

# Instrumental Music Newsletter

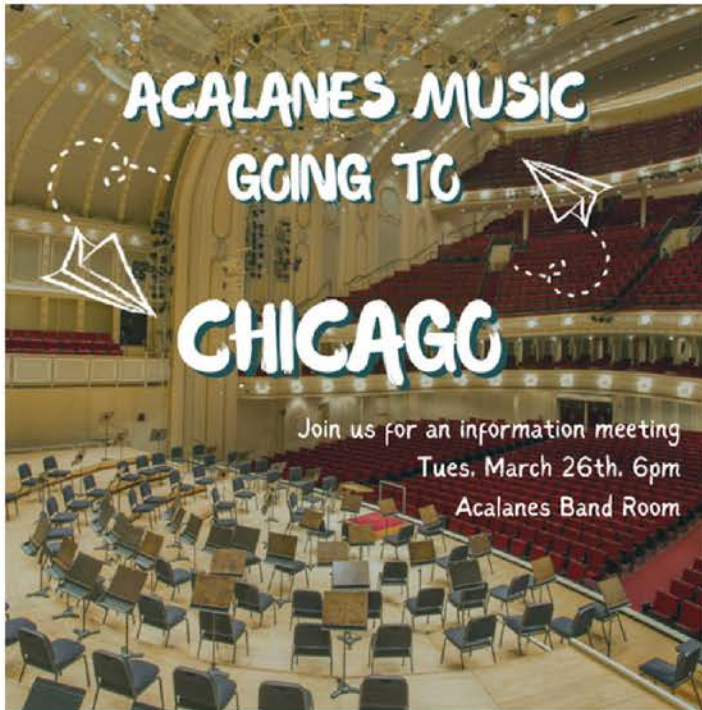


## FESTIVAL SEASON UNDERWAY

March is a busy month for many of our student musicians. Not only are we in the midst of perfecting our festival music- but many of our students are also studying for upcoming AP tests, performing in the Musical, performing in outside musical groups, participating in spring sports and getting ready for graduation!

With so much in our calendars, I find it grounding to take a breath and remember to try to enjoy the process over everything else!

On the upbeat,  
Edwin Cordoba



### Exciting News!

The Acalanes Instrumental Music Program has been invited to perform at the *Chicago International Music Festival* during our 2025 Spring Break!

Join us for a parent meeting on **Tuesday, March 26th at 6pm** in the Acalanes HS Band Room to learn more!

This will be in LIEU of an earlier proposed "Italy" trip\*

March 30th- April 3rd, 2025 (Spring Break) All Musicians in the Instrumental Music Program invited!

[ACALANESINSTRUMENTALMUSIC.ORG](http://ACALANESINSTRUMENTALMUSIC.ORG)

MARCH 2024

## Upcoming Dates

March 6-9  
Musical

Sat, March 9th  
LPIE Gala

Fri, March 15th  
Sonoma Invitational

Sat, March 16th  
Santa Cruz Jazz Festival

Sat, March 23rd  
CMEA Festival

Tue, March 26th  
Parent Meeting

April 25-27  
Reno Festival

Tues, April 30th  
Collage Concert

Thurs, May 2nd  
Spring Concert

## At A Glance

[Sonoma Itinerary](#)

[Santa Cruz Jazz Itinerary](#)

[Musical Rehearsal Schedule](#)

[CMEA Itinerary](#)

### **Birthdays This Month**

- 1 Piero Carhuachin
- 4 Jade Larsen
- 6 Aidinh Chen
- 7 Ava Medeiros
- 13 Max Verendia
- 15 Xylia Zhu
- 27 Santana Tamayo
- 28 Danny Martin
- 29 Jack Warden
- 30 Jeremy Lara

## Thank you...



## CMEA: SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD

CMEA is the most important festival of the year. CMEA stands for the California Music Educator's Association: Concert and Sight-Reading Festival. The date for CMEA is Saturday, March 23rd at San Ramon Valley High School and EVERY ensemble in the program is required to participate.

We will not be formally carpooling to San Ramon- parents/guardians should drop off their student at San Ramon Valley HS that morning. Students may drive themselves, but they may not drive other students. Here is the [CMEA Itinerary](#).



## SONOMA INVITATIONAL: FRIDAY, MARCH 15TH

Our String Orchestra and Wind Ensemble will perform at the Sonoma Wind Band and Orchestra Festival- taking place during the school day on Friday, March 15th. We are currently short 5 student spots on the bus and will need a parent or two to carpool some of our students. Let Mr. Cordoba know if you are able to carpool!

**And YES, the students have a 6am call time at Acalanes.**

*This is Weill Hall, the space where students will be performing!*



## WIZARD OF OZ SHOWS THIS WEEK!

Congratulations to our musicians that are a part of the musical pit orchestra! and cast We are lucky to have a healthy and fully realized orchestra this year!

It is not too late to [get your tickets here!](#)

Shout out to our instrumental musicians!

