

Welcome to

August 2007

Lafayette choir

401 Reed Lane • Lexington, KY 40503 • (859) 381-3492 • www.LafayetteChoir.org

An orientation for new students and parents to the Lafayette Choir

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Singers and Parents:

We would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations on becoming a part of what we believe to be the finest choral program in the state! We are thrilled you have chosen to be a part of these groups. There are many facets, activities and opportunities in the choral department and this brochure is an attempt to help you become oriented to the choir.

Know your choir: The most important thing is to **know your choir!** There are six choirs in the Lafayette Choral department all with different schedules, activities and often attire. See page 2 for information about choirs.

Communication: Communication is the key to a smooth year. We always make announcements in class, post important information on the board, and most often pass out printed info in class. To ensure that this information makes it home – we also email this information. Another great resource for parents and students is the choir website. www.lafayettechoir.org. It has lots of information and is changing constantly. Pay particular attention to the calendar available there!

Communication is a two way street. We will always do our best to keep you informed, but please do not hesitate to contact us when questions or concerns arise. (Be sure to check the choral department handbook for absence policies.)

Handbook: There are two documents that will make this year go smoothly for parents and students. This newsletter gives the basics. The second is the Choral Department Handbook. This Handbook serves as a syllabus and contains academic information that is important to your success. It will be passed out on the first day of class but is also available online: www.lafayettechoir.org/handbook.html

It is going to be an exceptional year! And again, we welcome you into the great tradition of singing at Lafayette. We have no doubt that you will make tremendous memories and great friends here! We look forward to working with you this year!

Ryan Marsh

Laura Gabbard

Contact Info

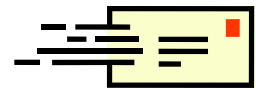
859-381-3492 – Choir office

www.lafayettechoir.org

**ryan.marsh@
lafayette.kyschools.us**

**laura.gabbard@
lafayette.kyschools.us**

**hlamb@
lafayettechoir.org**



You have MAIL!

E-MAIL is the primary means of communications for the Choral Department. Newsletters, notices of performances and events, schedule changes, etc. will be sent via e-mail. Please make sure you complete this section on the Participation Form (or online).

If your e-mail address changes, please contact our database coordinator (Kathryne Watkins, kwatkins@insightbb.com) with your new address.

This is very important to us. Please make sure we have your email address!



Ensembles

With nearly 200 students in six different choirs plus SCAPA Voice, there are a lot of things going on and lots to keep track of. Knowing which choir you are in will simplify things significantly. Ensembles are usually set in the Spring and changes will usually not be made after classes begin.

Men's and Women's Chorus – These choruses are designed primarily for beginning and intermediate choral instruction. They will provide an understanding of the fundamentals of proper vocal techniques, choral techniques, and music theory (as it applies to selected pieces.) Special attention will be given to individual vocal development through small ensembles and solo work. Students also will be prepared for future membership in Lafayette's advanced choirs. These choirs do not require an audition for enrollment.

The **Men's choir** is directed by Mr. Marsh. Highlights of the year include UK Male Chorus Day, concerts throughout the year, contest and performing at LHS athletic events.

The **Women's Choir** is directed by Ms. Gabbard and assisted by Mr. Marsh. Highlights of the year include KMEA Festival Contest. The Women's Choir Festival in February, Bluegrass Choral Music Festival and concerts throughout the year.

Lafayette Singers – The Lafayette Singers tradition exemplifies the quality of the outstanding choral music that has become a part of the history of Lafayette Senior High School. "Singers" is a performance-oriented class geared to expose students to a wide variety of choral literature, ranging from the various historical styles through rehearsal and performance. Students will be given the opportunity to learn proper vocal/choral techniques, breathing skills, sight-reading skills, and basic musicianship (theory and history). Performances will take place throughout the school year and students will be given opportunities to participate individually, as well as in the choral ensemble. Singers is open to students by audition.

