
VOICES



The Newsletter of the Whitman High School Choral Program

FALL 2011



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

“That Lonesome Road”

By Jeff Davidson

Hello Whitman choral music parents. Welcome back to another school year—one that promises more great musical experiences for all of our students, regardless of the ensemble(s) that they are a member of.

As I ponder my 30th year of teaching people through music, these thought provoking lines from James Taylor’s lesser known song “That Lonesome Road” come to mind. As parents of teenagers, I’m pretty sure you will be able to relate to their significance for your kids.

*If I had stopped to **listen** once or twice,
If I had closed my mouth and opened my eyes;
If I had cooled my head and warmed my heart,
I’d not be on this road tonight.*

Actually, I think we all can see the relevance of these words and their importance as we carry on through our daily lives. I highlight the word, **listen**, as it is one of the key elements of successful music study, i.e. the ability to listen to oneself and those around us is essential to success for singers and instrumentalists alike. This and the ability to be patient are some of the biggest challenges for our students in the age of ever expanding technologies that we live in.

This year, our Chamber Choir will be learning and performing Deen Entsminger’s arrangement of the song. Dr. Entsminger is the Director of Choral Activities at the Blair College of Music at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Our choruses will have the

(Continued on page 2)



ANNUAL CHORAL MUSIC BOOSTERS “HOMECOMING” PARTY

A main event for the Music Boosters for many years has been our Winter Party, a rare opportunity for parents and faculty to meet and mingle while enjoying good food and music provided by students in the home of a Whitman family. This year’s choral party will take place on **Sunday, November 6, 4-6 p.m.**, following the exciting student Homecoming events for the weekend.

In a change from prior years, 2011 invitations will not solicit donations. It is our hope that by the first week in September families will have already paid the required fee and offered a voluntary donation (see Funding the Music Program, on page 6)! We hope to fund our wonderful choral program by having all families contribute to the Boosters! This year, alumni students/parents of the Choral Program are invited to attend the party and reconnect with Mr. Davidson and Whitman music.

To save trees, funds, and volunteer time, invitations will be sent electronically, so please be sure to join the ChoralNet listserv. You can also look for details on the Walt Whitman Music Boosters Facebook page. This annual party relies on the generosity of a volunteer host family, your contributions of savories and sweets, and your good company for its success. We hope you will join us for this musical homecoming of our own! ♪



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

(from page 1)

opportunity to work with him—one of the key features of this year's music trip.

Speaking of the trip, Ms. Alvey and I have been working diligently on finalizing all the details of the exciting music trip to Nashville in April. We are thrilled that our students will be able to experience one of the great cities where American music has grown and flourished.

I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our choral booster club president, Paula Laboy. This will be Paula's last year on the job—we all owe her a great debt of gratitude for volunteering countless hours over the past several years as the parent chairman of our large organization. She also spent a great deal of time this summer organizing the back to school newsletter, which is the main communication between me and parents on all things choral for the coming school year.

Paula is busy recruiting parent volunteers for the many important jobs that need to be done this year. If you are available and willing to help, please contact her (ptlaboy@aol.com) I know she will be glad to hear from you. Please know that your help is greatly appreciated by me—your involvement is key to our success as a music program.

Please read all of the information in this newsletter, it should answer most of your questions regarding the Choral program. I would encourage you to stay informed by checking our music department website (www.waltwhitmanmusic.com) regularly. Huge thanks also to our webmaster, Devra Glowinski.

Finally, our internet communication tool, ChoralNet, will keep you informed of important announcements, some coming directly from me, for you and your children. It is very important that you subscribe so we can keep you informed. (See article at right for instructions on how to join ChoralNet.)

I look forward to seeing you at our concerts and various performances this year. All the best to you and your family for a happy and successful 2011-12 school year. ♪

WELCOME FROM THE MUSIC BOOSTERS CO-CHAIRS

On behalf of the Music Boosters, we welcome all new and returning students and families to the Whitman Music community! We are looking forward to an encore of exciting events, challenging competitions, and beautiful music throughout the school year.

