

# Moon Area Music Department

Volume 2, Issue 2  
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## Upcoming Concerts

- **March 6**  
MIOSM Concert
- **May 1**  
7th Grade Instrumental
- **May 3**  
6th Grade Instrumental
- **May 7**  
HS Small Ensemble
- **May 8**  
6th Grade Choral
- **May 9**  
Brooks & McCormick
- **May 10**  
Allard
- **May 14**  
HS/MS Instrumental
- **May 15**  
7th Grade Choral
- **May 16**  
HS Choral
- **May 17**  
8th Grade Choral
- **May 21**  
HS Instrumental #2
- **May 22**  
Bon Meade & Hyde

## Music In Our Schools Concert - Special Guest!

This year Moon Area's annual District-Wide Music in Our Schools Month Concert is March 6<sup>th</sup> at the High School. March is National Music in Our School Month, sponsored by the National Association for Music Education, and the Music Department celebrates every year with a showcase of ensembles from each building in the district.

This year the Music Department is pleased to announce a very rare opportunity for our elementary choral students. A Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist, Ms. Kim Nazarian, will be offering a workshop to our elementary choirs and will also perform with the stu-

dents at the March 6<sup>th</sup> concert. She makes her home in Pittsburgh but travels extensively with the group New York Voices. You can check out the group at [www.newyorkvoices.com](http://www.newyorkvoices.com).

Ms. Nazarian works as a recording artist, private voice teacher, offers jazz education workshops and teaches at Bowling Green University. Our students will have an opportunity to expand their work with swing/jazz style by attending a workshop with her at the high school and will then perform with her at the MIOSM Concert.

Chorus students from all 5 buildings will have an incredi-

ble experience performing together with a Grammy Award-winning artist. The selections are a swing and a samba piece that were arranged for elementary choir by Ms. Nazarian's husband, Grammy winning arranger Jay Ashby.

We are thrilled to be able to provide the elementary chorus students at the Moon Area School District this unique performance opportunity. The experience promises a real treat for all in attendance!

## Recorder Karate...Going For The Gold!

Third grade students at Moon are "busy at work" learning how to play the recorder in their music classes.

The recorder is part of Moon's third grade music curriculum that enforces music literacy, proper technique, and the responsibility of playing and practicing a musical instrument.

Moon's recorder curriculum is also referred to as "Recorder Karate". During this unit, students complete various technical exercises and a series of eleven songs that progressively challenge their note

reading, music symbol reading, rhythm, form, tonality, and ensemble playing skills.

Students receive a different colored belt, which is placed on the end of their recorder, for successfully performing each song. The belts give students a sense of accomplishment and also motivate them to continue to work hard and become dedicated to a musical instrument.

This unit is then followed up by being introduced to the four instrument families. By the end of third grade, students are prepared, both mu-

sically and developmentally, to begin playing an instrument.

Students are eligible to play select band or orchestra instruments at the beginning of fourth grade.



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## News From Elementary Band

### ***Brooks Students Perform Musical***

The Brooks 3-4-5 students will present "Willy Wonka Kids" on Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 PM in the middle school auditorium. Over 100 students are involved with this production.

In the famous words of Andy Williams, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." The Elementary Band students filled the Moon Area Elementary Schools, and hopefully your homes, with the resounding joy of the holiday season. Their concerts and enthusiasm to learn songs of the season to play for family and friends was astounding! They never cease to amaze me with their excitement to share their musical ability with everyone! Hope you had a restful, healthy holiday filled with the Joy of Music!

The students are now continuing to work on the basics of their instruments. Songs, taken from their lesson material, like Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star and Theme from the New World Symphony should be ready to come into your homes for the Sunday afternoon concerts with family and friends. Please encourage your children to play their lesson material for the family. This exposure develops

student's confidence levels which helps them in performance situations.

Let me share a story with you about a student and their interesting way of practicing and playing. One warm spring morning around 7:30 AM, my wife and I were on our way to work. As we pulled out of the garage my wife heard a trumpet sound....scales....and a melody. As we pulled to the corner where the elementary students stood waiting for the bus, Greg, a fourth grade student at our local elementary school, was playing his trumpet for the children at the bus stop. As we looked around, chuckling to ourselves, we saw our neighbors, Mr. Diehl, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, and Mrs. Harper all sitting on their porches in bathrobes, sweat pants, and assorted other morning attire, drinking coffee and listening to Greg's morning concert. We waved to the audience and Mrs. Harper shouted, "It gets better as the

week goes on!" As we soon found out, this was a common occurrence with Greg. He gave morning and we later found out, afternoon concerts to anyone that would listen at the bus stop.

After attending, West Virginia University, Greg is now a college music professor in Indiana. When we see him, we still laugh at his ability to attract an audience. Although we certainly do not encourage students to play their instruments at the bus stop or on the bus, this is just another reason to experience the joy of students playing an instrument! They can turn any situation into their favor!

