



Notes from WSMA

Wyoming School Music Association

Vol 2 No 4

January 12

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Teacher Profiles: Enjoy our teachers' wonderful stories of their passion for their subject!

At the age of 6, **Primary Teacher** Victoria Hurd discovered that she could play piano by ear. Though the piano lessons ceased after two years (her teacher said she didn't know what to do with her), she never stopped playing or making music. By the age of 17, Victoria had been a church organist, played first-chair trumpet, played drums for her high school jazz & dixieland band, was her high school's drum major and marching band coordinator, and was director of the pep band. With her innate zest for performance, Victoria embarked on a professional piano/keyboard career which included playing everything from rock n' roll to being a member of the house band at the renowned Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, FL. In time, Victoria realized she wanted to share her musical talent through teaching, so she became a non-traditional student at the University of Toledo, graduating summa cum laude with a B.Ed in Music, piano major. Her musical teaching career has been as diverse as her performing one, with experience in Minnesota (choir, 7-12); at Seven Hills Doherty School in Cincinnati (K-5); and starting in 2002, four years abroad, three years at the Canadian Academy in Kobe, Japan, (3-12), and one year at the International School of Luxembourg (K-12). She loves her position at Wyoming because she adores her students, and has a great passion for turning children into young instrumentalists and performers, while imparting her love of music to them. She teaches K-3 at Vermont, K & 1 at Elm, and one half-day K at Hilltop. Victoria states, "Young minds are capable of remarkable things, musically and otherwise, and I do everything I can to bring forth from my students their unexposed talents, revealing to them the joy of music and the performing arts."

Middle School Teacher Lynn Herndon Denney has been teaching 4th-8th grade strings in Wyoming City for the past 9 years. Her previous public school instruction occurred in the Middletown, Northmont and

Findlay Public Schools. Lynn received her Degrees at Bowling Green State University and Miami University, both on scholarship. As a student and teacher of the Suzuki Method, Lynn has also started her own Suzuki Program and has worked for the Wyoming String Academy in Cincinnati. Lynn has conducted OMEA District Honor Orchestras and Judged Regional Orchestra auditions. Her vocal and string abilities have taken her internationally, performing in Europe, Canada, Japan and Taiwan, as an orchestral player and as a soloist. She performs locally and is a member of the Hamilton-Fairfield Symphony Orchestra and past member of the Lima Symphony and Middletown Symphony Orchestra. Lynn spends time in special ed/human relationship workshops and is also an active parent/advocate for special needs children. She lives in Fairfield Twp. with her husband, John and two boys, Nicholas and Ian. She loves teaching strings to such eager students and has felt very welcomed by the Wyoming community.

First person, from High School Band teacher Chris DeWitt: In fourth grade I chose the trombone simply because my mom liked the sound, and from there music was always a part of my life. In high school (Medina, Ohio) I played in every conceivable musical ensemble they offered, but where I really learned to play was in the Medina Community Band playing summer Sousa concerts in the park. College was a similar story, playing in more music ensembles than even the busiest music majors. Special memories include my first college marching performance in front of 98 thousand people at the Buffalo Bills home opener, uptown Oxford jazz band concerts, orchestra concerts with guest musicians, and being on the actual stage performing for the grand opening of the Aronoff Center for the Arts in downtown Cincinnati (I'm actually in the famous J. Miles Wolf Aronoff photo...fourth trombone from the left). For the last 16 years, I've taught Computer Science, Web Design, Mathematics, and Music at Wyoming. Each day I enjoy the challenges each subject brings, but I always look forward to the end of the day where I get to unwind with the band kids. Over my time here I've filled in playing trombone with the concert band, marching band, jazz band, and have lost count of how many musicals. My job at Wyoming is the perfect fit for me. Where else can I do all of the things I love every day?

News from the Music Teachers

Congratulations to all the Wyoming music students chosen this year for outside music groups, Honor groups, and Overture award participation! It is great to have our small school district so well represented. (and special thanks to the Parents who make this so possible) Here are the students who have not previously been recognized in the newsletter:

Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra: Carl Anderson, Anna Guan, Stephen Yau

CYSO Concert Orchestra: Benny Friedman, Adam Hoffman, Julia Kane, Sam Raptis, Olivia Richardson, Rise Sakaguchi

All-State Orchestra: Anna Guan, Stephen Yau

Junior High Honor Orchestra: Matthew Bonner, Yu-Hsuan Cheng, Austin Warmbier, Isabella Renggli, Claire Taylor, Muriel Boling, Patrick Kennedy, Maddie Henke, Jaye Johnson, Isabelle Judge, and Gene Waldron.

