

# LA QUINTA HIGH SCHOOL

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### WINTER NEWSLETTER

#### Holiday Concert

Our annual holiday concert will commence at 7:00 p.m. at Don Wash Auditorium at Garden Grove High School on **Thursday, December 10**. The orchestras, choirs, and band will be performing holiday favorites, and the groups will combine at the end for a rousing performance of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* from *The Messiah*. Be sure to come early for our exciting gift basket drawing. You will find some very good gift deals, and all proceeds will go directly to our music department.

#### Gift Basket Raffle

The gift basket drawing will provide an exciting array of different gift selections. Each class will be preparing and donating the gift baskets. When you arrive, you will be able to purchase tickets to place in the collection boxes directly assigned to each gift basket. The more tickets you buy and place in the collection boxes, the better chance you have at winning. Please attend and support our raffle.



## Letters from the Directors

### Mr. Sebastian's Letter

As I am almost halfway into my fourth year here at La Quinta, it is easy to notice there have been some changes over the years. Zero period now rehearses 15 minutes earlier (6:46am) and only meets four days a week (no Wednesdays). We have a Late Start schedule every week for teacher collaboration and staff meetings. The music rooms (other parts of campus included) have had a makeover due to modernization with new carpets, lights, paint, and some added storage rooms. We have gained a new Choir Director, Ms. Smith, who brings a spirited energy to the vocal music program.

Even with all these changes, what has stayed the same, is the amazing quality of students we have the opportunity to get to know and work with here at La Quinta. Working with such a great group of students makes the job worth it. These La Quinta students are some of the most passionate, dedicated, and hard working students you will ever find. It is not just their musical talent that impresses me each day, but especially their great character which makes me so proud of them. I am looking forward to the amazing things they will contribute to the world in the future.

We are quite fortunate to have the continued support from the La Quinta parents, alumni, and staff who help make my job easier. Special recognition to the Friends of Music (FOM) parents for

finding ways to get more parents involved in helping out our program. The success of our music program is only possible thanks to them.

**Mr. Sebastian** ([rsebastian@ggusd.us](mailto:rsebastian@ggusd.us))

### Ms. Smith's Letter

What an incredible first semester! My name is Shelby Smith, and I am brand new to the La Quinta Music Family, just as some of you may be. But the great thing about this family, I've come to know, is that they welcome new members with open arms. I certainly have felt welcome here in my first year at LQ and I'm looking forward to all the great things yet to come in our 2015-2016 calendar. We started the year in a whirlwind, organizing our newly modernized choral room and kicking off the fall season with our Dessert Social and two very successful Fall Concerts. The students and I have been getting to know each other and improving daily in our collaboration as fellow musicians. I am so proud of the progress we have made since September, especially with our many students who are new to choir and even new to singing. Now, we are putting the final touches on one of my favorite concerts of the musical year: the Holiday Concert. Your students have been hard at work preparing some fantastic music for you for our annual show [on December 10th](#). We have a wide variety of pieces ranging from the classic favorites you know and love to some new songs you are sure to enjoy.

A huge thank you to our Friends of Music Boosters who work tirelessly to provide us with the funds and equipment we need to give your students the best experience possible. Most recently, the students and I were able to reorganize and install brand new shelving in our storage room thanks to a generous donation from the Xerox Foundation, landed by our fantastic president, Mr. Eric Thibodeau. Special thanks also to our fantastic administration team, who secured us high-quality platform risers to put in our room in place of the old concrete risers. These risers are incredibly versatile and I foresee some exciting new staging capabilities for our next musical thanks to them. Last but not least, thank YOU parents for buying (and selling) coupon books, cookie dough, and Yankee candles. We could not do all we do without you. Thank you even more for attending your student's performances. They may not say it, but it means the world to your kids to have someone rooting for them from the audience and greeting them afterward for a job well done. Don't miss out on the Holiday Concert! It will be a great way to kick off the festive season. Please come up and introduce yourself to me after the final bow! I look forward to meeting you!

**Ms. Smith** ([ssmith1@ggusd.us](mailto:ssmith1@ggusd.us))



## Friends of Music (FOM)

The Friends of Music (FOM) is a non-profit, tax exempt 501(c)3 organization. FOM is a booster club of volunteers (parents, alumni, relatives, and friends) that provides financial and volunteer support for the music programs.

The music department has an annual budget of about \$140,000. With your generous support, we will succeed in providing for our children. Please consider a donation of any amount. All donations are tax-deductible.