Lafayette Chorale – The Lafayette Chorale serves as the advanced vocal ensemble of the Choral department at Lafayette. Chorale is a performance-oriented class geared to expose students to the highest quality and variety in choral literature, ranging from the various historical styles through rehearsal and performance. Students will be given the opportunity to learn proper vocal/choral techniques, breathing skills, sight-reading skills, and basic musicianship (theory and history). Performances will take place throughout the school year and students will be given opportunities to participate individually, as well as in the choral ensemble. Chorale is open to students by audition only. Chorale is a weighted grade course. With this comes the added expectation of ALWAYS rehearsing at an exceptional level and working hard each and every day.

Madrigal Singers – This is a chamber ensemble, which is open to advanced vocal students (usually grades 11&12). Students in this ensemble will study and perform music from virtually all stylistic and historic periods and they will learn advanced vocal/choral techniques, sight-reading and basic musicianship (theory and history).

Swing Choir – This is an ensemble of about 15 vocal music students who explore the vocal jazz style. Various repertoires is studied and performed from the great jazz standards of the jazz eras. Ear training, improvisation, and advanced harmonies are emphasized in this vocal group.

SCAPA Voice – Vocal majors are enrolled in either Singers or Chorale for scheduling purposes. If you are an incoming freshmen, you will be in Singers. SCAPA majors participate in the Choir Gala, private lessons, recitals, and solo and ensemble, in addition to all of the activities of the choir you are enrolled in.

How to Move Up in the Choirs: Each choir is a preparation for entrance into the next chorus level. Our goal is to prepare each student for successful advancement in the choirs. Auditions are held in the Spring for the following school year. Each student singing in a choir is required to audition as part of the participation grade for that semester. The auditions are based largely upon sight-singing and musicianship skills taught throughout the school year. For more info or: www.lafayettechoir.org/auditions.html

ANNUAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Stay tuned for more information to come about all of these events.

Descriptions and info of these events and others can be found on the choir website www.lafayettechoir.org/events.html

Mastering Musicianship Lessons (M2): This is a great opportunity for students to take private voice lessons after school for a reduced rate. The cost to students is \$100 for 10 lessons during a semester. Look for more information on this program. Registration is in the Fall.

UK Bluegrass Choral Music Festival: This is an extra singing opportunity open to all LHS Choir students and is sponsored by the University of Kentucky Choral Department held at the UK Singletary Ctr. Nearly 500 Singers from across the state join for two days of rehearsal and a performance. Sign up in August for the event on **September 21 and 22.**

Gala and Silent Auction: This is the opening concert event for the concert season! All are welcome. Performers include: Singers, Chorale, Madrigals, Swing Choirs and SCAPA Vocal Majors.

Fall Concert: The Men's and Women's choirs perform in concert.

Winter Concerts: The Swing Choir, and Men and Women's Choirs perform their winter concert in Beeler auditorium on Lafayette's Campus. Singers, Madrigals and Chorale hold their concert at an area church or Singletary center.

Lafayette Choral Invitational: This event takes place in January. 7th and 8th grades from Lafayette's feeder schools are invited to work with the choirs at Lafayette. All Lafayette Choir Students are required to attend.

Women's Choir Festival: This Festival is a new event for the 07-08 school year. The LHS Women's Choir will join with several other schools in the Central Kentucky Area for a festival concert in February. This promises to be a fun day of singing and performing.

UK Male Chorus Day: This is open to all Men in the LHS Choirs. (It is required for the LHS Men's Choir). It takes place in January at the UK Singletary Center.

Solo and Ensemble Contest: This contest is held at Scott County High School (in Late February or March) for soloists and small ensembles. These are usually prepared with Ms. Gabbard or Mr. Marsh outside of the school day. The student sings their solo or ensemble piece for an adjudicator. Sign-ups are in early January.

KMEA Festival Assessment: All choirs perform at Festival Assessment in March for comments and rating.

Spring Chorus Banquet: Celebrate the successes of the year at our annual choral banquet in early May.

Ice-Cream Concert: All choirs will perform at the Ice-Cream concert in the spring.

