

Notes and News

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

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Ryan Marsh, Director

rbmarsh@fayette.k12.ky.us

Another exciting year in the Lafayette High School Choral Department is well on its way. I would like to introduce myself and say that I am thrilled to be joining one of the finest choral programs in the state and region. There is a strong reputation surrounding the Lafayette High School music department that I look forward to building upon in the years to come. It was this strong reputation and quality program backing the reputation that drew me to Lafayette. My interest was peaked by the high expectations and strong tradition.

I am a native of Southern Indiana where I went to a now Grammy Signature high school with a very strong music and theatre tradition so I feel quite at home at Lafayette. I hold two degrees from the University of Louisville including the Bachelor of Music Education in choral, voice and piano, and a Master of Music Performance in choral conducting. My conducting experience includes middle and high school students and most

recently working as a teaching assistant at the collegiate level. I spent part of this summer in Germany at two international choral competitions and an international choral conducting seminar.

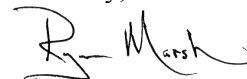
We are well into the year with in-house All-State auditions behind us and the district auditions coming very soon. Lafayette had a great showing at the UK Choral Festival. We have elected choir officers for Lafayette Singers. Our students are working hard on preparing music for contests, concerts, all-state, and learning sight-reading---including solfege!

I would like to take the opportunity to mention the Lafayette Choir Booster organization. This dedicated group of parents has been invaluable to our choral program. As with any public school music program, we cannot operate solely on school provided funds. We rely on extra fund raising and student fees to purchase music, educational materials, and provide important opportunities for our students. Please consider joining the

booster organization and making yourself available to help support them in their activities. We are all very busy and our time is valuable and if we could all just pitch in with one or two activities, the burden doesn't fall on just a few. The Booster funds benefit every choir student in the department so be generous with your time and effort.

This year will no doubt bring many changes to the choral department. We want to welcome Mrs. Janet Graham as she returns to the Choral department and SCAPA program. Although she's been doing other things for the past few years, it is fantastic to have a super colleague who is knowledgeable about the school and familiar with the choral program. While there will be many changes in how things are done, good attitudes and hard work will get us to the same end result - excellent choral music! Let's work together to make this year excellent and take the program to the next level.

Sincerely,



Ryan Marsh

Fall 2003

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Leadership:

Ryan Marsh,
Director
rbmarsh@fayette.k12.ky.us

Janet Graham,
Vocal Instructor/Director
jgraham@fayette.k12.ky.us

Singers Officers:
President:
Jessica Frey

Co-Vice Presidents:
Emily Fortney
Mariela Rich
Alyssa Story

Co-Secretaries:
Lauren Burgess
Regan Love
Rachael Bower

Co-Librarians:
Jessica Maddox
David Crooks
Melissa D'Andrea

Co-Historians:
Allie White
Ashley Roach
Ellen Lyon

Booster News:

Booster Contacts

Co-Presidents:

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Vice-Presidents:

Debbie and Jim Hamilton
dsham@alltel.net

Treasurer:

Tom and Cindy Clark
TLC345@insightbb.com

Past President:

Margaret Barnett

Bingo:

Dave and Donna Uckotter
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Secretary: Kim Wemyss

Volunteer Coordinator:

Beverly McNeil
beverly.mcneil@boschrexroth-us.com

Publicity for Fund Raising:

Marian Keesy

Public Relations:

Suzie Pennington

Look for coming information from the Lafayette Choral Boosters! Please consider joining our organization. We are committed to helping our school provide the best possible choral experience for our kids. Please join us in this endeavor.

Boosters/Bingo needs your help!

The Choral Boosters participate in Lafayette Football Bingo and it is one of our largest money-makers. Please consider signing up to work bingo for the coming year.

Parent

Meeting:

Please join us on **Tuesday November 11** at 7:00 pm in the choir room for a parent meeting. Find out how to get involved in your student's music study!

