

Notes and News

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Singers and Parents:

I can't believe how quickly the summer is going. By the time you read this, our vocal camp will be over and we will be well on our way to beginning the school year. I want to take this opportunity to welcome new members into the fold as well as welcome veteran members back to an exciting upcoming year.

I am very excited about our plans for the year. We have many of the usual events to look forward to including the Bluegrass Choral Festival at UK, the Fall Concert, Winter Concerts, All-State, Freshmen All-State, ACDA Honor Choir, UofL Honor Choir, UofL Chamber Choir Competition (Madrigals), and the usual array of Spring Concerts. An exciting highlight for Singers and Chorale is a combined festival with Western Hills High School (Frankfort) and Floyd Central High School (Floyds Knobs, IN). This will be a great experience including two performances of a Latin American Mass and another work to celebrate Mozart's birthday.

A new event called the Lafayette Choir Gala (Friday September 23) will feature some great vocal music performances and a silent auction to kick off the year. We hope everyone will mark calendars to attend. More info to come soon! (If you or a business you know would like to contribute an item for the auction, please let Mr. Marsh know.)

We know you have heard quite a bit about fundraising (from this and other organizations). We have two areas of our budget 1) operating expenses: these include things like folder purchases, office support, performance space rental, etc. and 2) Special project expenses: these include equipment purchase, improvement of the choir rooms, libraries, etc. One special project we will be continuing (and trying to complete) is the badly needed Library shelving. We have completed phase 1 of this project including purchasing the first section of shelving and music file boxes. We are transitioning from a file cabinet system (that is beyond capacity) to a shelf-type system that will allow us to continue to add titles to our library and not be forced to throw others away. We will continue to have special designated fundraisers throughout the year to complete this project.

I also want to say a word of thanks to the Chorus Boosters for their support and hard work. They are continuing to make great things possible for this department. The Boosters are going to continue to help alleviate the administrative pressures so Mrs. Graham and I can continue to focus our energies on the most important job of all - teaching and making music. Parents, please consider helping them help us.

As we begin the year, let's continue to build on Lafayette's tradition of choral excellence as we sing, play and work together!

Sincerely, Ryan Marsh

July 2005

Participation Form

After careful consideration for the most effective means of organizing our Vocal Music program, Mr. Marsh has approved the use of a student participation form as the method of collecting data for all Vocal Music students. The information received will be compiled into a database available for use by the Directors as well as the Choral Booster Board.

Please complete the enclosed Participation Form and return no later than August 5th (Or complete online) which will allow us sufficient time to develop the database BEFORE the first day of school on August 15th.

You have MAIL!

E-MAIL will be the primary means of communications for the Vocal Music Department for the upcoming school year. Notices of performances and events, schedule changes, practices, 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 (Marian Keesy, 278-3783, markeesy@alltel.net) with your new address.

For YOU to stay informed, it is very important that we have your correct e-mail address!

Vocal Music Fees

Due to the time that paper work takes away from the instructors' teaching time, Mr. Marsh has requested that Boosters collect and document payment of Vocal Music Department fees.

The cost to Advanced Vocal Students for participation in Vocal Music at Lafayette High School for the 2004-2005 school year will be \$40.00 PER SEMESTER or \$80 per year. The cost to Beginning Vocal Students for participation in Vocal Music at LHS for 2005-2006 school year will be \$25 PER SEMESTER or \$50 per year. The first semester's payment should be returned with the Participation Form by August 5st and you'll receive a statement in December for the second installment.

The chorus fees are extremely inexpensive when compared to the cost associated with any other school-related extra-curricular activity your student might choose. Your student's \$80.00 yearly fee offsets the cost of running our program – it helps pay for the formal attire that your student wears in concert, for its once-a-year dry-cleaning, repair, replacement, and garment bags, the purchase of new music and folders, participation fees in area-wide contests and festivals, rental for concert performance sites, etc.

While fees *help* offset our costs, they IN NO WAY pay for everything our kids can or will experience, accomplish, and need during their vocal music education at Lafayette. With the continued budget cuts in public school systems, fundraising is a vital and necessary function to pay for activities, especially with groups of this size. **EACH STUDENT/FAMILY IS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VARIOUS FUNDRAISERS THAT OUR VOCAL MUSIC STUDENTS ENGAGE IN THIS COMING YEAR or give an In-lieu of Donation.** Continued success with fundraising means that we can keep activity fees **low** and reduce everyone's out-of-pocket costs for supporting the choir! Thanks for your continued support with all of our fundraising endeavors.

Fundraising Credits

For most sales fundraiser that we do (including Bingo), we try to offer student account credits. Credits are offered to offer incentives for students to sell and offer 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 or other activities which involve costs to students. Student credit details are announced at the onset of each fundraiser. (There will be smaller fundraisers (ie Donut Sales) or designated fundraisers, however, that do not offer credits.) Since this is a non-travel year, keep in mind that credits can be banked for future years. 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.

FUNDRAISING

The list to the right contains items purchased/provided to students with fee money and fund raising dollars.

Your fundraising efforts help provide:

Chorus T-shirt
 Folders
 Music purchase
 Student consumables
 Attire repair, cleaning, and replacement
 Classroom supplies
 Classroom equipment
 Risers, and maintenance
 Tables, Posture Chairs,
 Music stands
 Audio/video equipment
 Folder cabinets
 Performance space rental
 Program printing (paper purchase)
 Festival/contest register
 KMEA registration fees
 All-State Expenses
 Vocal Camp 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
 Newsletter 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.....