This newsletter and the messages on ChoralNet contain essential information about the choral music program at Whitman and details about upcoming events. We encourage you to read them carefully, and also to refer to an additional resource for all things music at Whitman: the Music Boosters website, www.waltwhitmanmusic.org. We are especially grateful to **Sara Greenbaum**, our editor, for her outstanding execution of this newsletter, and **Devra Glowinski**, our webmaster, for her incredible revamping of our website.

To stay informed, please be sure to sign up for the **ChoralNet** listserv if haven't done so already. Simply send an email to WWHS-Choral-Boosters-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Please include in your email the following information:

Student's name and grade
Choral class(es) enrolled in
Parent name(s)
Parent address(es)
Home phone number

The Whitman music program brings music daily to our students, families, and community. We thank our administration, faculty, and musicians for keeping the arts alive through their hard work and dedication. And we thank all of you for your continued enthusiastic support, time and donations to help sustain their efforts.

Paula Laboy and *Elise Browne Hughes*
Co-Chairs, Choral Music Boosters ♪



What Is the Walt Whitman Choral Music Boosters Club?

The Choral Boosters Club was founded in 2000 to coordinate parent support of Whitman's outstanding choral music program. In 2010, the Choral Boosters and the Instrumental Boosters combined forces and incorporate as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) group called the Walt Whitman Music Boosters to better serve the Whitman music community.

The reason for the Boosters is simple: For many students, their participation in chorus, both during school and as an extracurricular activity, is a highlight of their years at Whitman. But we know that the students and their choral director can't maintain the program at its current level, nor foster further growth, without the ongoing support of parents. And that's where Music Boosters step in.

Here are answers to some questions you might have about the Music Boosters:

How do I join?

Done! If you are the parent of a student enrolled in a Whitman choral class, you are automatically a member of the Music Boosters.

Are there any dues?

No, but the Boosters suggest a minimum donation, depending on the ensemble in which your child participates (see Funding the Music Program on page 6



for a list of the suggested contribution levels). These donations are used to augment the Music Department budget and the miniscule MCPS lab fee that each choral student is required to pay.

In this way, Mr. Davidson is better able to enhance the quality of our choral program, from the acquisition of sheet music, to sponsoring guest performances and clinicians, to expanding festival competition and performance activities.

What does the Music Boosters Club do?

The Boosters Club serves in several roles:

- provides ongoing assistance to the Music Department, such as concert dress fittings and tuxedo checkout, luggage check-in for music trip, chaperoning for competitions, and food & drinks at concerts, Festival of the Arts, and other performances;
- organizes parent social and fundraising events;
- keeps parents informed via newsletter, email, website, and meetings;
- helps coordinate festivals, concerts, and performances; and
- provides the financial support that the choral program needs to maintain the excellence of its programs by collecting tax-deductible donations (see Funding the Music Program, page 6) and through the Shop for Chorus programs (see page 9)

How do I get involved?

There is a niche for every parent who wishes to become involved. (See the list of current subcommittees on page 10.) It is a terrific way to connect to the Whitman music community.

If you would like to volunteer to help the choral program in any way, please send an email to Paula Laboy (ptlaboy@aol.com) or Elise Browne Hughes (browne.hughes@gmail.com). Thank you for your ongoing support. ♪



MONTGOMERY COUNTY YOUTH CHORUS PARTICIPANTS

The following Whitman students have been accepted to MCYC for this fall: **Lizzie Bartlett, Michelle Huey, Scott Kaplowitz, Emma Keteltas, Simone Levine** and **Cassie Rabner**. The group will perform their concert on Monday November 7, time and location to be announced. Congratulations to our Whitman singers! 🎵