Eric Whitacre

Internationally-known composer, Eric Whitacre paid a visit to Lafayette High School. This was a tremendous opportunity for Lafayette students to meet and learn about one of the nation's top composers. Students were enthralled with his new Opera Electronic *Paradise Lost*, and his infectious, enthusiastic personality. This visit was made possible by the Transylvania University choral department and its director, Mr. Gary Anderson. Stay tuned to Fayette Co. Schools Cable Channel 13 for an airing of Mr. Whitacre's visit to Lafayette.

From Mrs. Graham:

The Right Decision

By **Janet Graham**

jgraham@fayette.k12.ky.us

After having spent the last four years out of the music education world, I will have to tell you that it really feels great to be back! What wonderful students we have in choral music. The talent is amazing! Despite the long hours and occasional frustrations; because there are not enough hours in the day; my heart is warmed and I know I'm where I belong. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be doing what I love to do. It is also

very exciting working with Ryan Marsh, our new choral director. Mr. Marsh brings such talent and youthful energy to this program. It's wonderful to observe and share with such a fine colleague. I learn something every day!

The SCAPA Vocal Majors are working hard toward many goals, individually and collectively. Many of the voice majors study privately and are making wonderful progress. I think I've had the opportunity to hear everyone sing and all are preparing pieces for solo performance. I have been absolutely bowled over by some of these voices!

These kids are going places and have the passion and dedication to hard work that it will take to get there. I can only hope that I have some bit of knowledge or inspiration to encourage them to be the best they can be.

Parents can help out tremendously by encouraging practice at home and simply asking your kids to sing! You be the audience! Our younger singers especially need this push.

Our "Brown Bag Luncheon Recitals" will be Thursday, December 11th from 11:45-12:45 P.M. in the Chorus Room and

Friday, December 12th from 12:45-1:45 P.M.; also in the chorus room. Please come bring your lunch and enjoy the beautiful singing! Friends and family are welcome.

The "Jazz Choir" has been working hard preparing various music for performance. They will be performing at Singletary Center for the Arts on Thursday, December 4th. You might even see some swing dancing and several generations of musicians lighting up the stage for special guest

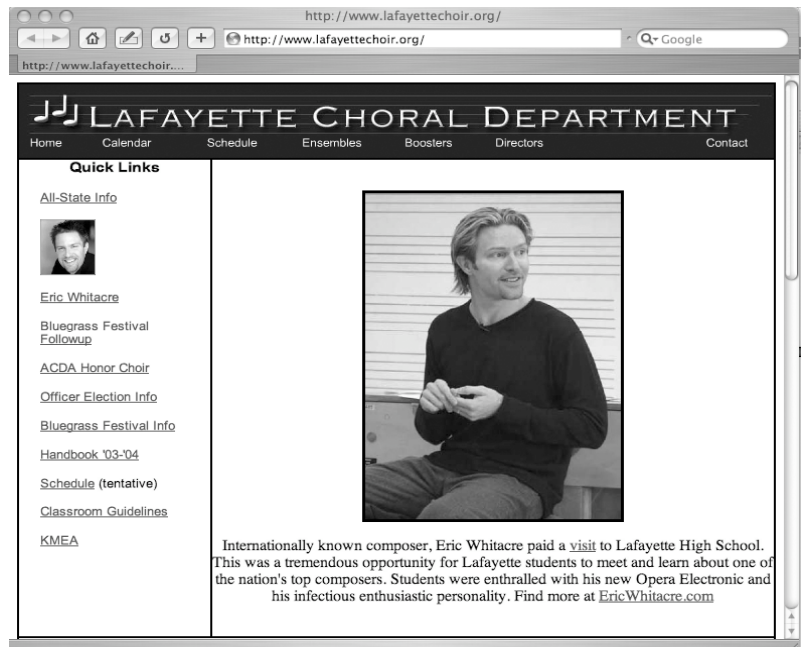
Continued on p. 4 - Mrs. Graham

Focus on the Web:

Have you checked out the new Choral Department web site lately?

The new site has current information about the department including a calendar, important documents, pictures, news, and announcements. The web site stocked with accurate and up-to-date information. There is also contact information for both Mrs. Graham and Mr. Marsh. Please make use of this valuable communication tool.

www.LafayetteChoir.org



Screen-shot of the Choral Department webpage. The page can be found at www.LafayetteChoir.org.

