

Kamiak Symphony Orchestra Newsletter

Let the March madness Begin!!

Welcome to our Orchestra busy season!!! Hope you had a restful break and have lots of energy, because you're going to need it! There is so much going on, I thought you might enjoy a little info about what is happening in the symphonic world, to help you keep track. After each item, in parentheses, are the students included in the event, to help you figure out what applies to your child. Of course, everyone is welcome to any event with an audience!!!!

Events

Vienna Ball (PSI and PSII strings will perform, IO students are welcome to come, free of charge, other KPABers are welcome to buy a ticket!)

Before you know it, it will be time for the Vienna Ball on Saturday, January 29. The fun starts at 6 pm in the Kamiak Commons with dancing lessons from a professional dance instructor, provided by the Arthur Murray Studio in Everett. Then, at 7 pm Mr. Steves will take up his baton and you can waltz the night away. Ticket envelopes will be sent home the week of January 10th with PSI and PSII students and are due back on Monday, January 24. (Don't forget to check those backpacks!) Tickets will also be on sale in the Commons during lunch on Thursday, January 27 and at the door. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors and \$10 for adults. Students will be charged for all unreturned unsold tickets. Additional tickets, in case you need more to sell, are available by contacting Judy Werenka at werenkaja@hotmail.com.

In addition to dancing the night away, at the Vienna Ball you can purchase desserts and beverages, and raffle tickets for a dinner for two at Anthony's and bring your student's account balance up to date. It is not too late to volunteer to help with this fun event. If you want to pitch in, contact event chair Tresha Carter at ptcarter.carter@gmail.com.

Solo/Ensemble (all students who signed up to compete)

Coming up on Saturday, February 5 is the Solo/Ensemble Festival. Many of our students will be competing **at the new Lynnwood High School** (note the location change from the fall calendar!) in this solo/ensemble festival. Be sure to come out to support our kids! Come and hear your child and stick around to catch some others, as well. It is such a thrill to hear the caliber of performers that we have in our programs. The master schedule is usually available approximately ten days before the event.

On a financial note, if your student is playing in a trio, quartet or a large ensemble, Orchestra ASB funds are covering the fee. If your student is performing as a soloist, you must pay the \$15.00 solo fee. Similarly, if your student is performing as part of a duet, you must pay the \$10.00, per person, duet fee. These fees should be paid directly to the Kamiak Bookkeeper, on the second floor of the main building. (If you choose to pay by check, make checks payable to Kamiak ASB.) Failure to pay this fee will interfere with obtaining future parking permits and graduation. Please note these fees will not show up on your student's KPAB account. However, if you prefer, you can opt to pay these fees by transferring money from your student's KPAB account to the bookkeeper by contacting KPAB Student Accounts at kpab.studentaccounts@gmail.com.

All-State/All-Northwest (Students who auditioned and qualified)

Congrats to our All-State musicians!!! We will be well represented at this honors event, taking place February 17–20 in Bellevue. ASB is paying for half the \$325 fee, so each honor ensemble member is responsible for paying the remaining \$162.50. Again, the fees associated with this event must be paid to Kamiak ASB through the Kamiak Bookkeeper. Participating students have been excused from school all day February 18th. The bus transporting students to Bellevue will depart from Kamiak at 5:00 PM on Thursday, February 17th. Note that there is no transportation back from Bellevue! Most parents will want to watch the Gala Concerts on Sunday, if not, please make carpool arrangements to get your student back home.

Performance Information:

All-Northwest and Washington All-State Choral Concert, 10:30 AM Sunday, February 20
Benaroya Hall, 200 University St, Seattle, WA 98101
All-Northwest Band and Orchestra Concert, 3:30 PM Sunday, February 20
Benaroya Hall, 200 University St, Seattle, WA 98101

All concert tickets are \$20, whether purchased in advance or at the door. Advance ticket purchase information is available online at either www.wmea.org or www.mencnw.org.

THE REALLY BIG MONTH

Spain Culture Night (All Spain travelers and their parents/guardians)

An evening full of information to help you and your student prepare for our big adventure in Spain. Sessions will include packing tips, regional customs and etiquette, Spanish phrases and security updates. Leading our sessions will be Kamiak Spanish teachers traveling with us, Ms. Brickley and Ms. Hammonds, as well as a “professional packer” from Rick Steves. Join us in the PAC at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 1. This is also the date that final Spain payments are due, so bring your checkbooks!

Gresham Orchestra Camp (PS I and Symphony I Winds/Percussion)

Sadly with the date change for the Gresham Festival, we need to cancel our traditional orchestra camp☹. In its place, we will instead hold a two-hour evening rehearsal for all members of Symphony I (strings, winds, brass and percussion players), sometime the first week of March, with a guest conductor. This will give the symphony a fresh (albeit last minute!) perspective on our competition piece, *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture* by Tchaikovsky, and ensure we are competition ready. As soon as final arrangements have been made, we will let you know the date.