- Violin 1: Maor Ziskind
- Violin 2: Rihye Kim , Lauren Anderson
- Viola: Miela Hsu, Mimi Tantameng
- Cello: Nathan Feng
- Bass: Ruby Deeming
- Flute: Ava Medeiros
- Oboe (Synthesizer): Adelina Zheng
- Reed 1 (Alto Sax, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet): Caleb Sherman
- Reed 2 (Tenor Sax, Clarinet): Jade Larsen
- Reed 3: Felix Perry
- Trumpet 1: Jack Steven
- Trumpet 2: Scarlett Wells-Feaster
- Trombone: Emmett Brummel
- Percussion 1: Aidan Lorimer, Hailee Shah
- Percussion 2 (Drum Set): Jake Rennie
- Piano Synthesizer: Lucas Chow



## JAZZ BAND AND COMBO SET TO TAKE STAGE AT SANTA CRUZ

Wish the Jazz Band Good Luck as they get ready to perform at the Santa Cruz Jazz Festival on Saturday, March 16th!

## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY JAZZ

Congratulations to our Acalanes Jazz Musicians who were selected to participate in the 2024 Contra Costa County Honor Band!

They performed a beautiful concert on Sunday at Los Medanos College!

Emmett Brummel: Trombone  
 Spencer Tantameng: Vibes/Drum Set  
 Leo Wornick: Drums  
 Nathan Joseph: Piano

## UNANIMOUS SUPERIORS AT HOMESTEAD

We are so proud of our Acalanes Orchestra for receiving unanimous superior ratings at the Homestead Orchestra Festival! It was the Orchestra's first time attending this event and Acalanes was one of only a few groups to receive such distinction!



## ALL-STATE CONCERTS

Our Acalanes All-Staters enjoyed a week of rehearsals and performances at the 2024 California All State Music Educator's Conference. Congratulations!



## INTERESTED IN JOINING THE 2024-25 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BOARD?

Many hands make work light! If you are interested in collaborating with other parents to make this music program the best it can be, please consider joining the instrumental music board.

We have anticipated vacancies in our Jazz Liaison, Stanley Liaison, Event Coordinator, and Reception Coordinator roles! The Board meets monthly on Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Collaboration Center. The next meeting is March 13 and you are welcome to attend.

Contact our Instrumental Music Chair, Sharon Mieloch-Garcia at [instrumental-vp@ahsperformingarts.org](mailto:instrumental-vp@ahsperformingarts.org) if you have any questions!

Instrumental Music co-chair.....	Sharon Mieloch-Garcia
Secretary.....	Emily Rennie
Treasurer.....	Paul Joseph
Orchestra Liaison.....	Stella Wotherspoon
Webmaster & Asst. Treasurer.....	Chris Hsu
<b>Jazz Liaison.....</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>Stanley Liaison .....</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
(preferred to be a parent with a current Stanley student)	
Programs and Posters.....	Ingrid Koo
Publicity/Communications.....	Ed Koo
<b>Event Coordinator.....</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
(concert cash donations, open doors to concerts at set time, reserve seats / coordinate ushers if we sell reserved seats)	
<b>Reception Coordinator(s).....</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
(coordinate donations of food for receptions, pep band, pit orchestra, etc.)	
Chaperone/Carpool Coordinator.....	Rashmi Vrajmohan
Concert Attire Coordinator.....	Andrea Christie

## THANK YOU LPIE!



You may recall that LPIE funds all electives at Stanley Middle School, but did you know that LPIE continues to provide critically-needed support for the music program at Acalanes? Every year, LPIE funding enables Acalanes to offer an extensive catalog of elective and AP sections. This year's grant of \$400,000 for class sections, touches every elective including the instrumental music sections. In addition, LPIE covers musical instruments, repairs and additions to the music library.

LPIE would not exist without the support of the Lafayette community and your donations are very much appreciated. If you have not had a chance to give this year, it is not too late -- your participation is vital and a gift of any amount will help to close the gap and reach this year's goal.

[www.lpie.org/donate](http://www.lpie.org/donate)

## CONCERT BAND

Next year, we are greenlighting the concert band: a course designed to introduce students to a brand new instrument.

The purpose of this course is to remove the gate-keeping and barriers for entry to the high school instrumental program - increasing access to music making at the high school. A secondary effect to this will be supplementing enrollment to the major ensembles down the road. We are so excited to grow our program!

<https://www.acalanesinstrumentalmusic.org/courses>

## CHAMBER MUSIC

Chamber music is a form of classical music that is composed for a small group of instruments- traditionally a group that could fit in a palace chamber or a large room.

Solo and chamber music playing is some of the most important and formative type of playing that a student musician can partake in- it develops independence, listening and overall musicianship!

Select chamber groups will get the opportunity to perform at the LPIE Gala on Saturday March 9th at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

At the end of the semester, we will be having a Collage Concert where we will feature various Acalanes chamber groups!

