Grimes holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of South Carolina and Master of Music in Music Education from the University of Miami with cello as her primary instrument. She and her husband, William, a middle school band director, live in Marietta, Georgia with their third grader, Charlie and preschooler, Teddy. In her free time, she is an ambassador for Inspire East Cobb Fitness & Wellness Studio and enjoys reading.

Guest Conductor



John Palmer GUEST CONDUCTOR

John Palmer has been in the Walton High School Band Director cluster since 1999, directing the band at Dickerson Middle School for 17 years, and at Walton since 2016. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Furman University, a Master of Music Education degree from Louisiana State University, and an Education Specialist degree from the University of Georgia. Prior to coming to Cobb County he taught for three years at South Effingham Middle and High Schools in Guyton, Georgia.

Under Mr. Palmer's direction, the Dickerson Middle School Band was invited to perform at the Music for All Southeastern Regional Concert Band Festival (2015), the Music for All National Concert Band Festival (2010, 2014), the Georgia Music Educators Association Annual Convention (2006, 2016), and the University of Georgia Middle School Band Festival (2002, 2009, and 2013). Since Mr. Palmer's arrival at Walton, the Wind Symphony has been invited to perform at the Music for All Southeastern Regional Concert Festival (2020) the GMEA In-Service Conference (2021 virtual, 2022), and the University of Georgia January High School Band Festival (2023).

Mr. Palmer has served as an adjudicator for GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluations, as a guest conductor for several GMEA Honor Bands and collegiate band clinics, served on the committee to revise the Georgia Performance Standards in 2017, and is a current member of the GMEA Advocacy Committee. Mr. Palmer's professional associations include Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the Georgia Music Educators Association, the National Band Association, Phi Kappa Lambda, the National Association for Music Education, Kappa Delta Phi, the Georgia Association of Educators, and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators. He has received eight Citations of Excellence from the National Band Association, was elected to Phi Beta Mu in 2008, and most recently inducted into the John Philip Sousa Legion of Honor in December 2021.

Outside of band, Mr. Palmer is a vocal advocate for public education and for teachers and state employees. He lives in Marietta with his wife, Elaine, and their two children, Rebecca and Jack.



Thank you to our Middle School Directors



Jeffrey Chen and Ashley Culley
Dodgen Middle School



Tricia Hardy and Jacob Bitinas
Dickerson Middle School

Walton High School

Walton High School is a neighborhood, public, four-year, comprehensive high school with a strong college-preparatory program. It is located in eastern Cobb County, twenty miles northwest of downtown Atlanta. Opened in 1975, Walton currently enrolls 2700 students. Over 98% of Walton's graduates attend post-secondary institutions. Walton High School has been named a National School of Excellence twice, first in 1984 and most recently in 2007. In 1998 Walton became Cobb County's first Conversion Charter High School. Walton's reputation for excellence has been publicized nationwide in U.S. News & World Report, which has listed Walton as one of the top 100 high schools in the nation on multiple occasions and consistently ranks Walton in the top 4 high schools in Georgia. Additionally, in the January 18, 1999, issue of U.S. News & World Report, Walton was one of six featured schools identified from among 96 "Outstanding American High Schools."

Walton strives to offer many opportunities for students to grow and learn inside and out of the classroom. Walton students have been afforded unique opportunities for international study, enriching their classroom experiences. The International Spanish Academy allows students to take coursework in Spanish leading to a dual diploma from the Spain's Ministry of Education and their traditional diploma. Athletic teams have been very successful through the years. Since the school's opening, Walton teams have won 273 region and 79 state championships in multiple sports and have won the GADA State Director's Cup for Class 7-A eight times. Students also have the option to participate in one of the many award-winning extra-curricular activities such as Graphic Arts, Robotics, Science Olympiad, Math Team, Academic Bowl, Model UN, and Latin Team, to name just a few.

The fine arts programs are an integral part of the Walton community. Over half of the students at Walton are enrolled in a fine arts class or participate in a fine arts after-school activity. The art and drama programs have received numerous accolades and awards. The band, chorus, and orchestra programs consistently receive the highest ratings at festivals and competitions and have performed at the state and national level.



Scan the code to
learn more about
Walton High School



Perry Holbrook, Orchestra | John Palmer, Band
Wes Stoner, Chorus | Chris Johns, Band
Kathleen Petka, Art | Alison Mann, Chorus
Sara Grimes, Orchestra

Thank You

Walton High School

Richard Tischler, Principal
Pamela LaVangie, Assistant Principal-Fine Arts
Julie Brown, Assistant Principal
Dr. Chris Jones, Assistant Principal
Dr. Jeff Milton, Assistant Principal
Stephanie Santoro, Assistant Principal
Dr. Chris Williams, Assistant Principal-Athletic Director

Cobb County School District Administration

Chris Ragsdale, Superintendent
Dr. Christopher Ferrell, Instrumental Music Supervisor
Dr. Catherine Mallanda, Chief Academic Officer

Cobb County Board of Education

Randy Scamihorn, Chairman
David Banks, Vice Chairman
Jaha Howard
Leroy Tre' Hutchins
David Chastain
Charisse Davis
Brad Wheeler

Walton Raider Orchestra Guild Board

President: Chariti Young
Treasurer: Olivia Marbutt
Secretary: Heather Peck
Volunteer Coordinator: Li Chen

Trip Chaperones

Olivia Marbutt
Chariti Young
William Grimes, Medical
Jonathan Young, Cargo Van Driver

Percussion

William Grimes
Sara Grimes
Evan Lohbrunner
Kevin Boyle

Clinicians

Jenny Choi, Walton Class of 2018
Bailey Holbrook, Walton Class of 2015
Mimi Fan, Walton Class of 2018
Logan Lysaght, Walton Class of 2015
Will Fulkerson, Walton Class of 2013
Howard Shu, Valdosta State University
Scott Laird, North Carolina School for Math and Science
Wes Stoner, Walton Chorus Director
Alison Mann, Walton Chorus Director
Mike Back, Walton Band Director Emeritus
Sheeya Igyer, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
SoChun, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
Jay Christie, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Walton Fine Art Department

Kathleen Petka, Art
John Palmer, Band
Chris Johns, Band
Wes Stoner, Chorus
Alison Mann, Chorus
Joymichelle Green, Drama
Susan Griffin, Drama

Program

Specialized Printing