Gresham, Oregon Festival (PSI, PSII, all symphonic winds/brass/percussion)

Please note that the festival date has been changed from the original date published in the fall! This is still a very important performance for Symphonies I and II and Kammerstreich. It is our hope that this date change is not an inconvenience for our symphony orchestra members. If the date change prohibits your musician from attending, please notify Mr. Steves as soon as possible!

After school on **Friday, March 4** we will load up the buses with kids, gear, instruments and equipment and head off to Oregon for this wonderful festival. Lots more info will be coming about the Gresham trip in the next few weeks. Please note that the cost for this trip was included in the program fee, which included the charter bus, the hotel stay, including breakfast, and dinner on Saturday evening, snacks and other misc. travel costs. Through our orchestra fundraising – Entertainment book sales, Messiah Concerts and Lighthouse festival parking etc.– we do have scholarship money available.

Financial aid forms are available on the KPAB Website and are due Saturday, January 15. The forms are called “Program Fee Financial Aid Request” forms.

All Gresham paperwork (medical forms, permission slips) and all fees are due by March 1. All the forms, including financial aid forms, are on the KPAB website. All SKMEA forms (permission slips) are also due on this day. Please note that most students completed the necessary paperwork in the fall. If you did not, or if it was incomplete, you will be notified in class. If you have questions about your paperwork, contact Judy Werenka at werenkaja@hotmail.com.

SKMEA Festival (all stringlings – PSI, PSII and IO and all symphonic winds/brass/percussion)

This is an all day festival at the Edmonds Arts Center on Wednesday, March 9. As noted above, all required paperwork is due on March 1. Chaperones are needed. If you are interested, please contact Melanie Field at melanie1004@gmail.com. To be a chaperone, you will need to complete the chaperone requirements, which are described in detail on the KPAB website, on the volunteer page.

District Festival Concert (all stringlings – PSI, PSII and IO and PS I winds/brass/percussion)

All the orchestras from the west side of the district perform, both separately and all together, from the little elementary schoolers all the way up to our big seniors! It is a great way to see **ALL** your neighbors. 7:00 pm in Kamiak gym, on Thursday, March 10.

Spain Orchestra Camp (All student Spain travelers)

During the afternoon of the half-days on Fridays, March 11 and March 25, we will be having our pre-Spain orchestra camp. This will put some polish on our pieces that will be performed during our trip to Spain. These rehearsals will be held 12:00 – 2:00.

Winter Concert/Spain Send-Off Night (all stringlings – PSI, PSII and IO and all symphonic winds/brass/percussion)

On Thursday, March 24th, Spain travelers should join us in the Commons at 5:30 to pick up travel wear, drop off passports, pick-up currency, drop off medications, and get their itinerary and much, much more! More details about Send-Off Night will be coming out in the next few weeks.

Then, at 7 pm in the Kamiak PAC, all our orchestral and symphonic students will perform the pieces they have been preparing for all of the above events. In case you missed Gresham or SKMEA, this is your chance to hear our students at their finest.

And last but not least, our departure for Spain on Thursday, March 31!!! Lots more details about this will be available at Culture Night and Send-Off Night.

Miscellaneous Information

Student Accounts

Attention to the fiscal health of KPAB has lead to new policies regarding student debt. **KPAB is now strictly enforcing a policy that requires all student account balances to be \$0, prior to a student participating in a trip.** This means that all fees must be paid in advance (unless a modified payment plan has already been approved). We recognize that these are particularly difficult economic times and we would like to enable all our students to fully participate in all our programs. To that end, scholarships are available and extended payment schedules can be negotiated, in advance, for families with economic need. Students, who would like to take advantage of either of these options, should contact Mr. Steves to discuss their specific situation.

Payments can also be made using credit cards. Please contact Karen Cunningham at kpab.studentaccounts@gmail.com for more information about how to use your credit card to make payments to KPAB.

Many students have outstanding debt. Please be sure to include these payments, along with your program fee, to balance out your student's account prior to the pre-travel deadline, March 1.

Please note that due to cuts in our ASB funding, a new fee has been put in place for the gentlemen of PS I and PS II who use Kamiak tuxedos. The \$10.00 tux fee is being billed through ASB. Similar to the solo/ensemble fees described above, this fee can be paid using a check or cash directly to the Kamiak bookkeeper, or funds can be transferred from your student's KPAB account to ASB.