OMEA District 14 Honor Band – Andy Dickson, Chloe Hallstead, Ava Jones

OMEA District 14 Junior High Honor Band - Quinn Steifbold

OMEA District 14 Honor Jazz Band – Sarah Sawin

OMEA District 14 Junior High Honor Jazz Band – Elizabeth Anderson, Ethan Kahn

Overture Award Contestants

Strings – Carl Anderson, Anna Guan

Classical Voice – Clara Merten

Musical Theater – Lauren Everett, Lauren Kent

Drama – Emily Sullivan, Max Meyers

Dance – Kristine Campbell

Primary – The Fourth Grade Choir, made up of 13 skilled and enthusiastic members, did 4 concerts in one day, Thursday December 15! In addition, they performed for the Wyoming School Board. They are planning a year end concert as well. The 3rd grade is beginning to rehearse for their year-end performance in May, which will have an African Theme.

Still Time to Join WSMA Now for the Year

Remember, over 1/3 of WSMA's revenues come from membership dues. The number of memberships has a direct bearing on what we are able to do for our music program and for our children. We are pleased to report that our membership revenues are up by about 25% this year !!

Please join WSMA now and take care of it for the 2011-12 school year. The membership form is attached here, or even better: JOIN ONLINE!

Our website, www.wyomingmusic.org, now gives you the opportunity to pay your membership using PayPal or your credit card. Nothing could be more convenient – log on and try it! While you're on the website check out our great gallery of student musical performer photos. Have some photos of your own you would like to see on there? Email them to our Webmaster, penny.shore@gmail.com. Please include the names of the student(s) pictured, and the event and date where the photo was taken. Names will be used for WSMA information only – we will never publish your child's name online on our website.

Welcome to new Board Volunteer

We are pleased to welcome our new Board Choir Parent Rep, JoAnn Fridy. She joins Parent Reps, Mary Judge for Strings and Amy Elliott for Primary. Both Mary and Amy have attended Board meetings this year and provided valuable parent feedback.

Progressive Ensemble Dinner – A Smashing Success!

By the time you read this, we will have had a wonderful success with our signature WSMA event, the Progressive Ensemble Dinner. It was held on Saturday evening, January 21, in the Burns Avenue neighborhood near Worthington Avenue. Special thanks to Ascension and Holy Trinity Church where the evening began and ended. The event featured a French menu created by Niki Pappas and Patty Hipsley. What a great way to warm up the winter! Many thanks to our student performers The Wyoming Fiddling Cowboys (directed by Ms. Lynn Denney) and the Wyoming Pulse (directed by Ms. Laura Coomer) and the following individual performers:

Baritone Tom Dickson, Oboist Ava Jones, Flutist Chloe Halstead, Trombonist Sarah Sawin; pianist Sam Raptis

Violinists Stephen Yau, and Anna Guan; Harpist Sarah McRae

Guitarists/Vocalists Lilly Bacon, Harrison Belew, Linden Eldredge, and Max Meyers

Vocalists Lauren Everett, Lauren Kent, Clara Merten, and Jainie Winter (it was Jainie's 4th year with us)

Electric Violinist Mark Wood returns to WHS Friday February 3

Mark Wood will return to Wyoming High School to teach classes with Strings students, culminating in a concert on February 3. Anyone who was lucky enough to see last year's concert will recall how he thoroughly engaged the students with his teaching and musical skills. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and staff, available at the door, or please contact Laura Coomer (coomerl@wyomingcityschools.org) or Lynn Denney (denneyl@wyomingcityschools.org) for tickets.

Disney World Tour – February 16-20

Best wishes to the High School Choir and Strings groups on their performing trip to Disney World over Presidents' Day weekend. Please attend their preview concert on Tuesday February 14.

LaRosa's Buddy Card Sales to benefit WSMA – March 4-16

Once again, Middle Schoolers will sell LaRosa's Buddy Card Sales to benefit WSMA. The cards will be available March 4-16. Please find your favorite Middle Schooler and offer to buy a card. The musical group that sells the most cards gets a pizza party as a reward.

Saengerfest Rehearsals and Concert – change from the school calendar

Wyoming's annual Saengerfest concert brings together adults from the community to sing with school groups (and they will do a few numbers themselves, as well). Rehearsals are run by Choir Director Brian Potts and will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7 PM beginning February 7 through March 20. The concert will be held Thursday March 22 at 7:30 PM in the Pendery Center. The repertoire will include the Kyrie from Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass. If you haven't been using that voice except in the shower, here's your opportunity! Please consider singing with us, basses and tenors especially needed. Contact Mr. Potts, pottsb@wyomingcityschools.org, for more information.

2012 World Choir Games

Cincinnati will play host to the 2012 World Choir Games downtown July 4-14, www.2012worldchoirgames.com. The Wyoming Presbyterian Church choir is participating and looking for more singers to join. Contact Bill Seale, director, for more information about singing. <http://pcwyoming.org/about-pcw/staff>.

Upcoming Concerts

- Tuesday February 14 – Disney Concert, Grade 9-12 String and Vocal, Pendery Center, 7:30 PM
- Wednesday February 29 – Middle School Choir Concert, Fay Auditorium, 7 PM

Next Meeting – Monday March 12, 2012, 6:30 PM, High School Instrumental Room

All are invited and welcome!