

Instrumental Music Newsletter



JANUARY SUCCESS, MORE TO COME

Director's Report

“When music is at the heart of a school, the heart of a school beats strong!”

February is a full month for our music program: state conference performances, jazz concerts, an orchestra festival, the Contra Costa County Honor Band Rehearsals/Concerts and preparation for March Festivals. It is also a time when students are signing up for courses for next year. The value of continued enrollment in the music program is multifaceted but I'd like to share something that you may not easily see day to day at home.

Our students are under a great deal of stress. Mental health, anxiety and pressure to achieve and perform academically are very real stressors faced every day by each student. While most of our band and orchestra students do not continue to pursue music degrees after high school, the value of the course is not embedded simply in connection to career outcomes. It is an actual stress relief, a break in the day to support continued and sustained balance, and an opportunity for students to use their brains in a different way and connect with their peers through collaboration. I see the students come into class tired, disconnected and silent. I see them leaving more alert, energized and uplifted.

A program's health is a function of continued and sustained enrollment of the students in the program. We hope your students can make the choice to STAY in orchestra, band and jazz!

On the upbeat,
Edwin Cordoba



FEBRUARY 2024

Upcoming Dates

Feb 1st-3rd

All State Ensembles Sacramento

Feb 7th

Albany HS Joint Jazz Concert

Sat, February 10th

Homestead Orch Festival

February 15th-17th

Contra Costa County Honor Band Rehearsals/Concert

March 6-9

Musical

Sat, March 9th

LPIE Gala

Fri March 15th

Sonoma Invitational

Sat, March 23rd

CMEA Festival

At A Glance

[Albany High School Concert Itinerary.](#)

[Homestead Festival Itinerary.](#)

[Sonoma Itinerary.](#)

[Musical Rehearsal Schedule](#)

[CMEA Itinerary.](#)

Birthdays This Month

4 Isaac Hutton and Sabrina Koo
9 Gian David
12 Aidan Lorimer
15 Anthony Smario
23 Lux Griggs
25 Braedon Christie and Persephone Quine

Thank you...



LPIE PAC UPGRADES

Incredible news: LPIE invested \$87,000 in upgrades towards our PAC!

\$65k went into a new speaker array (integrated into a digital sound board), two stage boxes and an ungraded control panel. This sound system will level up the sound experience in the PAC and help realize the student's acoustic potential. Our students work so meticulously every day to strive for excellence- this will showcase those efforts in the best light possible!

\$10k went to PAC Lobby monitors with an integrated sound system so that guests that are late are able to see and hear what's happening inside the theater when the doors are closed! Such a feature helps elevate the caliber of the theater- Increasing appeal and encouraging attendance! The more people we can show off our performing dons to, the better!

\$12k went towards upgrading the LED Lighting in the little theater. This of course helps boost the theater arts program experience.

Select students will have the opportunity to learn how to manipulate the above listed hardware and software-technical skills that transfer to real world applications after graduation!

Your continued support of LPIE does not only fund our instrumental coaches and supplies, but also large capital expenditures like this major PAC update!



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

ORCHESTRA AT HOMESTEAD THIS SATURDAY

The orchestra is preparing for their first ever appearance at the Homestead Orchestra Festival this Saturday, February 10th at Homestead High School. They perform at 1:50pm on Saturday. If anybody is interested in driving with us in the charter bus, you are welcome to meet us at Acalanes at 11am- we should be back by 5pm. Here is the [homestead itinerary](#).

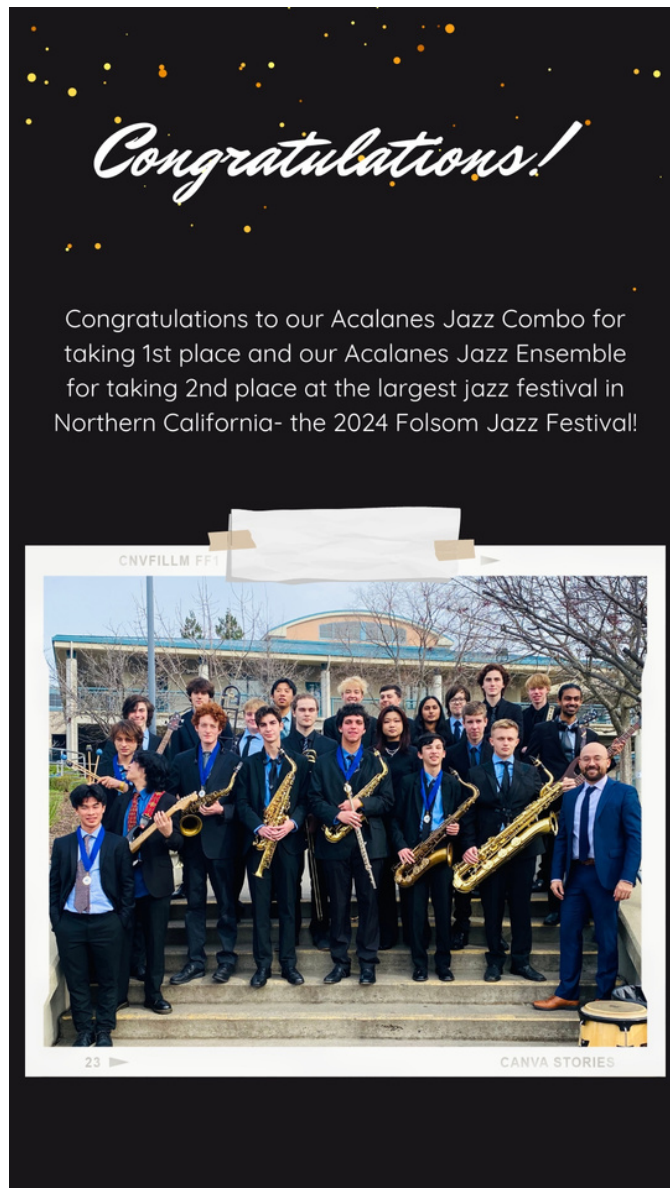
CMEA: SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD

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 will be required to participate.

You will drop your student off at San Ramon Valley HS that morning. Here is the [CMEA Itinerary](#).



JAZZ BAND TAKES 1ST AND 2ND



ALL STATE CONCERTS

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



JAZZ BAND INVITED TO PERFORM WITH ALBANY HS

Come celebrate the Jazz Band on Wednesday, February 7th at 7pm at Albany High School where they will be joining Albany High School at their winter Jazz Concert. They will be performing their award-winning set!

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!

DISTRICT FESTIVALS

Our district music festivals this past week were a huge hit! We are so proud of our Acalanes instrumentalists for showcasing spirit, pride and musical excellence on all three nights. On the upbeat!

VAPA SHOWCASE

Students just successfully completed a two-day VAPA showcase during the school day! The VAPA showcase is a 2-day presentation of the Visual and Performing Arts programs at Acalanes. Teachers volunteer their instructional time to take their classes to the Theater to the showcase. Students are guided through an exhibit in the lobby of the PAC curated by the Acalanes art classes, and lead to a seat in the PAC where they are presented with performances by the Acalanes Theater, Choir and Instrumental Music programs. Not only is this a good opportunity to give our musicians an audience they would never otherwise have, but also a great chance for us to recruit!



MUSICAL PIT ORCHESTRA

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



COACH SPOTLIGHT: SCOTT LINDOFER



Thanks to the approval of Prop 28, we have fully funded instrumental coaches at Acalanes!

Scott Lindorfer was brought up in San Leandro, California and graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with his master's degree in Double Bass performance. He works full time as the String Specialist in the store at Lamorinda Music both repairing string instruments and helping customers.

Scott started learning guitar at age 10 and soon after began bass. He attended Bishop O'Dowd High School, where he participated in classical and jazz ensembles. He went on to receive his Bachelors of Music from San Francisco State University in 2015, where he won the university concerto performance competition in both 2012 and 2014. Scott spent five seasons in the bass section of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, including two international tours and also participated in Young Peoples Symphony Orchestra. He participated in numerous collegiate level ensembles including jazz combos, big bands, chamber ensembles, wind ensembles, and orchestras at SFSU and SFCM. He studied with many teachers in different styles including Stephen Tramontozzi of the San Francisco Symphony and Fred Randolph.

Since age 12, he has performed live extensively in different settings including rock, folk, jazz, and classical styles. Scott actively plays electric and double bass, banjo, guitar, mandolin, and ukulele and enjoys sharing his knowledge. He has a large (and growing) collection of instruments and has recently been learning violin.

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



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!

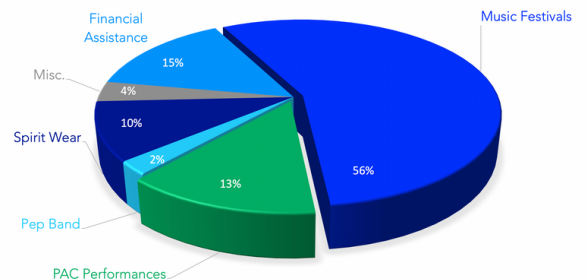
Does the school pay for festivals? No. It costs to register individual groups to festivals and to pay for transportation to festivals. Registration can cost between \$300-450 per group; a charter bus can cost \$1700. This is where we need your contributions to “APAB-Instrumental” to pay for these expenses.

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 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 Singletery at
nsingletery@auhdschools.org.

HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Feel free to contact me at
ecordoba@auhdschools.org

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!