

La Quinta Music Department Newsletter

Spring 2015

Letters from the directors

Instrumental Music

Another great year at La Quinta is coming to an end, and it was a year that has left a great mark in my life. With an amazing marching band season in the 5A division (first time), earning a superior rating and performing at SCSBOA regionals with the Advanced Orchestra, being back-to-back SCJA percussion champions (2014 and 2015), having the largest and most talented String Orchestra ever, offering AP Music Theory for the first time, and being SCJA and WGASC Guard Champions (fall and winter seasons), it was definitely another successful year! This department has taken to the skies in the last three years I have been here, and I will gamble and bet that next year will be another cosmic one.

It was always my dream to do what I love while working with a great group of people. I am glad my dreams have come true. I am extremely thankful for the La Quinta students, parents, alumni and staff that help make my job easier and for the constant support. I could not imagine my life without all of you in it!

Mr. Sebastian



Vocal Music

The end of another year rapidly approaches, and our last concerts and banquets are upon us. What a fine group of students make up La Quinta. Thinking over my past twenty-five years at La Quinta (thirty-seven of teaching!), I remember the fine young men and women who have gone through the music department. Many have become professional musicians as performers, writers, producers, and teachers – some even in the GGUSD! However, Mr. Sebastian and I are not here to turn everyone into a professional musician. We would like to increase the quality of our students' lives through music – be it as a consumer of music, a member of a church or community choir or band or orchestra, or an avid concertgoer. This year I will hastily be packing up the choir room, as the 400 building will be modernized this summer. Our seniors are leaving and going on to bigger chapters in their lives – but it's not over yet!

Take the time to go to the end of the year concerts. See and hear what your child has achieved after at least a year of study in the music department. Your child is worth it, and you won't want to miss the last part of their childhood. Remember, parents and families are invited to our awards banquet too!

In fact, take a moment to ponder about becoming involved in our Friends of Music. Even if you don't have the time to be on the

board, we need just a few hours help in the fireworks stand or the Snack Shack at the football games. What a better way to support your child and his or her participation in the music program!

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

Mr. Hensley

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

Once again, for the second semester, our wind members from Marching Band were separated into two concert groups: our Symphonic Band (Per. 1 Advanced Band), and our Concert Band (Per. 4 Intermediate Band). This separation has assisted in the improvement of the musical progression of the members as it allows each individual more opportunities to showcase their abilities as there are fewer people on each part, and the members can also comfortably fit in the room everyday when we rehearse.



Symphonic Band participated in a Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) Festival at Bellflower High School on Thursday, March 26th and earned a unanimous “Good” (3) rating.

If you missed the chance to hear the Bands, please join and support us for our

Band/Drumline Spring Concert on Tuesday, June 2nd in the La Quinta HS Quad starting at 6pm for a night of festival music as well as some popular movie music including music from “*Corpse Bride*” and “*Inception*.”



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

The Advanced Orchestra participated in a Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) Festival at Garden Grove High School on Thursday, March 26th. Advanced Orchestra earned a “Superior” (1) rating, the highest rating, for their performance as well as for Sight Reading. This Superior rating qualified them for SCSBOA Regionals where they performed at Lakeside HS (Lake Elsinore) on Thursday, April 23rd. They had their best performance of the year, and earned a unanimous “Excellent” (2) rating from all the judges.

If you missed the chance to hear the Orchestras, please join and support us for our Spaghetti Dinner/Orchestra Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 19th where we will be hosting dinner starting at 6pm in the La Quinta HS Cafeteria for just \$7.00. The performance begins at 7pm of festival music as well as some popular music including movie music from “*Edward Scissorhands*” and “*Chronicles of Narnia*.”

Auditions for Advanced Orchestra are afterschool on Tues., June 9th and Wed., June 10th. Contact Mr. Sebastian to schedule an audition. Application and detailed requirements can be found on our website (www.lqaztecmusic.com). Current orchestra students will begin auditioning in their respective class periods starting Tues., May 26th.