BINGO

Jackpot Bingo in Eastland Shopping Center continues to be a reliable source of fundraising for our vocal music department.

In fact, we saw record earnings this year! Our workers earned **\$6894.50** from 55 slots worked this past year for our organization, and of that amount, **\$1090.00** was returned as credits to student accounts!! One can easily see that monies earned from Bingo as a fundraiser, would be hard to replace. Much thanks for this goes to our families who worked, and also to the exceptional job done by Susan Rodriguez for scheduling and reminding workers of their slots to work.

Chorus Boosters currently is allotted 2 slots every Saturday evening, as well as 2 slots on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:45-10:30pm. Boosters offers each family 20 credits (\$20) per worker per session. Parents must decide if their student (age 16 and over) should work this fundraiser.

Initially, families are assigned a shift to work, randomly and/or more specifically if you indicate your interest in earning student account credits this way! Schedules are made by our Bingo coordinators on a quarterly schedule which will be mailed to workers. (You will only receive a calendar in the mail if you are requested to work during a quarterly rotation.) *If you DO NOT want to work Bingo for our organization, that is fine!* - We simply ask that you let us know your preference. There are no penalties for NOT working Bingo. Contact our Bingo coordinators, Karen Sorrell (338-8060) or Curtis Godchaux (277-1710), if you wish to work available Bingo slots to earn even more credits - you will be offered cancellations, etc.

It is YOUR responsibility to either switch days with another family (phone #'s included on the calendar you receive) OR to notify the Bingo coordinators IF you have a conflict for whatever reason! PLEASE DO NOT FAIL TO SHOW UP IF YOU CANNOT WORK YOUR ASSIGNED DATE. BOOSTERS RISKS HAVING OUR SLOTS OFFERED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL CLUB IF WE HAVE TOO MANY "NO-SHOWS"! (Please note - Jackpot Bingo has been classified by LFUCG as "a private club" - smoking is allowed at this facility.)

UNIFORM FITTINGS

Tuxedos and formal black dresses are provided for students enrolled in Madrigals, Singers, and Chorale. So that class time will not be disrupted, fittings for these students will take place during the summer. Two fitting sessions have been scheduled for August 11 and 12: 5:00-8:00 PM. Appointments can be made but are not necessary. Drop-ins are welcome on both days but appointments will have priority status. Appointments can be made by contacting our uniform/attire coordinator, Pam Williams, 335-3217 or ray.a.williams@netzero.com. Please make sure your student completes this task during the summer fitting sessions.

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.

FRESHMEN

Parent Meeting

Get the answers to your questions at the Freshmen parent meeting in the Chorus room on Tuesday, August 23rd at 6:30pm. This introductory meeting will give you an overview of the upcoming year and provide an opportunity to meet and talk with our Director, Mr. Marsh, as well as members from the Chorus Booster Association. We hope to see you there!

Choir Gala and Silent Auction

Friday September 23, 2005
If you or a business you know would like to donate items/products, please let Mr. Marsh know ASAP.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Obviously, to provide for the needs and performance of 200 teenagers, many, many hands are needed to do numerous tasks. Please indicate on the Volunteer Sheet how you are most willing and able to help this year! We will be respectful of your time, and hope to "spread the fun around" so that everyone gets to be a part of this awesome experience that your child enjoys so much!

LAFAYETTE CHORAL DEPARTMENT

Lafayette High School
401 Reed Lane
Lexington, KY 40503

Phone: (859) 381-3492

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

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

We're on the Web!

www.LafayetteChoir.org

An Up-to-date calendar is
always available on the
website. We will also keep
you notified by email.

Important Dates

Participation Form & Vocal Music
Fees DUE August 5th

Booster Board Meeting -
August 8th - 6:00 pm - Choir Room

Uniform Fittings
August 11 5-8:00 PM - Choir Room
August 12 5-8:00 PM - Choir Room

First Day of School August 15th

Freshmen Parent Meeting
August 23th 6:30pm Chorus Room

Parent Meeting - Gr. 10-12
August 30th 6:30pm Chorus Room

PTSA Open House

LHS Chorus Gala and Silent Auction
Friday September 23 2005

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The Lafayette High School Choral Department
And Chorus Booster Association

LHS Chorus Booster Board President

Lyn & Roger Rhodes 223-0607
rlnlrhodes@gmail.com

Vice-President

Tracy Alexander 245-5283
Traceyann2u@yahoo.com
Pam Williams 335-3217
Ray.a.williams@netzero.com

Treasurer

Donna & Doug Isaacs 223-7235
Disaacs995@insightbb.com

Secretary

Jane Anderson 273-9714
jandercnm@hotmail.com

Past President

Jim and Debbie Hamilton 223-8515
dsham@alltel.net

Director At Large (Database)
Marian & Charlie Keesy 278-3783
markeesy@alltel.net

Director At Large (AcctsReceivable)
Candy Brunk 230-2578
Lorien262@hotmail.com

Director At Large (Uniforms)
Kathy Rosewell 797-5059
k.rosewell@insightbb.com

Director At Large (Uniforms)
Cathy Sutphen 224-8221
sutphen@insightbb.com

Director At Large
Kim Wemyss 223-8933
kswemyss@yahoo.com

Bingo

Karen Sorrell 224-3005
keges@alltel.net
Curtis Godchaux 277-1710
Curtis.godchaux@ky.gov

LAFAYETTE CHORAL DEPARTMENT

Fayette County Public Schools
701 E. Main St.
Lexington, KY 40502-1699
Lafayette High School

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