

# Instrumental Music Newsletter



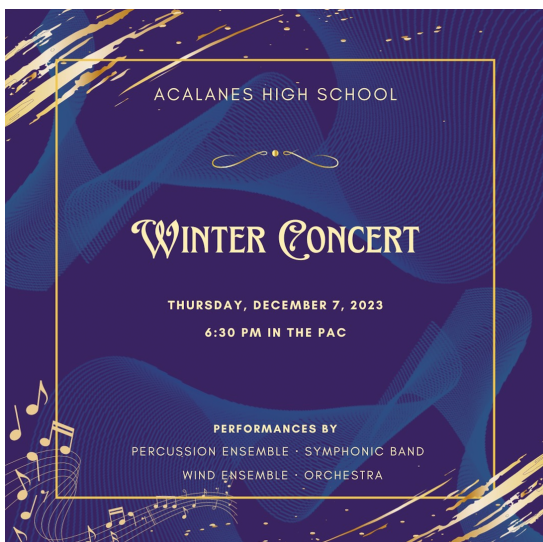
## TRAVEL, CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS

### Director's Report

What a joyful month of concerts, festivals and winter concert preparation- while the music room has been busy with metronomes and drones, our students find themselves busy with college applications, school work, jobs, winter sport try outs and various other teenage manifestos. The business of the first quarter lead us to a much deserved Thanksgiving break and I have been pleased to find the classes feeling hungry for excellence in this final stage of the preparation process before our Thursday Winter Concert! If the performance meets the preparation, Thursday's concert should be memorable. We do hope to see many of you there- come say hi at the reception!

On the upbeat,  
Edwin Cordoba

## WINTER CONCERT



Our winter concert is this coming Thursday, December 7th at 6:30! Get there a little early to experience the pre-concert performance by the percussion ensembles. Here is the [student itinerary](#).

If you are able to help by donating snacks for the reception or helping with reception set up/tear down, please sign up using this [sign up genius](#). You can drop treats and beverages between 5:45-6:30

DECEMBER 2023

## Upcoming Dates

December 7th  
Winter Concert

January 27th  
Folsom Jazz Festival

Jan 29th-31st  
Lafayette District Music Festivals

Feb 1st-3rd  
All State Ensembles Sacramento

Sat, February 10th  
Homestead Orch Festival

February 15th-17th  
Contra Costa County Honor Band Rehearsals/Concert

Sat, March 23rd  
CMEA Festival

## At A Glance

Review [Handbook](#) and [Calendar](#)  
[Winter Concert Itinerary](#)  
[Musical Rehearsal Schedule](#)  
[Homestead Itinerary](#)

### Birthdays This Month

- 1 Aidan DiPrisco
- 4 Kabir Batra and Vanessa Choi
- 6 Lucas Chow
- 8 Nael Benmeziane
- 9 Jake Rennie
- 12 Sean Geraghty
- 16 Samya Johnson
- 19 Marley Oh
- 21 Elise Fox
- 31 Nina Gehrig

Thank you...



## 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!

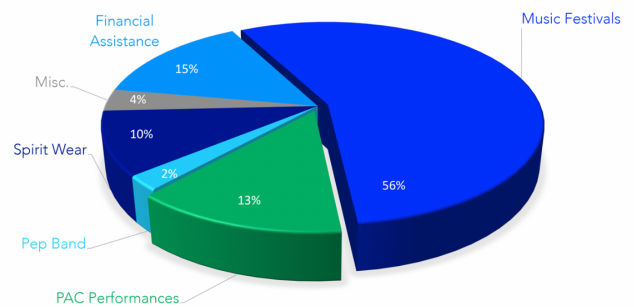
**Does the school pay for festivals?** No. It costs to register individual groups to festivals and to pay for transportation to festivals. Registration can cost between \$300-450 per group; a charter bus can cost \$1700. This is where we need your contributions to IMB (The Instrumental Music Board) to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



## CMEA AND HOMESTEAD ON SATURDAYS!

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 will be required to participate.

Homestead is a new festival for the orchestra. We will take a bus to Cupertino on Saturday, February 10th. Here is the tentative [Homestead Itinerary](#).

## What do LPIE and APAB Fund?

LPIE: In the classroom!

- Music Class Sections
- Music Library
- Instruments

APAB: Out of the classroom!