Winter Drum Line

After another SCJA Championship win in the Fall season, the drumline separated from the marching band and competed on their own. The Drumline had another busy season with their production titled, “The Music Box,” attending three local Southern California Percussion Alliance (SCPA) competitions and Prelims in the Scholastic A division, throughout the months of February, March and April. They still performed at school/community events including 8th Grade Orientation, Tet Parade, and the GGUSD Exhibition Show.

The 34-member group started their season earning 1st place at the SCPA Chino Hills Show, and ended the season with an 82.750 earning 6th in their round at SCPA Prelims in Temecula at Great Oak High School. The drumline would like to thank all our LQ family and friends for supporting us at competitions especially those who have donated food, Mr. Rainwaters for building our music box prop, and driving our trailer and transporting all of our equipment and instruments. A special thanks to the instructional staff and design team consisting of: Richie Sebastian, Allan Tan,

Connor Yasuda, Steven Phung, Chris Luther, Taylor Brown, Tim Laguna, Jonathan Zuniga and Ezekiel Lanser.

Clinics for next year’s drumline (pit and battery) are on Wednesdays from 3pm to 6pm, and they start on Wed., May 6th and end on June 3rd.

Choral Festivals

Our choirs performed extremely well at festivals this year. Here is what one judge, **Jon Talberg, of California State University, Long Beach** had to say about Vocal Ensemble:

Great work! What big, solid, amazing repertoire ... Congratulations!

Vocal Ensemble Auditions!

Students wishing to audition for the 2015-2016 Vocal Ensemble should come to the choir room on May 26th or 27th afterschool. 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 2015 Garden Grove Unified School District Honor Choir had three performances at festivals this year directed by **Na Young Moon**, La Quinta choir graduate and choral director at Santiago High School. The group sang Ivo Antognini’s *O Magnum Mysterium* and Charles Albert Tindley’s *The Storm Is Passing Over*. Their performances were truly amazing!

The students had chance to rehearse and perform with guest conductor, **Dr. Jon Talberg** from **California State University, Long Beach**. This esteemed group garnered standing ovations at the Garden Grove Unified School District's Intermediate, High School, and Novice Choral Festivals. La Quinta students included **Diana Nguyen, Sabine Nguyen, Valerie Nguyen, Sabrina Rosales, Christopher Hien, Justin Tran, Andrew Dinh,** and **Tin Math**.

Honor Orchestra/Band

Congratulations to the flowing students who performed in the Garden Grove Unified School District Honor Orchestra and Band: **Dominica Cao (cello), Dominic Garcia (trumpet), Sarah Medina (alto saxophone), Justin Pham (violin 2), and David Phung (violin 1).**



**Spaghetti Dinner/
Orchestra Spring Concert
May 19th
Cafeteria
Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.
Concert begins at 7:00p.m.**

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS BANQUET

Choir Banquet –

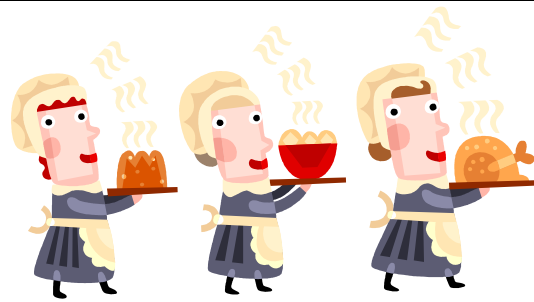
This year's choir banquet proves to be an exciting event at **Orange Hill** banquet rooms at 6410 Chapman Avenue, Orange, CA 92869, (714) 997-2910, with a phenomenal panoramic view of Orange County – bring a camera! The festivities will start at 6:30 on Thursday, May 28. Included in the dinner will be Country Style

Potato Salad, Fresh Fruit Salad, Fresh Vegetable Pasta Salad, Barbeque Chicken, Beef Barbeque Beef Sandwiches, Fresh Corn on the Cob, Oven Baked Beans, Rolls and Butter, Coffee or Tea, and Assorted Pastries. **Valerie Nguyen**, president of the Vocal Ensemble, is in charge of the evening with the help of **Alexandra Quang** and **Taylor Evans**, 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 4th at the Orange County Mining Company <http://www.orangecountyminingco.com>- 10000 S. Crawford Canyon Rd. (corner of Chapman & Crawford Canyon Rd.), Santa Ana, CA 92705 from 6:30pm to 10pm. Tickets are \$30 per individual which includes an Italian Buffet (Mixed Green Salad, Meat Lasagna, Tortellini Alfredo, Steamed Vegetables, Rolls & Butter). All friends and family are invited!!