FEES

By **RYAN MARSH**
rbmarsh@fayette.k12.ky.us
Dear parents and students.
Every year the choral department collects student fees to help offset the costs of running a large choral

department. Costs throughout the year include music purchase, transportation, piano tuning, judges, uniform care and maintenance, etc. The list could go on and on. This article serves as a reminder to those who have not paid

their fees to please do so. Please do your part regarding fees. The fees this year are \$25. Please make checks payable to Lafayette H.S. and send with your student or mail attn. Ryan Marsh, Lafayette H.S. 400 Reed Ln. Lex, KY 40503. ASAP

*****Note: If your name is highlighted on the mailing label of this newsletter, our records indicate that your student has not paid his or her fees.**

Arts Advocacy!

The following resolution supporting music education was passed in the 106th United States Congress June 14, 2000.

H. CON. RES. 266

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the benefits of music education.

Whereas there is a growing body of scientific research demonstrating that children who receive music instruction perform better on spatial-temporal reasoning tests and proportional math problems;

Whereas music education

grounded in rigorous instruction is an important component of a well-rounded academic program;

Whereas opportunities in music and the arts have enabled children with disabilities to participate more fully in school and community activities;

Whereas music and the arts can motivate at-risk students to stay in school and become active participants in the educational process;

Whereas according to the College Board, college-bound high school seniors in 1998 who received music instruction

scored 53 points higher on the verbal portion of the Scholastic Aptitude Test and 39 points higher on the math portion of the test than college-bound high school seniors with no music or arts instruction;

Whereas a 1999 report by the Texas Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse states that individuals who participated in band or orchestra reported the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs; and

Whereas comprehensive, sequential music instruction enhances early brain development and improves

cognitive and communicative skills, self-discipline, and creativity: Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that--

(1) music education enhances intellectual development and enriches the academic environment for children of all ages; and

(2) music educators greatly contribute to the artistic, intellectual, and social development of American children, and play a key role in helping children to succeed in school.

LAFAYETTE CHORAL DEPARTMENT

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The Lafayette High School
Choral Department
Ryan Marsh, editor

Important Dates

SCAPA Auditions	Nov. 15
Winter Concert –UK Singletary Ctr. (Singers, Madrigals, Swing)	Thurs. Dec. 4
Winter Concert – Beeler Aud. Men’s &, Women’s Chorus, Charmettes	Thurs. Dec. 11
Brown Bag Luncheon Recitals Thurs. Dec.11 from 11:45-12:45 P.M. Fri, Dec 12 from 12:45-1:45 P.M.	
All-State Workshop (Required for All-State Singers)	TBA
All-State Choir Perf. in Louisville (KY Music Educators Conference)	Feb. 4-7
American Choral Directors Honor Choir Nashville, TN	Feb. 26-28
Solo and Ensemble Contest	TBA
KMEA District Choral Festival (Groups TBA - UK Singletary Ctr.)	April 4
KMEA State Choral Festival Louisville	May 13 or 14
Spring Concerts	Dates TBA
Summer Vocal Camp	Dates TBA

Mrs. Graham Cont...

appearances! It should be lots of fun. This is a great group of young musicians.

The SA Chorus is also working hard toward their performance on Thursday, December 11th at 7:30 P.M. in Beeler Auditorium, Lafayette High School. Ms. Jocelyn Godwin, University of Kentucky student who has been with us as student teacher this semester, will conduct a special performance. A UK student percussionist will assist her. Come hear the Women’s Chorus along with the Charmettes and the Men’s Chorus.

It’s easy to see how we stay so busy. Looking forward to seeing everyone in December!

Glad to be your music teacher,

Janet Graham

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.LafayetteChoir.org

“For some strange reason, when it comes to music and the arts, our world view has led us to believe that they are easily expendable. Well, I believe that a nation that allows music to be expendable is in danger of becoming expendable itself.” -Richard Dreyfuss

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