- Festival Entry Fees
- Transportation
- Concert Support
- Scholarships

**Donate to LPIE**

**Donate to APAB**

Note "Instrumental Music"

## MUSICAL PIT ORCHESTRA

This year's musical is the Wizard of Oz. Here is the [rehearsal and performance schedule](#).



## ALL STATE

Congratulations to Daichi Nannen and Spencer Tantameng for being accepted to the prestigious All-State Band and Jazz Band!



## RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS MAKE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HONOR BAND

We had 15 students make the Contra Costa County Honor Band this year! That's a record for the school. Congratulations to the following Acalanes students:

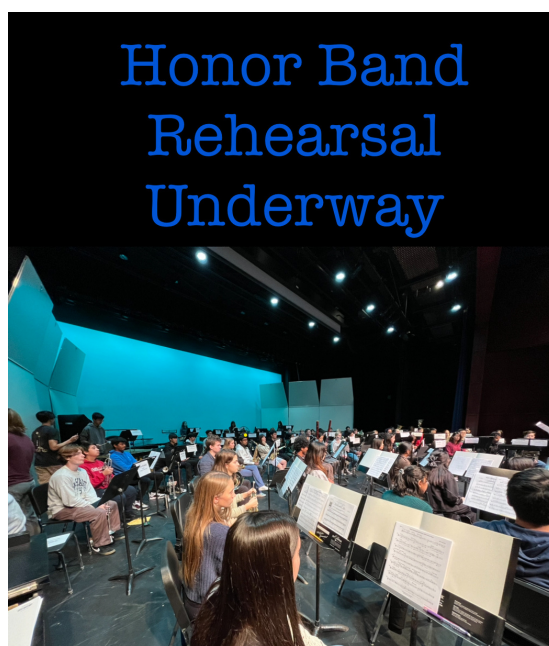
Koto Watanabe, Flute  
 Daichi Nannen, Clarinet  
 Nathan Joseph, Clarinet  
 Serina Eun, Clarinet  
 Monique Khouw, Clarinet  
 Claire George, Clarinet  
 Melina Galacatos, Bass Clarinet  
 Emme Young, Bass Clarinet  
 Aya Watanabe, Bassoon  
 Anthony Smario, Bari Sax  
 Emerson Boudreau, Horn  
 Emmett Brummel, Trombone  
 Rohan Nath, Percussion  
 Naoto Watanabe, Percussion  
 Sabrina Koo, Percussion

Their concert will be at Acalanes High School on February 17th in the PAC! Be sure to join us!

## CODA DECEMBER HONOR ORCHESTRA



Congratulations to Nathan Feng for a fabulous concert on Saturday, December 2nd at Stanford University. Really cool to have Acalanes represented in the best of the state!





## SHIRTS FOR SALE



We have M, S and XS Instrumental Music shirts for sale! Select the size in the paypal page and we will get your shirt delivered via your student.

## 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@auhdschools.org](mailto:nsingleterry@auhdschools.org).

## HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Feel free to contact me at [ecordoba@auhdschools.org](mailto:ecordoba@auhdschools.org)

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: THOMAS JUDSON

Thomas Judson (Class of '20, trombone and saxophone, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, musical pit orchestra) is a senior at the University of Notre Dame studying finance and global affairs with a minor in Chinese. While at Stanley, Thomas was first trombone in the Messengers when they were recognized as the Best Middle School Jazz Ensemble in the country by Downbeat magazine and invited to play at the Monterey Jazz Festival. As first trombone in the Acalanes Jazz Band, Thomas received soloist awards from the San Mateo, El Cerrito, and Santa Cruz Jazz Festivals. At Notre Dame, Thomas has continued his passion for music. He plays in the New Orleans Brass Band and sits as first trombone in the university's top jazz band. Thomas is also the current Drum Major of the Band of the Fighting Irish, Notre Dame's marching band. Some notable memories include studying abroad in Rome and performances in Ireland, Las Vegas, and Florida. Outside of music, he swims for the school's club team, serves as a General Partner for Notre Dame Venture Capital, and runs a student stock portfolio in Applied Investment Management. Thomas is enjoying having little sister Catherine (Class of '23, trumpet) on campus with him this year, and he will graduate in the spring.

