

La Quinta Music Department Newsletter

Spring 2013

Letters from the directors

Vocal Music

A whole year seems to last forever when one is a small child. Yet so many students have come to me to say, "Where has this year gone? It seems like we just started!"

I always counter with, "Wait until you're my age," but actually, our students are very busy. With so many activities, the time has just run past them. Look at their accomplishments – a great marching season, fall concerts, *Glee* medleys, holiday performances, parades, festivals, Winter Guard and Drumline competitions, *Grease*, student recital, spring concerts, honor choirs, mattress sales, and even other activities – so much fun! – and so much learning!

I was so pleased to meet so many parents this year. Be sure to be involved in your kids' lives during their high school years. Some of you chaperoned our events and we are truly grateful. I am sure you will have wonderful memories of these fun, learning times with your child. Please consider being a part of our Friends of Music Board. Even if you don't want to be an officer, we need members at large to help out. You will make amazing friendships and achieve much, knowing you are helping your child in return. Next year we face the opportunity to raise funds for our San Francisco tour. We need your help. After all, your child is worth it, right?

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our choir concerts on May 22 and 23, and remember –the banquet on May 30 is open to students and parents alike.

Thanks for your support this year. Thank you, students. Thank you, parents. Thank you to our Friends of Music –we can't do it without you!

Mr. Hensley



Instrumental Music

It seems just like yesterday that I started here at La Quinta in the summer for Marching Band Camp. I cannot believe I only have a couple months left of completing my first year of teaching here. This definitely has been a busy transitional year for me learning how the system at La Quinta works while adding my own special touch to everything. I am forever in debt to Mr. Steve Hensley for his constant guidance and assistance throughout the year especially working with me through my first musical ever, *Grease*, which is an experience I will forever cherish.

I am so proud of the accomplishments and recognition that the program and the students have earned all year at competitions, festivals, and

community/school events. The Music Department students are extremely busy yet they find the time to continue to excel in their academic classes. These students are some of the most involved, passionate, dedicated and hard-working students I have ever encountered in my thirteen years of working with high school students. I am fortunate that everything worked out the way it did, and I came to La Quinta getting the opportunity to work alongside some great people and the chance to get to know them.

As always, I am truly thankful for the support from all the La Quinta parents, alumni and staff. I am able to successfully do my job due to the assistance from all of these people. In my eyes, it is the ability of us working together as one that has made this year an enjoyable journey for all the members and one that will foster lifelong memories and friendships. I am sad to see the seniors go, but I know that they have set high standards for the future, and their influence will help us continue the legacy of the La Quinta High School Music Department. I am looking forward to the great things that are in store for all of us!

Mr. Sebastian



San Francisco – Spring 2014

The GGUSD School Board has approved our musical tour to San Francisco next spring! Band, Vocal Ensemble, and Advanced Orchestra will

march in the Chinese New Year Parade – the largest Asian Lunar New Year Festival in the United States! Our students will represent Westminster and GGUSD very well, being televised on over five networks! Also highlighted performances by the Vocal Ensemble and Advanced Orchestra will occur on this tour. As an educational performing tour, plans are to also have the students experience Alcatraz and the Monterey Bay Aquarium as well as Chinatown and the San Francisco Symphony.



Symphonic Band (Per. 1) and Concert Band (Per. 4)

For the second semester, our wind members from Marching Band were separated into two concert groups: our Symphonic Band (Advanced Band) that meets Per. 1, and our Concert Band (Intermediate Band) that meets Per. 4. This year they were separated mainly based on instrumentation needs and grade level. Our upperclassmen (11th and 12th graders) were put into Symphonic Band and our underclassmen (9th and 10th graders) were put into Concert Band if their schedule allowed for this adjustment. In future years, there will be an audition process that will help designate and assign in which group a student will be enrolled.

At first there was concern from the members for being split up from the rest of their “marching band family,” but there were still multiple opportunities where both groups joined together along with guard and drum line to perform as the Marching Band including: the Tet Parade on Sunday, February 10th and the 8th Grade Orientation on Thursday, March 14th. This separation has assisted in the improvement of the musical progression of the members as it allows each individual more opportunities to showcase abilities. With fewer people on each part, the members can also comfortably fit in the room everyday when we rehearse.

