

# Notes and News

# lafayette choir

Lafayette High School • 401 Reed Ln • Lexington, KY 40504 • 859-381-3492

[www.lafayettechoir.org](http://www.lafayettechoir.org)

February 2008

## From the Director

Dear Students and Parents:

We have had several exciting events already this semester including: UK Male Chorus Day, our Third Annual Choral Invitational. A new event, the Women's Choir Festival had a successful inaugural concert!

### This Month....

2. Spring Schedule
3. Spring Trip
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7. Student Spotlight
8. Vocal Camp

A special word of thanks to our Booster parents for helping with the Choral Invitational! They fed pizza dinner 200 students and helped the event run smoothly. We couldn't do it without their help!

We had 27 All-State students singing in the three All-State Choirs at the Kentucky Music Educator's Conference in Louisville at the beginning of this month.

The Lafayette Chorale is hard at work in preparation for their upcoming performance of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* on Tuesday March 4 at First Presbyterian church (7:30) This is a tremendous work that will surely be a landmark performance for our choral program! We hope everyone will attend.

The Madrigal singers are in preparations for their performance at the UofL Margaret Comstock Chamber Choir competition on Friday Feb 15. Wish them luck!

Lastly the other choirs are preparing for their KMEA Festival Assessment performance on March 15. More info later in the newsletter. We have many exciting upcoming events this semester. Check out all of the events listed on page 2.

See you at our concerts.

Ryan Marsh  
[ryan.marsh@lafayette.kyschools.us](mailto:ryan.marsh@lafayette.kyschools.us)



# Spring Semester Schedule

All-State Choirs @ KMEA Convention, Madrigal Rehearsals for UofL Chamber Choir Competition	Louisville, KY Choir Room	Wed Feb 6 - Sat Feb 9 Tuesday Jan 22, 3:20-4:20 pm Tuesday, Feb 5, 3:20-4:20 Monday Feb 11, 3:20-4:20 Tuesday Feb 12, 3:20-4:20 Wednesday Feb 13, 3:20-4:20 Thursday Feb 14, 3:20-4:20
UofL Chamber Choir Competition	UofL Sch. of Music	Fri, Feb 15, 12:00-10:30 pm
SCAPA Voice Masterclass Chorale Rehearsals	Choir Room Choir Room	Thurs Feb 21, 3:30-5:00 Thurs Feb 20, 3:20-4:20 pm Friday Feb 22, 3:20-4:20 pm Tuesday, Feb 26, 7:00-8:30 Thursday Feb 28, 3:20-4:20 <b>Monday Mar 3, 7:00-8:30</b>
Vocal Solo and Ensemble Contest	Scott Co. H.S.	Saturday February 23
Pre-Contest Concert (Singers, Madr. Chorale)	Location TBA	Tuesday March 4, 7:30 pm
SCAPA Voice Masterclass	Choir Room	Thurs March 27, 3:30-5:00
SCAPA Musical (Cats)	Opera House	Thurs March 13-16
KMEA Choir Contest	**Scott County HS**	Saturday, March 15
Spring Break	No School	March 29 - April 6
<b>Spring Trip</b> LHS Singers, Chorale, Madrigals, Swing	Indianapolis, IN	<b>Friday, April 25-26</b>
Massed Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room	Tues April 29, 6:00-8:30
Choir Banquet/ Awards (All Choirs)	LHS Cafeteria	Friday May 2, 6:00 pm
SCAPA Senior Recital	Location TBA	Sunday May 4, Time TBA
Massed Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room	Tues May 6, 6:00-8:30
<i>Ice Cream Concert (All Choirs)</i>	Beeler Auditorium	May 8, 7:00 pm
Underclassmen SCAPA Voice Juries	Choir Room	Mon, Thur May 12, 15, 3:30-
Massed Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room	Wed May 14, 6-8:30 pm
Madrigal Concert	Location TBA	Friday May 16, 7:30 pm
Spring Concert	Singletary Center	Monday, May 19, 7:30 pm
LHS Baccalaureate (Singers, Madr, Chorale)	Norsworthy Aud - IAKSS	TBA
LHS Commencement (Singers, Madr, Chorale)	Rupp Arena	TBA
<i>Summer Vocal Camp</i>	LHS Music Dept.	June 16-20

Download the Spring schedule online.  
<http://www.lafayettechoir.org/schedule.html>



# Spring Trip



*Bobby McFerrin, Chick Corea, and Jack DeJohnette in Concert.*

*Chick Corea's four-decade career is the stuff of jazz lore - his groups are hotbeds of imagination, seething with the joy of making music while creating influential, limit-stretching musical experiences. Of course, the same could be said of fellow Miles Davis alum Jack DeJohnette, and of Bobby McFerrin, one of the natural wonders of the music world whose work encompasses both classical and jazz through vocal performance, conducting, and composition. This sensational trio comes together for the first time for what promises to be an unforgettable night of jazz.*

On **April 25 and 26** we will travel to Indianapolis, IN to take in a concert of 3 jazz greats at Clowes Memorial Hall on Butler University Campus. We will stay Friday night, participate in a choir clinic on Saturday morning, eat at Circle Center Mall, and have other fun activities in the afternoon. We will return to Lexington on Saturday evening.