**** Important Parent Meeting ** -- Tuesday, August 21st at 7:00 pm**

There will be a parent meeting on Aug 21 in the Choir Room for all choir parents. We will cover concert attire, fundraising, and other important items for the year. There will also be an opportunity to meet and talk with our Directors, Mr. Marsh and Ms. Gabbard as well as members from the Chorus Booster Association. **Please make plans to attend.**

CONCERT ATTIRE

Attire for Women's and Men's Chorus varies for each concert. Sometimes this will include the Chorus T-shirt that is issued at the beginning of the school year and jeans, other times it will be more formal attire. Usually black pants or skirt, colored shirt or blouse, or white top. Students are responsible for providing this attire.

Tuxedos & formal black dresses are provided only for students enrolled in Madrigals, Singers, and Chorale.





Vocal Music Fees

www.lafayettechoir.org/fees.html



Fees:

Chorus fees are an unfortunate necessity. They are, however, extremely inexpensive when compared to the cost associated with most other school-related extra-curricular activity your student might choose. Fees include: choir T-shirt (used for performances), folder, music, pencil, transportation, participation fees in area-wide contests and festivals, etc.

Beginning Choir Fees • \$50/year (Women's, Men's Choir)
(Option to pay in two \$25 semester payments)

Advanced Choir Fees • \$80/year (Singers, Chorale, Madrigals, Swing)
(Option to pay in two \$40 semester payments)
(One could not purchase a choir tuxedo or dress for the cost of the annual chorus fees!)

Meet the Directors:



Ryan Marsh is a native of Floyd Knobs, Indiana. Ryan attended the University of Louisville School of Music from 1997 to 2003 where he earned the Bachelor of Music Education degree in Choral Music, Piano and Voice, and the Master of Music Performance Degree in Choral Conducting.

Ryan has an interest international choral music and has attended and sung in international choral competitions. He is active as an adjudicator for Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) contests and festivals. Ryan is a staff member of the Kentucky Ambassadors of Music European program and represents the Central

Kentucky Region. He is also the Lexington District All-State Chorus Co-Chair and KMEA State Choral Chair-Elect.

Mr. Marsh is proud to direct the Lafayette Chorale, Singers, Madrigals, and Men's Chorus. He is assistant director for the Lafayette Women's Choir. He also teaches AP Music Theory. He is married to Tiffany who is the choral director at Western Hills High School in Frankfort. They live in Midway.



Laura Gabbard is a native of Mt. Sterling, KY where she graduated from [Montgomery County High School](#). She credits her involvement in the music programs of the Montgomery County Public Schools with the beginnings of her musical passion and ultimately, her career.

Ms. Gabbard is a graduate of [Morehead State University](#) where she completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. As an undergraduate, she received her Bachelor of Music Education degree as a piano major on the choral/vocal education track of study. She also received the Master of Music degree while studying music education and choral conducting. Ms. Gabbard recently completed Level II training in the Kodaly philosophy of music literacy and education. She began her teaching career in 2002 at Southern Middle School in Fayette County where she was responsible for general music classes, grades 6-8, as well as the 6th, 7th and 8th grade choirs. She has also had a private piano and voice studio since 1996. For many years, Ms. Gabbard has served as an accompanist for various choirs, soloists (both vocal and instrumental), and musical productions. She also serves as a church musician both as a pianist as well as a vocalist.

Your FEES and Fundraising provides:

Chorus T-shirts
Folders
Pencils
Music purchase
Student consumables
Attire repair, cleaning, and replacement
Classroom supplies
Classroom equipment
Risers, and maintenance
Posture Chairs,
Music stands
Audio/video equipment
Folder cabinets
Performance space rental
Program printing
Festival/Contest Fees
KMEA registration fees
All-State Expenses
Transportation costs to contests and festivals
Instructional software
Instructional materials
Instructional videos and audio recordings
Library storage
Office support
Office supplies
Office equipment
Accompanist fees
Guest clinician expenses
Supplemental instruction
All-State adjudicators
Postage
Student incentives
Awards
Electronic Consumables (CD's, Tapes, DVD's)
Piano Tunings
Musical instruments
Chaperone expenses
Substitute teachers for when directors are chaperoning All-State, or other festivals.
Recordings of concerts.