VOICES UNITED Whitman Students Sing for American Choral Directors Association

Congratulations to **Lizzie Bartlett** and **Simone Levine**, who sang in the Festival Chorus of the ACDA “Voices United” summer conference of choral directors from Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the District. Bravo! 🎵



Classical Me Concerts Scheduled

The Whitman Music Department held its first “Classical Me” concert in 2009 in order to provide an opportunity for dedicated Whitman musicians to perform and showcase their individual talent for staff, friends, and family. This tradition of musical excellence continues this school year, with two concerts scheduled: **February 7th and April 28th 2012**. Audition dates will be announced later this year. For questions, contact Instrumental Music teacher, Ms. Terry Alvey at terry_s_alvey@mcpsmd.org. 🎵



ALL-STATE AUDITIONS: WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?

Students have the opportunity to audition for Maryland All-State choral ensembles. Mr. Davidson will discuss the audition process and distribute audition materials in the fall to interested students. Overseen by the Maryland Music Educators Association, the Junior All-State auditions (9th grade) will take place on Saturday, November 12 in Middletown, and the Senior All-State auditions (10th – 12th grades) will take place on Saturday, November 19 in Urbana.

Why audition? All-State groups bring together the area's finest young singers to work with hand-picked choral directors on challenging pieces. It's a great musical and social experience for all participants.

What happens if selected? Both Junior and Senior All-State participants must prepare the selected music pieces, attend a weekend long music workshop in a hotel, and participate in a final concert for family and friends. The Senior All-State weekend is February 24-26 in Baltimore, and the Junior All-State Weekend is March 9-11 in Hagerstown. 🎵



MEET MR. D!

Jeff Davidson has been teaching for Montgomery County Public Schools for 30 years and for the past 27 years as Choral Director and Music Department Chairman at Walt Whitman High School.

With an enrollment of close to 300 students, Mr. Davidson teaches five choral ensembles daily; Freshmen Chorus, Treble Chorale, Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus, and Chamber Choir.

Under his direction, the Whitman ensembles have consistently earned superior ratings in district and state festivals, as well as competitions in major cities from Canada to Florida. He has earned numerous awards and honors throughout his career, most notably the MMEA Outstanding Music Teacher Award for Excellence and finalist for the Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award.

Mr. Davidson is well known state-wide as a festival adjudicator and honors chorus director for many of Maryland's school systems. He was a member of the Maryland Choral Educators Association board of directors from 2000–2009 where he served as the chairman of the festival music review committee and men's demonstration chorus. He is also an active member of the American Choral Directors Association and Music Educators National Conference. 🎵

ANNUAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT TRIP

Whitman Music Heads to "Music City, USA"



This year's music trip heads to *Nashville, Tennessee, April 18-22, 2012!*

The group will depart Whitman around 9:00 pm on Wednesday April 18, and return home at approximately 1:00 pm on Sunday April 22. All choral groups attend with the exception of General Chorus.

A trip information letter was sent home with your child the first week of school and is posted on our website and via ChoralNet.

More information about fees, registration, and other details will be provided during the school year. 🎵





FUNDING THE CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM

MCPS guidelines limit class fees to \$10/year for music classes (additional assessments are permitted for music festival entry fees and transportation).

The amount raised from these fees alone falls well short of what's needed to maintain the excellence of our programs. To make up for this shortfall and avoid repeated requests for funds throughout the year, the Music Boosters urge families to make a tax-deductible, voluntary contribution in addition to the \$10 class fee.

The following are suggested donation amounts, which reflect the estimated cost for student participation in each program:

Men's Chorus: \$75
Women's Chorus: \$75
Treble Chorale: \$50
General Chorus: \$50

We welcome and greatly appreciate any amount you are able to give in support of your student and to help cover essential, important expenses, including uniforms, sheet music, stipends for guest teachers and clinicians, an annual CD recording, the farewell concert, spring awards banquet, scholarships for students unable to participate without assistance, and instrument tuning, maintenance and repair.