## Online Donations

Online donations (via Paypal) can be made with any major credit card on our website: [www.lqaztecmusic.com](http://www.lqaztecmusic.com)

## Next FOM Meeting

Hope to see you at our next monthly meeting on **Wednesday, January 13, 2016** at 7pm in the Choir Room (Room 408)

## *Marching Aztecs*

I could tell from the start of summer camps that this was going to be a good season. And it was not only good, but extraordinarily amazing. Marching band is not only about learning how to hide the horrible tans, march, or read a dot sheet.



It teaches us a lot about persistence, time management, and introduces us to important individuals that make an immense difference in our lives. From freshmen to seniors, we have created this one perfectly imperfect family that cherishes our unforgettable memories. Apart from the experiences, our 2015 fall field show was a fantastic gamble. Props to enhance it, a light tower, and stunning new uniforms all added to the soul of the "Sacred Geometry of Chance." Our lovely FOM, band director, and staff have made this a remarkable season and this all could not be possible without them. This season went by in the blink of an eye that we wish we could rewind sometimes, but luckily, the machine will never stop for the Marching Aztecs.

**Sarah Medina, Marching Band President**

## *Congratulations*

The Marching Aztecs have been working hard on their 2015 Fall Production, "Sacred Geometry of Chance," starting all the way back with Summer Camps in June. After a busy fall season consisting of rehearsals twice a week (sometimes even three times), 2 Disney Half Marathons, 5 home football games, 5 away games, 7 competitions, and many community/school events, this has definitely been a season we will never forget. Thanks to our district, we were able to get new band uniforms that gave LQ a more modern but classy look.

On November 21st, the Marching Aztecs finished their competitive season at SCJA California State Band Championships finishing 5th overall in the highest division of 5A with a score of 87.400 (LQ's highest score at Championships ever!!). Drumline also earned their 3rd consecutive High Percussion Award (2013, 2014, and 2015).

Our success was only possible thanks to the great support from the parents/FOM, the instructional staff, the district, and administration.

## **Amazon Smile**

Amazon is offering to make a donation to LQ Music for every dollar you spend through Amazon! This does not cost you anything.

Simply go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7159251> and login with your Amazon account.

From then on, any Amazon purchase you make will automatically result in a donation to the LQ Music Program. It's that easy. With the Holidays, this is a great way to help the Music Program. **Please share with your family and friends through e-mail and Facebook.**

Will you smile on LQ Music?

## **Communities for Cause (CFC) App**

Please download the app "Communities for Cause" on your smart phone and use it whenever you make a purchase at a place that is listed. When you register, select "La Quinta HS Friends of Music" for the cause. In the app, you take a picture of your receipt and some of the money goes to the music department. Each store or place gives back a different percentage of money. There are many different places that participate in this app that you could go to. Thanks!

## FOM Board

President - Eric Thibodeau

[President@LQAztecMusic.com](mailto:President@LQAztecMusic.com)

Ways and Means - Cathy Enochs

[WaysandMeans@LQAztecMusic.com](mailto:WaysandMeans@LQAztecMusic.com)

Secretary - Wendy Adams

[Secretary@LQAztecMusic.com](mailto:Secretary@LQAztecMusic.com)

Treasurer - Thuy Thibodeau

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Travel - Claudia Gonzalez

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Logistics - Erick Nguyen

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### Members at Large:

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Helen Le

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## *More About Friends of Music ...*

Friends of Music (FOM) is the parent support group that provides resources and raises funds for your student to participate in the field shows, concerts, festivals, football games, and other events. The more parent participation we have, the more effective this talented and hard-working group of students is able to have. They deserve it!

**Everyone** has something to offer to this talented and hard-working group including the following:

- Providing food on field show days/practices
- Helping out at the snack shack at home football games
- Chaperones at concerts, field shows, and trips (includes bus ride and entry ticket)
- Moving equipment on and off the field at band competitions
- Planning and participating in fundraisers (especially the Fireworks booth)
- Selling tickets at events
- Building props and repairing equipment
- Helping the students to plan activities
- Towing a trailer containing the larger instruments (trailer provided)

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to participate in the past have developed friendships and enjoyed a shared camaraderie with the other parents and our own children that will be remembered for years to come. We'd love for you to become a part of this!

FOM is organized as a series of committees, each performing a specific set of functions. Each committee needs help from parents and friends like you.

Please contact a board member to volunteer your time to help the 300 members of the music department.