Both groups participated separately in a Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) Festival at Bellflower High School on Friday, March 29th. Symphonic Band earned an “Excellent” (2) rating, and Concert Band earned a “Good” (3) rating. For each ensemble, after the performance of their festival pieces, one of the judges gave a short clinic focusing on technique and fundamentals in application to the concert literature they just performed.

If you missed the chance to hear the Band groups at this festival, please join and support us for our Band Spring Concert on Tuesday, June 4th in the La Quinta HS Quad for a night of festival music as well as some popular music including music from *Wicked* and *Les Miserables*.

Advanced Orchestra (Per. 0) and String Orchestra (Per. 3)

Both Advanced Orchestra and String Orchestra participated in a Southern California School Band and Orchestra

Association (SCSBOA) Festival at Bellflower High School on Thursday, March 28th and Friday, March 29th, respectively. Advanced Orchestra earned an “Excellent” (2) rating, and String Orchestra earned a “Good” (3) rating. Advanced Orchestra also participated in Sight Reading, which is where the Director and the members have five minutes to look over and discuss a piece of music they have not seen before. Then they have to perform it and are graded on their performance. They earned a “Superior” (1) rating, the highest rating, for Sight Reading. The String Orchestra participated in a clinic instead and after the performance of their festival pieces, one of the judges gave a short clinic focusing on technique and fundamentals in application to the concert literature they just performed.

If you missed the chance to hear the Orchestra groups at this festival, please join and support us for our Orchestra Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 21st where we will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner in the La Quinta HS Cafeteria and then a performance of festival music as well as some popular music including music from “Pirates of the Caribbean” and “Incredibles” in the Quad.



Winter Drum Line

Winter Drumline had another busy season attending three local American Drumline Association

(ADLA) competitions, Semifinals, and qualifying for Championships throughout the months of February, March and April while still performing at school events including 8th Grade Orientation and the GGUSD Exhibition Show. Drum Line started off the competitive season in the Scholastic A level, and after two competitions, they were promoted to Scholastic Open based on the execution of their show design for their production titled, "Journey."

The 32-member group ended the season with an 87.02, earning 5th in their level at ADLA Championships. The drum line would like to thank all our LQ family and friends for their support at competitions. A special thanks to the instructional staff and design team consisting of: Richie Sebastian, Allan Tan, Connor Yasuda, Taylor Brown, Tim Laguna, Trinh Nguyen, Jonathan Zuniga and Mike McGee

Choral Festivals

Our choirs did extremely well at festivals this year. Here is what one judge, **Eliza Rubenstien of Orange Coast College** had to say about Vocal Ensemble:

Incredible amount of musical alertness
 Healthy, warm sound
 You sing this very well!



Vocal Ensemble Auditions!

Students wishing to audition for the 2013-2014 Vocal Ensemble should come to the choir room on May 28th or 29th after school. All auditionees should bring a song to sing. Mr. Hensley will have each person try a few pitch matching exercises and simple sight-

reading examples. Auditions work on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Honor Choir

The 2013 Garden Grove Unified School District Honor Choir has had three performances already this year, two at festivals and also the GGUSD Community Dinner. Directed by **Jim Keltner**, choral director at Bolsa Grande High School, The group sang Martin's *The Awakening* and *Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet* arranged by David Brunner. Their performances were truly amazing!

The students had chance to rehearse and perform with guest conductor, **Eliza Rubenstein** from **Orange Coast College**. The next performance will be at the district Baccalaureate at the Crystal Cathedral on June 15 .La Quinta students include **William Le, Christopher Hien, Christine Ngo, Anh Nguyen, Marc Nguyen, Lily Nguyen, Sabrina Rosales** and **Johnson Pham**.