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 2015 Fall Field Show. We hope to see all of you there!



Winter Color Guard

After a SCJA Championship win in the Fall season, the guard separated from the marching band and competed on their own. Winter Guard had another busy season attending five 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, and the GGUSD Exhibition Show. Winter Guard competed in the Regional AA level with their production titled, "When Life Gives You..."

The 10-member group had their final performance at WGASC Champs on Saturday, April 25th at Segerstrom High School, and earned a gold medal as they were titled the 2015 HS AA Champions!! The guard would like to thank all our LQ family and friends for supporting us at competitions especially those who have donated food, Mr. Nguyen who built our lemonade stand, and/or those who transported all of our equipment and prop. A special thanks to the instructional staff and

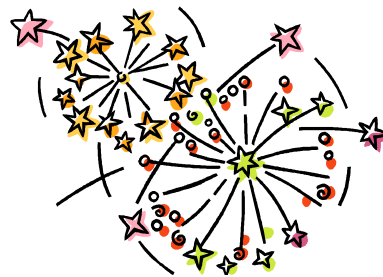
design team consisting of: Julie Lopez, Vanessa Lopez, Richie Sebastian, and Yvonne Nguyen.

Clinics for next year's fall group are Tues., May 26th through Fri., May 29th from 3pm to 4:30pm (until 5pm on Friday).



Choir Concert

Don't forget to attend the annual Spring Choir Concert on May 20th and 21st in the Little Theatre. Just coming off of their festivals, you will be serenaded to the choir's sounds of Handel, *Say Something*, *Dancin' Queen*, and a medley of music from the history of Stephen Sondheim favorites for such shows as *Into the Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Company*. We will end this year with a bang. Be sure to be there before 7:00 on the 20th and 21st for a great show!



Fireworks!

If you are having home fireworks this year, buy from the Music Department Stand. The location will be the same as previous years, 14358 Brookhurst (near Hazard and 11th). Look for our banners! Our budget for the year is over \$55,000 and this is our biggest fundraiser. Plus --- we need **HELP!** Please donate a few hours of your time to help run

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 time June 29 – July 4, please contact our Friends of Music VP – Ways and Means (waysandmeans@lqaztecmusic.com). Only those over 18 years of age (including alumni) are allowed in the booth. Vocal and Instrumental parents are both needed for this **FUN**draiser – and it is fun!

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

We will be offering many opportunities for all new and returning wind, color guard and drumline 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 2015 Fall Marching Band Field Show Production (show title/theme announced at the Instrumental Music Banquet on Thurs., June 4th).

Wind Camp, Color Guard Camp, Dance Intensive Camp, and Drumline Camp start the end of June through the beginning of August, and members will meet at Thomas Paine Elementary (LQ is under construction during the summer) multiple times a week (days and times vary depending on each section) 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 2015 Field Show continuing the work they started at their separate respective camps. This Marching Band Camp is from August 10th through August 21st (Monday through Friday) from 9am to 6pm (with an hour

lunch break from 1pm to 2pm) also at Thomas Paine Elementary. The total costs for all the camps will be \$200/student. Attending all of these camps are beneficial for the students and the progress of the group.

On the last day of Summer Camps, Friday, August 21st, there will be a “Preview Show” on the Field at Thomas Paine Elementary. Students will showcase all of their hard work and efforts that they have contributed during these camps by performing part of their 2015 Field Show. “Preview Show” 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 20 and 21**



Upcoming Events!