Students in Singers, Madrigals, Chorale, and Swing Choir are eligible for the Spring Trip.

**Anticipated cost for the trip will be \$130.00.**

**Contracts and first payment of \$65.00 due on Feb 19!**

**Info packets were distributed but can also be found online at:**

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



## **Solo and Ensemble**

Saturday February 23, Scott Co. HS

The Kentucky Music Educators Association sponsors district level Solo and Small Ensemble contests across the state.

Performance times will be in the morning of February 23. Specific times will be announced as soon as they are received. Please plan accordingly and line up rides for students to Scott County High School.

## **Upcoming Concert**

- **Chorale Presents: Chichester Psalms - Tuesday March 4, 7:30 pm**  
**First Presbyterian Church** (Chorale, Singers and Madrigals)



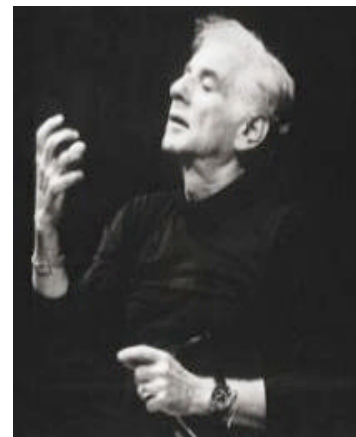
# CHICHESTER PSALMS

BY

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

On March 4 at 7:30 pm. The Lafayette Chorale will be performing Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms. This is a significant work in American Choral Repertoire. It is an extremely challenging piece and unique in its sound and character. It is also a different kind of work for the listener. Many parts of the work are dissonant, unsettling and rhythmically uneven.

"The Psalms and the first movement in particular are noted among performers for their musical difficulty, with the opening section of the first movement often considered one of the hardest passages for choral tenors ever written, owing to the range of the piece, its rhythmic complexity and the consistent presence of the strange and difficult-to-maintain interval of a major 7th between the tenor and bass." - Wikipedia



We hope our performance of this piece will open your minds and ears to modern music that may be very different from what you are used to hearing from our choirs. If you get a chance, ask your student to share the recording of this piece with you.

## The Work:

The Chichester Psalms was composed mostly during the spring of 1965 on a commission by the Dean of Chichester Cathedral in Sussex, England, who wanted a new work for a festival featuring the combined cathedral choirs of Winchester, Salisbury, and Chichester. Each of the three movements of the Chichester Psalms features a setting, in Hebrew, of one complete psalm, along with a verse or more of a second. Some of the musical material derives from an aborted Broadway musical, *The Skin of Our Teeth*.

The first movement opens dramatically with a chorale-like setting of a portion of Psalm 108 (Awake, psaltery and harp!), followed by a lively, almost jazzy, Psalm 100 (Make a joyful noise unto the Lord).

The second movement begins with a lovely lyrical tune, sung initially by a boy soprano soloist, for Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want). The chorus takes up that melody, but an aggressive setting of the opening of Psalm 2 (Why do the nations rage) suddenly interrupts the mood.

In the final movement, the mood calms as the chorus intones a peaceful setting of Psalm 131 (Lord, my heart is not haughty), including one variation sung wordlessly. A group of soloists from the chorus explores this melody further, in preparation for a quiet and haunting setting of the opening of Psalm 133 (Behold how good, and how pleasant it is) and a final Amen. - Chris Morrison, Dayton Philharmonic

## The Composer:

As composer, conductor, and educator, Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) emerged as one of a handful of figures in the twentieth century who truly changed the face of music. As a composer, Bernstein left a far-reaching legacy that includes three symphonies, a film score of singular distinction, (*On the Waterfront*), and an important body of stage works, including one of the cornerstones of American musical theater, *West Side Story* (1957). The first American-born conductor to attain international superstardom, Bernstein made a profound impression on audiences; his podium manner was dynamic, even flamboyant, to an extent never before witnessed. Bernstein's extroverted manner attracted much criticism from those who dismissed him as a mere exhibitionist; his advocates, however, far outnumbered his detractors.

- Chris Morrison, Dayton Philharmonic



## From Ms. Gabbard

The month of February has already gotten off to an exciting start! On Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, the SCAPA ladies along with ladies from the women's choir and swing choir participated in Lafayette's Women's Choir Festival. This was a very successful event which we hope to continue to host in future years. Ladies from Scott County High School and Western Hills High School joined us for the festival as well. Dr. Sue Ellen Ballard from Eastern Kentucky University served as our guest clinician and was very enjoyable to work with. Congratulations on all of your hard work and effort!

Several vocal majors will have an opportunity to rehearse for collegiate and GSA auditions by providing entertainment for a monthly meeting of the National Society of Arts and Letters. These students were specifically invited to perform for this prestigious society. The meeting will take place on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00. Participants should see Ms. Gabbard for more details.

PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE CHANGE: Our next Master Class will be held on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30-5:00. We had to change the date in order to accommodate our guest speaker, Katherine Rohrer, who is in residency through the Marilyn Horne Foundation. If you are interested in performing, please see Ms. Gabbard. Attendance is required for Master Classes. Another mandatory event is KMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest. This will take place at Scott County High School on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Decisions on literature for this event need to be made by the time of your next lesson.

Just like last semester, vocal practice logs are due weekly. You can log your time on your personal account at [www.charmsmusic.com](http://www.charmsmusic.com). If for some reason this is not working for you, please let me know and turn in a paper copy of your log instead. These weekly grades may not seem like much at the time, but they do add up by the end of the semester. Remember...practice logs are not accepted past the due date. The first log is due by the end of the week of your first lesson with me.

Laura Gabbard  
SCAPA Vocal Instructor/ Director  
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859-381-3474 x.1475



[www.lafayettechoir.org/scapavoice.html](http://www.lafayettechoir.org/scapavoice.html)

### Important SCAPA dates

- **National Society of Arts and Letters**  
Sunday, Feb 10, 3:00
- **Masterclass**  
Tuesday, Feb 19, 3:30-5:00
- **Solo and Ensemble Contest**  
Saturday, Feb 23  
Scott County High School

### Practice Logs

Don't forget to submit your SCAPA Voice practice logs each week!  
<http://www.lafayettechoir.org/charms>



# Chorus Boosters

## Help Needed:

If your student is involved in any of these events, please consider volunteering.

### **Chamber Choir Competition (Madrigals)**

Parent drivers needed to take students to UofL *Secret Garden* at Floyd Central High School on Friday Feb 15. Contact Mr. Marsh

### **KMEA Chorus Assessment**

Chaperones needed to travel with us to Scott Co. HS on Sat. March 15. Contact Mr. Marsh to help.



Women's Choir Festival – LHS Women's Choir



Women's Choir Festival – Dr. Sue Ellen Ballard, Conducting

## LCB Board Members:

### **Co-Presidents**

Jeff & Rhonda Story  
[rjstory@insightbb.com](mailto:rjstory@insightbb.com)

### **Vice-President**

Jim and Stacey Richardson  
299-5464  
[jim.richardson@53.com](mailto:jim.richardson@53.com)

### **Treasurer**

Donna Mattox 749-1325  
[donna@mattoxrealestate.com](mailto:donna@mattoxrealestate.com)

### **Secretary**

Ruth Babcock  
[rumiba@aol.com](mailto:rumiba@aol.com)

### **Accounts Rec./CHARMS**

Kathryne & Kenny Watkins  
[kwatkins@insightbb.com](mailto:kwatkins@insightbb.com)

### **Uniforms**

Cathy Sutphen 224-8221  
[sutphen@insightbb.com](mailto:sutphen@insightbb.com)

### **Members At Large**

Penny Christian 277-9191  
[pennymom66@yahoo.com](mailto:pennymom66@yahoo.com)

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Dalen and Shari Jackson  
373-0848  
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Dianne Toll 277-2353  
[Dianne-mike.toll@insightbb.com](mailto:Dianne-mike.toll@insightbb.com)

## Next Board Meeting:

**Monday February 25**  
**5:30 pm**  
**Choir Room**

Board meetings are usually held the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month.



## Students in the Spotlight



All-Staters at Kentucky Center for the Arts



Choral Invitational Combined Choirs

**Women's Choir Festival:** Lafayette Women's Chorus hosted an invitational women's chorus festival at the Singletary Center on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. This was a tremendous success with over 200 singers participating from Western Hills High School (Frankfort) and Scott County High School. The Festival Chorus was conducted by Dr. Sue Ellen Ballard (EKU).

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**June 16-20**  
Announcing dates for our annual summer camp for current Lafayette students and students from feeder schools (rising 8th graders and older).

Come experience one of the area's finest choral camps. Enjoy quality instruction, great music, fun, and friendship. Fees: only \$50.00 Includes instruction (except private vocal lessons), T-shirt and music use. – More info to come.

## Choral Invitational

On Friday January 25, the Lafayette Choral Department hosted 25 middle school students at our third Annual Choir Invitational. The event was a great success in welcoming future singers into the program.

The event consisted of a workshop and performance with the Lafayette Choirs. The middle school students learned two pieces and performed them at the culminating concert with the combined chorus of nearly 200 students. Our current students were great role models in this event.

Thanks to all the booster parents and students who helped out with serving dinner!

## Students in the Spotlight:

If you have an idea for an article, or students who need to be recognized, please submit it to

newsletter@lafayettechoir.org

## UPDATE YOUR CHARMS ACCOUNT

Please help us by keeping your email and phone info current. Log in and update your, address, phone # and t-shirt size.

[www.lafayettechoir.org/charms.html](http://www.lafayettechoir.org/charms.html)

Lafayette School Code: **LafayetteHSC**

User ID is last 6 digits of student number.

**Email Mr. Marsh if your login id does not work.**



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## *Don't forget our Sponsors!*

Many thanks to our corporate sponsors for the 2007-2008 Season! You will see our Corporate Benefactors and Donors listed each month in the Choir Newsletter!

Please show your appreciation for their support by choosing them for your shopping/service needs.