If you have not done so already, please pay the required \$10-per-student fee by check; it was due September 8. Make checks payable to Walt Whitman High School. By mail: Attn: Mr. Jeff Davidson, Music Dept., Walt Whitman High School, 7100 Whittier Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

Please do not combine payment of the mandatory MCPS fee and the Boosters donation! The \$10 required fee must be paid to the school separately from any additional (tax-deductible) booster contribution.

If you donate to the Boosters early, it will help us plan the many programs that depend on your

donation! Again, because Whitman Music Boosters is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, donations are tax deductible.

Booster Club suggested donations can be made by check or online (by credit card or Paypal) according to these instructions:

1. Log on to www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com. (Link and directions can also be found on www.waltwhitmanmusic.org.)
2. Select —Click here to create a new account. If you are already registered, sign in and go to step 4.
3. Sign up your student(s) as indicated, or if you are not a parent, sign up using your own name.
4. Under —Pay For column, click —Select (if you have registered more than one student, click —Select under the student's name enrolled in the music program).
5. Next to —Choral Music, click —Select, then choose the suggested donation amount for your child's ensemble. Or, select —Open Donation Amount to enter another amount. Donations of every size are greatly appreciated.
6. While signed in, you may also make donations or payments to Whitman PTSA, Athletic Boosters, Speech and Debate Team, and the WHS Education Foundation.
7. At checkout, use a credit card or your PayPal account. If you encounter problems registering, email parent volunteer Yuriko Gandolfo for help: ymagori@verizon.net.

Thank you, in advance, for helping maintain Whitman's dynamic music department as an inspirational home for our children, ensuring a high caliber of musical arts at Whitman for them and our community! 🎵



VOICES

Looking for a Voice Instructor?

The following is a list of local schools of music and private voice instructors obtained from various sources in the community. Walt Whitman High School neither recommends nor takes responsibility for the teachers listed below.

Students should also consult with Mr. Davidson and Ms. Alvey when considering searching for a new private voice teacher.

PRIVATE VOICE TEACHERS

Tim Ballard 301-527-0690
www.ballardvocalstudio.com

Deborah Benner 202-537-7469
deborahbenner@hotmail.com

Susan Berkson 301-460-2726

Aurelius & Grace Gori 301-946-6530
gorivoicestudiols@verizon.net

Kristin Halliday 301-461-6774
performingacademy@yahoo.com

Keith Hudspeth 202-257-7794
khudspeth@gds.org

Terrance Johns 202-375-9762
TerryJdc@gmail.com

Eve Kornhauser 301-765-0570
evekornhauser@hotmail.com

D. Brian Lee 301-576-3370
www.vocalability.com

Leslie MacKnight 301-655-6988
lesliemack@yahoo.com

Maureen Mullaney 301-613-9532
maureenmullaney@gmail.com

Hilary Ryon Park 571-451-9851
mhryon@gmail.com

Medea Namoradze-Ruhadze 301-816-0141
mruhadze@su.edu

Maryann Sewell 202-726-8858
viva.diva@earthlink.net

Kimiko Shimada 301-251-6133

Myra Tate 301-946-4818
Singforjoy2@verizon.net

Angela Peterson Winter 202-744-2252
www.apvoicestudio.com

LOCAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC*

Levine School of Music 301-897-5100

Washington Conservatory 301-320-2770

International School of Music 301-657-0763

*A number of good voice teachers who are not listed above are affiliated with these music schools. Simply contact the schools to set up an appointment.





CONCERT DRESS FOR 2011-12 CHORAL GROUPS

Parents - please review the concert dress requirements for each group. If any student is unable or unwilling to purchase concert attire, please contact Mr. Davidson for assistance.

FOOTWEAR – ALL GROUPS:

Boys: Black dress shoes & black socks

Girls: Black dress shoes – character shoes are ideal, or plain black flats or low heels – no open toe, platforms, sandals or flip flops please!