May

- May 6th – June 3rd (Wednesdays): Drum Line Clinics/Auditions
- May 10th: Marching Band – Tinkerbelle Half Marathon
- May 19th: Orchestra – Spring Concert/Spaghetti Dinner
- May 20th & 21st: Spring Choir Concert
- May 23rd: Marching Band – Strawberry Festival Parade
- May 26th & 27th: Vocal Ensemble Auditions
- May 26th – May 29th (Tues. – Fri.): Color Guard Clinics/Auditions –
- May 27th & June 1st: Drum Major/Section Leader Interview/Auditions
- May 28th: Choir Banquet

June

- June 2nd: Spring Band Concert
- June 4th: Instrumental Music Banquet
- June 8th: MANDATORY Marching Band New/Returning Member and Family Meeting
- June 9th and 10th: Advanced Orchestra Auditions
- June 16th: Graduation

What Are Seniors Doing Next Year?

California State University, Dominguez Hills

Phillip Le

California State University, Fullerton

Tommy Dao, Dominic Garcia, Christopher Hien, Angie Lai, Diana Nguyen, Jimmy Nguyen, Valerie Nguyen, Harry Phan, Kitty Phan, David Phung, Aaron Truong, Jessica Vo, Patrick Voong, Lucas Vu

California State University, Long Beach –

Steven Dao, Brian Fann, David Nguyen, Mimi Pham, Khai Phung

California State University, Los Angeles –

Kevin Dinh

California State University, San Francisco –

Luc Nguyen

Cal Poly Pomona – Jetinny Ngo

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo –

Kendrick Nguyen

Fullerton College – Sabrina Rosales

Golden West College – Monica Alexanians

Orange Coast College – Jae Henricksen, Vivian Ho, Trong Nguyen, Justin Tran

Sacramento State University – Lisa Huynh

San Francisco State University – Fernando Cervantes

Santa Ana College – Sabine Nguyen

University of California, Irvine –
Antony Nguyen, Kenny Nguyen, Sophia
Nguyen, James Tran, Jennifer Vu

University of California, Los Angeles –
Cecilia Doan, Lisa Nguyen, Cecilia Tsai

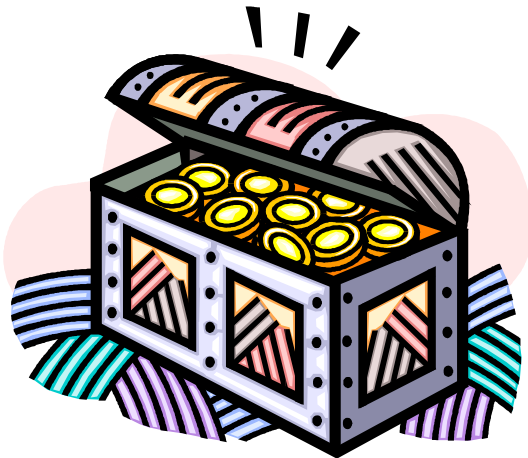
University of California, San Diego –
Bunghi Ly, Sarina Ortega, Cindy Thai

University of Southern California –
Whitney Taylor

University of the Pacific – Duyen Nguyen

Vanguard University – Salvador Sesmas

- **Harry Phan** (\$10,000 CSU Fullerton)
- **David Phung** (\$25,000 CSU Fullerton School of Music Scholarship)
- **Sabrina Rosales** (\$5,000 Cal Grant; \$5,000 PEL grant)



**Band Spring
Concert
June 2
6:00 p.m. -
Quad**



Music Seniors Earn Scholarships!

- **Monica Alexanians** (\$5,000 FAFSA)
- **Tommy Dao** (\$1,000 Cal Grant, \$5,000 FAFSA)
- **Christopher Hien** (\$5,000 Cal Grant)
- **Lisa Nguyen** (APIASF/BBCN Bank Scholarship)
- **Luc Nguyen** (\$8,000 Cal Grant)
- **Sabine Nguyen** (\$5,000 Non-resident Grant; \$5,000 Blue Award)
- **Valerie Nguyen** (\$26,000 UC Merced Grant)
- **Trong Nguyen** (\$7,000 FAFSA)