## SENIOR PARENTS

The banners recognizing our instrumental music seniors are a big hit! If you have not paid \$25 for your child's banner, please submit payment to our treasurer Paul Joseph as soon as possible.



[apab-treasurer@ahsperformingarts.org](mailto:apab-treasurer@ahsperformingarts.org)

## COACH SPOTLIGHT: ARIEL WANG



Ariel began studying violin at the age of 9, and since then has earned a Masters in Music for Violin Performance from San Francisco State University. She has many years of performance experience, as well as teaching experience in violin, guitar, and piano, and can put together any ensemble for your event needs - strings, strings with piano, full band, and more. She plays concertmaster for Les Ameriquains, a baroque dance band, has sat concertmaster for the Echo Chamber Orchestra in Marin which focuses on modern compositions as well as favorite long-standing repertoire, plays and composes music for CAPO (Composer Arranger Performer Orchestra), and has also played with multiple artists and groups, including Miss Lauryn Hill and the Fugees, Stockton Symphony, Chuck Prophet, Jazz Mafia, Sapphire Lung, Django Moves to Portland, and more. She has recorded for Aneesa Strings, Catch Prichard, Rachel Lark, and more.

We are lucky to have Ariel working with us here at Acalanes!



## FESTIVALS FAQ

**What is a festival?** In short, it is a learning opportunity for our ensembles where they receive feedback from qualified adjudicators (judges) on a set of prepared pieces (usually 3 pieces of contrasting styles).

**What are the different types of festivals?** There are different types of festivals. **Ranked festivals** give a group a scored number based on a rubric and then rank the groups based on that score. Groups are ranked against other groups that come from a school of a similar student body size. **Rating festivals** will result in an overall "rating" based on evaluation of criteria (tone, accuracy, balance, blend, etc). Here is an example of a [judge's score sheet](#) from our state rated festival, "CMEA". A CMEA performance results in an overall "Superior", an "Excellent", a "Good" or a "Fair" rating. **"Comments-Only"** festivals result in feedback from adjudicators without there being a rating or a ranking.

**What is sight-reading?** There is a sight reading component to our state "rated" festival, CMEA. After the stage performance of the three prepared pieces, students are taken to a different room where they are asked to look at a new piece of music that they (nor I, the director) have never seen before! We then have 5 minutes to prepare the piece by talking about the piece, counting through it or singing through it. At the end of the 5 minutes, we are then asked to play through it! It is a test of a group's "literacy"- and the group is then given a rating. Parents are free to be in the room during this process!

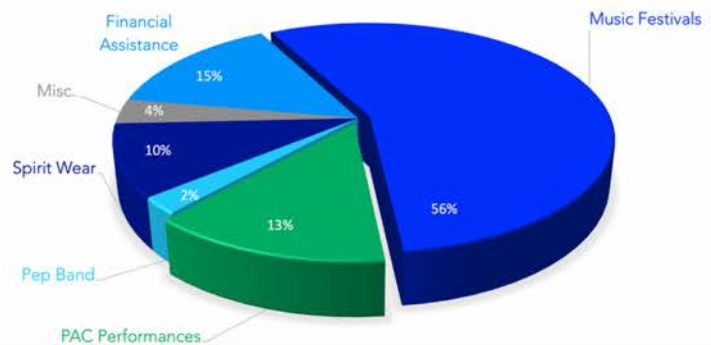
**Does the school pay for festivals?** No. It costs to register individual groups to festivals and to pay for transportation to festivals. Registration can cost between \$300-450 per group; a charter bus can cost \$1700. This is where we need your contributions to "APAB-Instrumental" to pay for these expenses.

**What are the outcomes?** Festivals are a great way for students to reach their musical potential and demonstrate great literacy!

## PROGRAM FUNDING NEEDS

We are in need of donations to support students' out-of-the-classroom, co-curricular activities! All donations are tax deductible! Here's a chart showing our 2023-2024 budget allocations. Music Festivals (buses, registration fees) are the biggest item! Financial Assistance includes scholarships for trips. Spirit wear are our shirts. Pep Band includes meals. PAC Performances include program curation and printing, custodial fees and other miscellaneous fees related to our PAC Concerts. You can donate [HERE](#)

Instrumental Music Boosters  
2023-24 Support  
\$22,000



## What do LIPIE and APAB Fund?

LIPIE: In the classroom!

- Music Class Sections
- Music Library
- Instruments

APAB: Out of the classroom!

- Festival Entry Fees
- Transportation
- Concert Support
- Scholarships

**Donate to LIPIE**

**Donate to APAB**

Note "Instrumental Music"

## CARPOOL VOLUNTEERING

If you are interested in being a parent carpooling volunteer, here are the instructions:

1. 'Volunteer Personal Automobile Use' form duly filled.
2. Copy of driver license
3. Copy of Automobile Insurance Coverage Declaration (not a bill)

Please send it to Nicole Singleterry at  
nsingleterry@auhsdschools.org.

## HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Feel free to contact me at  
ecordoba@auhsdschools.org