**Orchestra Spring Concert
 And Spaghetti Dinner
 May 21st^h
 7:00 p.m.**

AWARDS BANQUETS

Choir Banquet – This year’s choir banquet proves to be an exciting event at **The Reef** banquet rooms at 880 South Harbor Scenic Drive, Long Beach (next to the Queen Mary!), CA 90802, (562) 435-8013, with a phenomenal panoramic view of Long Beach harbor – bring a camera! The festivities will start at 6:30 on Thursday, May 30. Included in the dinner will be Organic Mixed Green Salad, Tri-Colored Pasta Salad, Fresh Fruit Salad, Penne Pasta with Italian Sausage and Marinara Sauce, Fettuccini Alfredo, Fresh Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Coffee or Tea, and Dessert.

Johnson Pham and Lily Nguyen, president and vice-president of the Vocal Ensemble, are in charge of the evening with the help of **Sarina Ortega** and **Jonathan Ochoa**, presidents of the Concert Choirs. Everyone in choir will be honored this evening. There will be some special awards, and of course, the choir board will present its outrageous awards. We have committed to over 60 dinners, so we will need everyone there to make the banquet a success. If you haven’t been to a choir banquet, they are dressy, enjoyable evenings. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



Instrumental Music Banquet -

Save the Date!! The Instrumental Music Banquet will be held on Thursday, June 6th. Location, costs, and details of this

event are still being finalized. Once everything has been confirmed, information will be sent out to the kids as well as it will be available on our Music Department Website: www.lqaztecmusic.com. This event is an opportunity to say good-bye to our graduating senior class as well as celebrate our year full of accomplishments for the Instrumental Music Department. There will be: food, a slideshow, an awards ceremony, announcement of some of next year’s leadership, and the revealing of Marching Band’s 2013 Fall Field. We hope to see all of you there!



Winter Color Guard

Winter Guard had another busy season attending six local Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASC) competitions and Championships throughout the months of February, March and April while still performing at school events including 8th Grade Orientation, Open House, and the GGUSD Exhibition Show. Winter Guard started off the competitive season in the Regional A level, and after two competitions, they were promoted to Regional AA based on the execution of their show design for their production titled, “Eyes.”

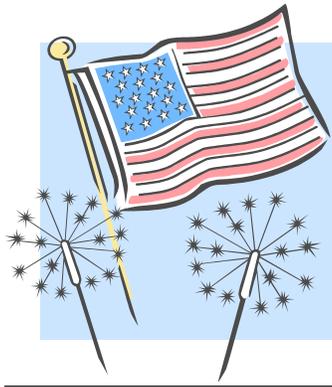
The 14-member group ended the season with the highest score in La Quinta history with an 87.68 earning 4th in their round at WGASC Championships. The guard would like to thank all our LQ

family and friends for their support at competitions. A special thanks to the instructional staff and design team consisting of: Julie Lopez, Vanessa Lopez, Michael Arellano, and Jesse Rivera.



Choir Concert

Don't forget to attend the annual Spring Choir Concert on May 22 and 23 in the Little Theatre. Just coming off of their festivals, you will be serenaded to the choir's sounds of Vecchi, Orff, Lotti, *Some Nights* and a medley of music by Richard Rodgers featuring hits from *The Sound of Music*, *Pal Joey*, *Oklahoma*, *The King and I*, *South Pacific*, *Cinderella*, and others. We will end this year with a bang. Be sure to be there before at 7:00 on the 22nd and 23rd for a great show!



Fireworks!

If you are having home fireworks this year, buy from the Music Department Stand. The location is not yet identified, but look for our banners in the community. Our budget for the year is

\$55,000 and this is our biggest fundraiser. Plus --- we need **HELP!** Please donate two hours of your time to help man our stand. If we don't have adults running the stand, it may have to close and that would be a shame for the kids. If you can spare two hours from July 1 – July 4, please contact Mr. Sebastian at (714)839-5644 or rsebastian@ggusd.us. Only those over 18 years of age are allowed in the booth. Alumni must be 18 or over. Vocal and Instrumental parents are both needed for this FUNdraiser – and it is fun!

Summer Camps (Marching Band: Winds, Color Guard, and Drumline)

Starting this Summer, we will be offering many opportunities for all new and returning wind, color guard and drum line members for the Marching Band to enhance their technique and abilities, work with acclaimed staff members, learn the skills to perform better on standardized tests, have fun spending time meeting new friends and making lifelong memories/experiences, and start early in preparing the 2013 Fall Marching Band Field Show Production (show title/theme announced at the Instrumental Music Banquet on Thurs., June 6th).