AND MORE.....



Fundraising 2007-2008 Details

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a necessary part of any school music organization. Operating expenses for groups such as ours far exceed the dollars supplied by FCPS to the choral program. In order for the department to remain vital and offering quality experiences to our students, fundraiser participation is a necessity for each student. Money raised through fund-raising and fees are used for many purposes (seen and unseen) over the course of a school year. (See Newsletter Pg. 4)

The Choral Department and Boosters work hard to keep student fees low and offset those low fees with fundraising efforts. Please keep in mind all of the often “unseen, behind the scenes” expenses when considering your level of commitment to fundraising. Your help is a necessity to continue this outstanding program, therefore, **EACH STUDENT IS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VARIOUS FUNDRAISERS THAT THE CHORAL DEPARTMENT SPONSORS EACH YEAR or give an In-lieu-of Donation.**

IN-LIEU-OF or OPT-OUT CONTRIBUTIONS

This year, the booster board will again offer an “In-lieu-of” fundraising possibility for those who may be overburdened with several organizations to fund raise for or for those who would simply prefer not to sell items. The “In-lieu-of” program is intended to allow folks to still contribute to the organization allowing us to meet our fund-raising goals, but perhaps avoid selling items.

If this sounds like the right choice for you, Lafayette Chorus Boosters are suggesting a yearly In-lieu-of contribution of \$75 (\$25 for each major sales fundraiser). This in-lieu-of takes the place of your student participating in three major fund-raising initiatives for the choir. These three sales include: **Cookie Dough**, **Coupon Books**, and **Candy Sales**. Those taking part in the In-Lieu-Of program will not qualify for fundraising credits. In-lieu-of Donations to the Lafayette Booster organization are Tax-Deductible.

This year’s planned fundraisers include the following:

Sponsorship and Patron Program ads. (September '07)

Gala and Silent Auction (October '07)

*Cookie Dough (Fall '07)

*Raffle (Fall '07)

*Candy Sales (January '08)

*indicates fundraisers that are included in the “in-lieu-of” donation program.

FUNDRAISING CREDITS

For most sales fundraisers we try to offer student account credits. Credits are offered as incentives for students to sell and give opportunities for students to pay for activities they are involved in. Credits are applied to student accounts and can be carried over from one year to the next (in saving for a choir trip) or can be applied to banquet costs, trips, or other activities which involve costs to students. Student credit details are announced at the onset of each fundraiser. Credits **will not** be cashed out to students. Any unused credits at the end of a student’s senior year will be rolled into the booster general fund.

LAFAYETTE CHORUS BOOSTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

All vocal music families are invited and encouraged to join the Lafayette Chorus Booster Association whose work is to support the Lafayette Choral Department, its Directors, and the Vocal Music students. Membership entitles you to be a voting member of the organization and is only \$10.00 per year per family.



Fee/Fundraising Worksheet

LHS VOCAL MUSIC FEES, FUNDRAISING and BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP

Students pay only 1 fee regardless of number of ensembles in which they are enrolled.

BEGINNING CHORUS FEES

Adv. Women • Women's Chorus • Men's Chorus

Yearly Beginning Vocal Music fee • \$50.00

We will be paying in two \$25.00 installments

ADVANCED CHORUS FEES

Singers • Chorale • Madrigals • Swing Choir • SCAPA Voice

Yearly Advanced Vocal Music Fee (includes attire rental) • \$80.00

We will be paying in two \$40.00 installments

FUNDRAISING OPT-OUT DONATION

Fundraising not for you? Opt out of the 3 major sales fundraisers and still contribute. In-lieu-of Donations to the Lafayette Booster organization are Tax-Deductible.

Fundraising Opt-Out Donation • \$75.00

BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

All vocal families are invited and encouraged to join the LHS Chorus Booster Association.