GENERAL CHORUS:

Boys: White dress shirt – no button down collars, tie (any color), suspenders (any color), black dress pants

Girls: White blouse (your own); neutral or no stockings. Students are asked to purchase floor length black skirt through the choral department.

TREBLE CHORALE:

Students are asked to purchase floor length black skirt (if you did not purchase one in General Chorus) and a blue concert top through the choral department.

MEN'S CHORUS:

White dress shirt - no button down collars (your own). Choral department will provide black suits and ties.

ADVANCE WOMEN'S CHORUS:

Students are asked to purchase black and white concert dress through the choral department.

CHAMBER CHOIR:

Boys: Choral department will provide formal wear

Girls: Students are asked to purchase black concert dress through the choral department. Costume pearls provided by the choral department. ♪



Announcing the Walt Whitman Fall Musical – GYPSY!

What do Ethel Merman, Bernadette Peters, Patti Lupone and the talented musicians at Whitman High School have in common? That's right, the musical, Gypsy! Gypsy is based on a book by Arthur Laurents, about the life of Gypsy Rose Lee and her ultimate show business mother, Rose. The music was written by Jule Styne, with lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Unforgettable songs like *Everything's Coming Up Roses*, *Together, Wherever We Go* and *Let me Entertain You* are guaranteed to entertain us for a delightful evening. Mark your calendars for November 17 – 19th and join us for another amazing Whitman production. ♪

VISIT OUR CHORAL WEBSITE

www.waltwhitmanmusic.org

Just click on Choral Music to find all of the information you will need about the Choral Program, the Music Faculty, Spring Trip, Choral Calendar, Photos, and more!



SHOP FOR CHORUS FUNDRAISER GIANT GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Do you buy groceries? Do you buy them at Giant? If so, you can help support the Whitman Choral Music program every time you shop without spending an extra penny.

As a community service, Giant sells gift cards to Music Boosters at a discount, so we can sell them to the community at face value, reaping five cents on every dollar sold to put toward our children's music education.

It's that easy. There is ***no additional cost to you!*** Giant gift cards will be sold four times per school year and are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100. Information will be available at Back to School Night, posted to our website, and circulated on ChoralNet.

Questions? Please contact Lee Talisman at leebeethree@aol.com. ♪



SHOP FOR CHORUS FUNDRAISER SAFEWAY CARD REBATE PROGRAM

Not a Giant shopper? Prefer Safeway? No problem! The Choral Boosters participates in Safeway's rebate program. When you register and use your Safeway Club Card when you shop, Safeway will donate up to 3% of the value of your purchases to support the Choral Boosters. One more chance to help with fundraising ***at no cost to you!***

It is easy to sign up:

1. Have your Safeway Club Card number handy. If you've lost your card, call 1-877-SAFEWAY (723-3929) to get your number.
2. Go to www.escrip.com
3. Click on Step 1 – Sign Up – It's Free!
4. Search for and select our group – Walt Whitman Choral Boosters
5. Follow the prompts to sign up.

Remember to use your card or enter your phone number every time you shop at Safeway, and Whitman Chorus benefits!

Signed up last year? To renew, simply click on the renewal link at the bottom left of www.escrip.com.

Further information will be available at Back to School Night, posted to our website, and circulated on ChoralNet.

Questions? Please contact Paula Laboy at ptlaboy@aol.com. ♪



2011-2012 MUSIC BOOSTERS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

Whitman Choral Music Boosters help support music activities and programming throughout the school year. Several Subcommittee Chairs remain open.