## *Advanced Orchestra*

With the new schedule, the advanced orchestra members are expected to wake up fifteen minutes earlier to show up to the band room everyday at 6:46AM compared to the usual 7:00AM.; however, we still enter the room on time waking up to the sound of music, and even though the days of practice are reduced to four, we constantly make up for that loss by practicing more efficiently during rehearsal, fixing all the minor details for all of our performances. Thus, working hard for the Fall Concert in October unquestionably paid off. Being able to see both orchestras dress up to celebrate the Halloween spirit along with many of the seats filled with family and friends demonstrates the major success of the night. The alumni that came to visit also frequently commented on how the music department never ceases to grow and give La Quinta a bigger name, making us prouder to play for our school. Then as the first successful performance passes by, there is our next big night only a month away: the Holiday Concert combined with band and choir. Having this in mind, we continue to learn new festive pieces in preparation for the upcoming concert. Every rehearsal, we are undoubtedly excited to perform for this year's Holiday Concert to make it better than the past years.

**Jessie Nguyen, Advanced Orchestra President**



## *Drumline*

After 2 weeks of going through PT with Chris Luther, and countless amount of rehearsals, the percussion ensemble kicked off the competitive season by bringing home the gold at our first competition and eventually the "golden pizza" at championship finals. We didn't let our dreams be dreams. We made our dreams come true. We just did it. Some people dream of success while we woke up and worked hard at it. We got to the point where anyone would quit but we didn't stop there. We kept fighting. I am extremely proud of each and every member of the ensemble. I am thankful for being a part of a group that I can honestly call my "family." Thank you for a wonderful season.

**Tony Nguyen, Drumline Captain**



## **Future Events**

- Wednesday and Thursday, March 2nd and 3rd - Choir March Madness Concert at 7pm - LQ Little Theater
- Thursday, March 3rd - GGUSD Honor Orchestra Concert at 7pm - Don Wash Auditorium (at GGHS)
- Thursday, April 7th - GGUSD Honor Band Concert at 7pm - Don Wash Auditorium (at GGHS)
- Thursday, April 21st - Student Recital at 7pm (\$5) - LQ Little Theater
- Tuesday, May 17th - Orchestra Spaghetti Dinner at 6pm (\$7); Spring Concert at 7pm - LQ Cafeteria
- Wednesday and Thursday, May 18th and 19th - Choir Spring Concert at 7pm (\$5) - LQ Little Theater
- Tuesday, May 26th - Choir Banquet - TBA
- Tuesday, May 31st - Band Spring Concert at 6pm (FREE) - LQ Senior Stage/Quad
- Thursday, June 2nd - Instrumental Music Banquet - TBA
- Tuesday, June 21st - Graduation at 6pm - Bolsa Grande HS Stadium

## *Guard*

The Marching Aztecs' first competition was in late September, but our competitive season started months prior, during our summer camps. LQ Color Guard kicked off the 2015 fall season with a weapons camp, where members, new and returning, had the chance to spin rifles and/or sabres to audition for a spot on the weapon line. Following weapons camp was guard camp, dance intensive, and a two week band camp where guard and the band unite. This is where it all started. As we progressed through the season, we learned to spin, dance and march, we got whipped into shape, and we learned the meaning of hard work and discipline; however, most of all, we got to know the fellow guard members that soon became a second family. Although our successful fall season had just ended, the Aztec Guard is continuing to work hard in preparation for the upcoming winter guard season. Clinics and auditions will be on December 7, 8, 9, and 11, for returning members as well as any one interested in joining the guard family.



**Hillary Ngo, Guard Captain**

## *Vocal Ensemble*

When I think of Vocal Ensemble, the first thing that comes to mind is the incredibly talented students who walk into the classroom with the same positive attitude they have every single day. I never really understood how these students had so much energy early in the morning, until I realized that it is the students themselves. The students in Vocal Ensemble exhibit great amounts of dedication, whether it is before school, break, lunch, or after school rehearsals, students are willing to take their own time and practice with the choir; however, Vocal is not primarily built on reading sheet music and singing, but we learn how to bond with one another and form new friendships that we probably wouldn't have if it weren't for this class. For myself, I have made many great friends and formed new bonds with many of my classmates. I am very proud of how far this class has come, and even more excited to see where we will be by the end of the year.

**Andrew Dinh, Vocal Ensemble President**

## *String Orchestra*

Period 3 String Orchestra has recently been preparing for this year's upcoming holiday concert. After our successful fall concert in October, we continue to build upon our musical skills to improve every day. I am proud of our hard work in becoming better musicians while creating a wonderful group at the same time.

**Kelly Hua, String Orchestra President**