Booster Membership • \$10.00

(Make checks payable to **Lafayette Chorus Boosters**)

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____ **Student Name:** _____

Email Contact: _____

Please indicate Student Name and purpose of the check in the memo blank.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS PAGE WITH CHECK(S) BY AUGUST 24TH TO
Lafayette Chorus Department • Lafayette HS • 401 Reed Lane • Lexington, KY 40503

lafayette choir

2007-2008 PARTICIPATION FORM

*****If Possible, please complete this form online:*****

<http://www.lafayettechoir.org/studentregistration.html>

There is no need to complete this form if you successfully completed the online version.

Student Information

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		M.I.	T-SHIRT Size
HOME ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	HOME PHONE		
E-MAIL	GRADE	DATE OF BIRTH	CELL PHONE		
(if applicable) PRIVATE VOICE TEACHER			VOICE PART (if known)		

Parent-Guardian Information (Mother)

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME			
HOME ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	HOME PHONE		
E-MAIL		WORK PHONE			
OCCUPATION/SKILLS			CELL PHONE		

Parent-Guardian Information (Father)

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME			
HOME ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	HOME PHONE		
E-MAIL		WORK PHONE			
OCCUPATION/SKILLS			CELL PHONE		

IF UNABLE TO COMPLETE ONLINE, PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM AND MAIL BY AUGUST 13th TO:

Ryan Marsh
Lafayette Choral Department
401 Reed Lane
Lexington, KY 40503

Information submitted on this form will **only** be used by the Directors and staff of the Lafayette Choral Department and members of the Lafayette Chorus Booster Association in support of the Vocal Music program at Lafayette High School.



Choir Gala and Silent Auction Saturday October 6

If you or a business you know would like to donate items/products, please contact Mr. Marsh.

Sponsorship Campaign:

Aug 15-31

Sales info coming soon.

lafayettechoir.org/sponsorship.html

Important Dates

Uniform Fittings

(Singers, Madr. And Chorale Only)

August 7 3:00-6:00 PM - Choir Room

August 10 5:00-7:00 PM - Choir Room

First Day of School August 13th

Participation Form & Vocal Music Fees DUE August 21st

Parent Meeting – All Grades

August 21st 7:00 pm Choir Room

UK Bluegrass Choral Music Fest

Sept 21 and 22

Booster Board Meetings

The Chorus Booster Board meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 6pm in the Chorus room. General parent meetings will be announced via e-mail.

LHS Chorus Booster Board

President

Jeff and Rhonda Story
rjstory@insightbb.com

Vice-President

Jim & Stacey Richardson 299-5464
Jim.Richardson@53.com

Treasurer

Donna Mattox 859-749-1325
mumbland@aol.com

Secretary

Dianne Toll 277-2353
dianne-mike.toll@insightbb.com

Accts. Recievable./Database

Kathryne & Kenny Watkins
kwatkins@insightbb.com

Member At Large (Uniforms)

Cathy Sutphen 224-8221
sutphen@insightbb.com

Members At Large

Donna Isaacs 223-7235
Disaacs995@insightbb.com

Penny & Claude Christian 277-9191

pennymom66@yahoo.com

Julia Gentry 278-3282

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Jennifer Todd 296-5632

Kathleen Tubbesing 272-7323

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Carolyn Waterbury-Tieman
273-5218

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Kathy Sink 272-8321

chattycathysink@aol.com

Dalen and Shari Jackson 373-0848

shari.jackson@fayett.kyschools.us

Where to find more information:

General Information:

www.lafayettechoir.org

Fees:

www.lafayettechoir.org/fees.html

Forms:

www.lafayettechoir.org/forms.html

Fundraising:

www.lafayettechoir.org/fundraisers.html

Charms:

www.lafayettechoir.org/charms.html

Boosters:

www.lafayettechoir.org/boosters.html

Events:

www.lafayettechoir.org/events.html

Fundraising Credits:

www.lafayettechoir.org/credits.html

M2 Private Lessons:

www.lafayettechoir.org/m2.html

lafayette choir

Lafayette High School

401 Reed Ln

Lexington, KY 40503