Details for the Wind Camp, Color Guard Camp, and Drum Line Camp are still being finalized. Typically, they will start the end of June through the end of July/early August and members will meet at La Quinta HS multiple times a week (days and times vary depending on staff availability) where they will work with their respective staff members. Then, there is a 2-week "Band Camp" where the full Marching Band group meets and combines to work together on

the 2013 Field Show continuing the work they started at their separate respective camps. This Marching Band Camp is from August 12th through August 23rd (Monday through Friday) from 9am to 6pm (with an hour lunch break from 1pm to 2pm) at La Quinta HS.

On the last day of Summer Camps, Friday, August 23rd, there will be a “Parent Preview Performance” on the Varsity Football Field at La Quinta HS. Students will showcase all of their hard work and efforts that they have contributed during these camps by performing part of their 2013 Field Show. “Parent Preview” is a FREE event and we hope to see all of you there.

For more information about Summer Camps, please contact Mr. Sebastian via e-mail at: rsebastian@ggusd.us or visit our website: www.lqaztecmusic.com.



**Choir Concert
Little Theatre
May 22 and 23**



Upcoming Events!

May

Advanced Orchestra Auditions – TBA
 Drum Line Clinics/Auditions – TBA
 Color Guard Clinics/Auditions TBA
 May 17th - Movie Night, *Wreck It Ralph*
 May 17th – Roller Skating Social at Fountain Valley Skate Center
 May 21st: Orchestra Spring Concert
 May 22nd-23rd Spring Choir Concert
 May 25th: Strawberry Festival Parade
 May 28th & 29th Vocal Ensemble Auditions
 May 30th Vocal Ensemble – SCVA Festival at Marshall Fundamental School, Pasadena
 May 30th Choir Banquet

June

June 4th Spring Band Concert
 June 6th Baccalaureate Rehearsal
 June 6th: Instrumental Banquet
 June 15th Baccalaureate at the Crystal Cathedral
 June 18th Graduation



**What Are Seniors Doing Next Year?
Brown University – Quihuong Nguyen**

California State University, Fullerton
 Alex Aguilar, Alexander Bui, Scott Letu, Liv Jeffrey, Lily Nguyen, Brandon vu

California State University, Long Beach – David Le, **Stephen Phung**, Roberta Vu

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona – Justin Amigo, Belen Hernandez

Devry University – Antoinette Loi

Fullerton College – Nicole Atuatasi

Golden West College – Judith Aparicio, Tiffany Baker, Tina Chen, Fatima Galvez, Janel De Guzman, Tian Luong, Elvis Nguyen, Julie Nguyen, Khanlin Nguyen, My Nguyen, William Radecki, Javier Reizzel

Irvine Valley College – Danny Nguyen, Marc Nguyen, Thi Nguyen

Mount San Antonio College – Jana Salvador

Northwestern University – Denise Heredia

Orange Coast College - Derek Baldwin, Andrew Bui, Andy Do, Jessica Flores, Kevin Do-Tran, Kristine Hoang, Catherine Lai, Andy Lam, Hiep Liang, Andrew Pham, tiffanie Tran

Riverside Community College – Ana Aguilar

United States Navy – Trevor Johnson, Evan Piinuu

University of California, Berkeley – Victor Le, Christopher Nguyen

University of California, Irvine – Ly Braveson, Amy Nguyen, Franklin Ngo, Kristie Ngo, Andrew Phung, Tiffany Vo

University of California, Merced – Mai Yen

University of California, Riverside – Vincent Doan, Jamie Le, Monica Vu

University of California, Santa Barbara – Johnson Pham

University of California, Santa Cruz – Samantha Ashley

University of Southern California – Cindy Tran

Work – Quynh Tran (Graphic Design Company)



Music Seniors Earn Scholarships!

Tina Chen - \$1,473 Cal Grant

Fatima Galvez - \$1,473 Cal Grant

Andrew Pham - \$4,793 Pell Grant, \$1,537 Cal Grant

Mai Yen - \$20,000 Cal Grant!



**Band Spring
Concert
June 4
6:00 - Quad**