To volunteer, please see the list below for openings and contact either Paula Laboy or Elise Browne Hughes today:

Co-Chairs Paula Laboy 301-365-3818
Elise Browne Hughes 301-320-0889

CONCERT ATTIRE

Assist the members of all choral ensembles with fitting and/or ordering performance attire

General Chorus	Lisa Barber
Treble Chorale	Anne Carlson
Women's Chorus	Janice Huey
Men's Chorus	David Besch
Chamber Choir Men	Liz Wiedemann
Chamber Choir Women	Paula Laboy

ANNUAL PARTY (NOV. 6)

Organize the volunteers and food & drink donations; assist the party host

Hosts	Paula & Felix Laboy
Coordinators	Claudia Ades and Andrea Brenner



WINTER CONCERT RECEPTION (DEC. 15) Rebekah Liu and Robin Frankel

Organize food and volunteers for our post-concert reception

HISTORIANS

Photograph chorus events for website and publications; maintain Picasa albums

Photographer Anice Hoachlander

Write articles about the Choral Program for PTSA Newsletter

Viking Voice OPEN

CHAMBER FAREWELL CONCERT RECEPTION (JUNE 4) OPEN

Junior family to host and organize a small reception for Chamber Choir Members

WEBMASTER Devra Glowinski

Maintain Music Department website

WEBSITE COORDINATOR OPEN

Assist webmaster in updating website content & design

SHOP FOR CHORUS PROGRAMS

Coordinate the Giant Gift Card or Safeway Rebate fundraising programs

Giant Lee Talisman

Safeway OPEN

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Sara Greenbaum

Prepare the fall back to school newsletter for the Choral Program

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS LIAISON

Laurie Levy Page

Work with FOA Chairs; organize volunteers for choral performances at FOA

CHORALNET LISTSERV OPEN

Moderate the listserv and maintain the data in our online yaboogroup 🎵

VOICES



FALL 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 6-7 Fall Musical (“Gypsy”) auditions
- 9 First Trip Payment due (\$180)
- 12 MCYC rehearsals begin
- 19 Music Boosters meeting, 7:00pm, room B102

October

- 28 Second Trip Payment due (\$180)

November

- 4 Homecoming Game—Men’s Chorus sings Star Spangled Banner, 6:30pm
- 6 Music Boosters Party at Laboy house, half of Chamber Choir performs, 4-6pm
- 7 MCYC Concert, location and time TBA
- 12 Junior All-State Chorus auditions at Middletown MS, times TBA
- 19 Senior All-State Chorus auditions at Urbana HS, times TBA
- 17-19 Fall Musical – *GYPSEY* – 7:30pm

December

- 8 Pyle Assemblies, periods 1-4
- 8 Eighth Grade Parents meeting, Octets perform, time TBA
- 9 Third Trip Payment (\$180)
- 14 Pyle Winter Choral Concert, 7:00pm
- 15 **Whitman Winter Choral Concert, 7:00pm**
- 23 Music Department Assemblies, double 3rd period

January

- 5 Winter Concert snow date
- 27 Final Trip Payment due (\$180)

February

- 6 WWHS Cluster Concert, Chamber Choir performs, 7:00pm
- 7 Classical Me Recital, St. Dunstan’s Church, 7:00pm
- 24-26 Senior All-State Choruses in Baltimore (MMEA Conference)

March

- 3 UMD Celebration of Women’s Voices (Women’s Chorus performs)—daytime rehearsals/workshops; 8:00pm Concert at the Memorial Chapel, College Park
- 9-11 Junior All-State Chorus in Hagerstown
- 14-15 MCPS Choral Festival/Assessment, all groups—day, times, and locations TBA
- 23-24 Talent Show

April

- 17 Luggage Check-In, auditorium, 2:15pm-6:00pm
- 18 Evening Departure for Music Trip, time TBA
- 19-22 **Music Department Trip to Nashville**
- 28 Classical Me Recital, St. Dunstan’s Church, 7:00pm

May

- 2-3 Festival of the Arts, all groups, day and time TBA

June

- 2 Farewell Concert Dress Rehearsal, 2:00-6:00pm, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
- 4 Chamber Choir Farewell Concert, 7:00pm, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
- 6 Graduation, Constitution Hall, 2:30pm (Women’s and Men’s)