Fundraisers

KPAB has a new fundraising program in place. The Scrip program is like getting "free" money. Extensive information about this new fundraiser is available on the KPAB website. Brochures are available from Mr. Steves. Scrip sales are conducted most Tuesday evenings at the Walgreen's Starbucks. If you need additional information, you can contact the scrip team at kpabscrip@gmail.com.

Spring is not quite yet in the air but it is not too early to start thinking about the spring bulb sale. Carol Collison will be coordinating this fundraiser. Contact her at behren.s@juno.com if you are interested in helping.

Many thanks to all our Booster families who have made our group and individual fundraising a success to date! We are very close to meeting our \$10,000 goal of group fundraising - money used for scholarships and bringing down the cost of our trips for all our student participants. Lighthouse Parking, Entertainment Books, Tree Lighting Concessions, Candy Sales, scrip and the Messiah have all been fiscal successes, (hopefully the upcoming Vienna Ball will be too!) due to so many hard working parents and students! Thanks for pitching in!!!

Program Fee

In an effort to simplify our fees and to spread them throughout the year, a program fee was created for the symphonic program. This fee should be showing up on your student's KPAB student account statement. The program fee for IO students, since they do not take an overnight trip, is only \$15.00, and was due in the fall, on October 15.

For PSI and PSII students, this fee includes the cost of the Gresham trip, including the hotel, buses, Saturday's dinner, snacks and other miscellaneous travel expenses. It also includes the costs of clinicians throughout the year and other extra expenses, such as extra music stands and lights. The fee is broken into two payments, one due on October 15 and the other on January 15. The first payment for all symphonic players (strings, winds, brass and percussion) was \$50.00. The January payment for string players in PSI and PSII is \$85.00. The January payment for symphonic winds/brass/percussion is \$60.00.

Students who need financial assistance to participate in the program can request it. Contact Mr. Steves for more information on this matter. Please note that students, who have not made prior alternative payment arrangements and have an outstanding balance at the time of a trip, will not be allowed to travel with the group.

Kammerstreich ASB Fee

Historically, many of the extra charges that Kammerstreich incurred were paid by funding from ASB. Unfortunately, in the "new economy," those funds have been reduced and we need a way to cover

those costs. Kammerstreich students go to a few extra festivals, performances and most significantly, economically speaking, have extra clinician time. Like last year, we need members of Kammerstreich to cover approximately half of these expenses, those that ASB does not cover. The fee this year is \$50 per member, payable to Kamiak ASB and paid directly to the bookkeeper. Please note that like Solo/Ensemble fees and tuxedo fees, students may use monies from their KPAB account to cover this ASB cost, by notifying the student accounts contact.

Summary of Volunteers Needed

1/29 Vienna Ball – contact Tresha Carter at ptcarter.carter@gmail.com.

3/9 SKMEA Chaperones – contact Melanie Field at melanie1004@gmail.com

Spring Bulb Sale – contact Carol Collison at behren.s@juno.com

Calendar Summary

January

1/14 Kammer Klinik, 12:00 – 2:00 PM

1/15 Program fees due, check your January Statement for more info

1/15 Financial Aid forms due for Gresham scholarships/Program fee

1/24 Vienna Ball ticket envelopes due to Mr. Steves

1/27 Quartet Clinic (for those that signed up) 12:00 – 3 PM

1/28 Kammer Klinik 10 AM – 12:00 PM

1/29 Vienna Ball in Kamiak Commons, 6 pm lesson, 7 pm live music begins

February

2/1 Spain Payment Due – Students \$600

2/5 Solo/Ensemble at Lynnwood High School, all day

2/10 KPAB Booster Meeting in Choir Room in the PAC at 7 pm

2/11 Kammerstreich Seattle Workshop 9 – 4 PM, Calvin Presbyterian

2/17-20 All State in Bellevue

March

3/1 All Gresham and SKMEA paperwork and final Spain payment due

3/1 Spain Culture Night in the PAC at 6:30

3/3 KPAB Booster Meeting in Choir Room in the PAC at 7 pm

3/2 or 3 Symphony I Rehearsal 6 – 8 PM, date TBD

3/4–5 Gresham, Oregon Festival

3/9 SKMEA Festival at Edmonds Arts Center, all day

3/10 District Festival concert in Kamiak gym at 7 pm

3/11 Spain Orchestra Rehearsal #1, 12:00 – 2:00 PM

3/24 Spain Send-Off in the Commons 5:30 pm

3/24 Orchestra Concert at Kamiak PAC 7 pm

3/25 Spain Orchestra Rehearsal #2, 12:00 – 2:00 PM

3/31 Depart for Spain

Hope this info helps. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Melanie Field, Orchestra Liaison
425-355-2625, melanie1004@gmail.com

January 6, 2011