Please continue to encourage your students to practice their lesson material everyday, -- definitely not at the bus stop. A mere 20 minutes of daily practice will make all the difference in their playing ability

## High School Music Groups Tour Elementary Schools

On December 16, 2011, members of the high school choir, band, and orchestra traveled to the elementary schools to share their love of music.

Members of the Flute Choir, Brass Choir, Chamber Ensemble,

and Honors String Orchestra, performed for the elementary students in 4 buildings.

The elementary students had the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful performance and also learn about the many opportu-

nities for them to participate in the Moon Music Department!

Each school really enjoyed all of the music and the special sing-a-long at the end of the performance.

## Middle School Touring Orchestra Is In Full Swing!

The 2012 Touring Orchestra has begun its preparation for the remainder of the school year. The Middle School Touring Orchestra is made up of select 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who meet once a week after school.

The Touring Orchestra plays at numerous events for the holidays as well as the Music in our Schools Month Concert and grade level concerts throughout the year.

Students will also take a trip to their "elementary Alma Maters" at the end of the year! The ele-

mentary tour has become a great motivator and recruiting tool throughout the district. Stay tuned for upcoming dates for all the Touring Orchestra concert performances.

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## Moon Area Students Accepted Into Honors Ensembles!

Congratulations to the following Moon Area Music Students who were selected to represent Moon in their respective ensembles:

**Honors Choir** - Ryan Becker, Nate Copeland, Alex Cords, Samy Hough, Zach Houston, Lauren Hudnall, Hayden Keefer, Matt Keefer, Joe Karl, Josh Karl, Cole McMichael, Natalie Plakosh, Sarah Pinter, Saket Rajprohat, David Ree, Forrest Salamida, Taylor Schauer, Sam Stucky, Josh Szklinski, Kelsey Walsh

**District Chorus** - Nathan Copeland, Alex Cords, Samy Hough, Zack Houston, Hayden Keefer, Forrest Salamida, Sam Stucky

**District Orchestra** - Danielle Muise, Kristen Snizek, Alex Talkowski, Adam Snizek

**Jr. High District Orchestra** - Elisabeth DeNardo and Katie Nan

**Region Band** - Eric Homol, Adam Snizek

**Western Allegheny County Area Honors Band** - Julia Michelbrink, Cassidy Shipley, Rachel Rabeneck, Hannah Bartus, Roman Rajm, Luke Campayno, Josh Butler, Justin Frankeny, Sarah McGregor, Nick Cap, Max Klauscher, Ashley Braxton, Ashley Emrich, Josh Karl, Zak Kernick, Ryan Finley, Craig Gill, John Von Stein, Connor Moran, Alex Deem, Nick Giralico, Meghanne Gallagher, Eric Homol, Joe Karl, Stuart Frick, Eric Metzler, Kristofer Davis, Nick Seyler, Alex Talkowski

**Jr. High District Band** - Danny Finley, Rachel Boward, Logan Radcliff, Billy Leeman

## Moon Music Groups Spread Cheer To The Community

Many of our groups had the opportunity to perform in various venues throughout the month of December to spread holiday cheer.

The 5 elementary choirs had the opportunity to perform with

the High School Chamber Ensemble at the PPG Wintergarden.

At the middle school, the Girls Chamber Choir visited the US Steel Building, while the Touring Orchestra and Concert

Choir performed at the airport.

High school students performed at Barnes & Noble, St. Stephens, pancake breakfasts, Sewickley's light up night, and the elementary schools.

## Moon Band Back-to-Back Champions

On Saturday, October 29, the Moon Area High School Marching Band concluded its 2011 Competition season by being crowned the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association (PIMBA) class 4A (AAAA) Champions. The Band represented the Moon Area School District in an outstanding manner to which the people in the community as well as the Tri-state area have come to expect.

The marching band traveled to Norwin High School, where overnight they received over 3" of snow, covering the entire

stadium. Officials delayed the show by one hour and forty-five minutes with hopes to clear the stadium. This placed the MAHS Band on at 10:00 PM.

Work crews were not able to clear the stadium by the delayed start time, thus moving entire championship show to Norwin Band's practice facility. Temperatures raised to the mid 30's into the evening, creating a blinding fog on the marching surface and surrounding areas.

The MAHS Band still pressed on and was awarded the Championship plaque with a score of

89.58, the highest score the band has received in the championship show. The Band was also awarded with the High Music Award and High General Effect award, earning the highest score in the category of General Effect and Music.

Moon Area earned the third highest score in the show regardless of class with 19 bands performing. This marks the fifth year Moon Area has been competing in PIMBA and the second time it has been awarded first place. The band won the AAAA title in 2010.