



# BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT FALL SEMESTER NEWS, 2nd Edition 2020

Greetings, all BCHS Music students and families!

While the pandemic has certainly tested our beloved school community, BCHS families have done an extraordinary job helping to keep everybody safe, having only a relatively few positive cases of COVID-19 within our school. The success of the Fall Concert was a testament to the resilience and persistence our musicians and families possess. Though we are headed toward virtual/online studies for the remainder of the semester, the work continues as we head toward presenting our Christmas Concert. Quite simply, we refuse to be easily defeated - that's the power of Trojans Together!

Because extra-curricular activities like athletics and music are allowed to meet (and the music director gratefully rejoices!), we have crafted a plan to adapt and supplement our new, virtual schedule. There are a lot of details concerning our move forward during this time, so...

...please **CAREFULLY** (*Festina lente - Make haste, slowly!*) read on...

## **Concert Attire is in!**

If you ordered new, formal, concert apparel (dress or tuxedo), it is ready to be picked up in Music Room 115. Please make sure you pick it up this week before we switch to our all-virtual schedule. **We will be wearing our concert apparel for the Christmas Concert.** You will need plenty of time to get items hemmed or altered - plan on picking your new dress or tux today!

For clarification and details regarding concert attire, please reference the section entitled **Performance Attire** in the **Music Handbook** by following this link:

<https://www.bishopchatard.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/MusicHandbook.pdf>

## **“EXTRA, EXTRA read all about...our EXTRA rehearsals!”**

To offset the loss in our virtual schedule of Zero Period and Seminar rehearsals, we will be holding additional late afternoon/evening rehearsals leading up to the Christmas Concert. Here's the plan:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>5:30-6:30 pm</b>	<b>6:30-7:30 pm</b>	<b>7:30-8:30 pm</b>
<b>Monday, November 23</b>	CONCERT BAND	VOX TROIANO	SOUNDS OF SILAS
<b>Tuesday, November 24</b>	CONCERT BAND	VOX TROIANO	SOUNDS OF SILAS
<b>Monday, November 30</b>	CONCERT BAND	VOX TROIANO	SOUNDS OF SILAS
<b>Tuesday, December 1</b>	CONCERT BAND	VOX TROIANO	SOUNDS OF SILAS

<b>Monday, December 7</b>	CONCERT BAND	VOX TROIANO	SOUNDS OF SILAS
<b>Tuesday, December 8</b>	CONCERT BAND	VOX TROIANO	SOUNDS OF SILAS
<b>Wednesday, December 9</b>	CONCERT BAND	VOX TROIANO	SOUNDS OF SILAS

## ***A CHRISTMAS CONCERT***

BCHS Music will present *A Christmas Concert* on **Thursday, December 10th, 2020 at 7:00 pm**. All members of the participating ensembles (*Concert Band, Vox Troiano, Chorus* and *Sounds of Silas*) must report to the Music Room 115 in their **formal concert attire** by **6:00 pm**.

This concert will last 30-40 minutes, and the following social distancing and safety guidelines will be practiced to maintain the health and safety of our student musicians and our audience:

- 1) Individual relatives, or families of students with the last names beginning with the letters, A-K, please enter the gymnasium through Door #1 (north end of the school building on Crittenden Ave). Upon entering, please sit on the north side bleachers (or left-side bleachers, as you face the stage).
- 2) Individual relatives, or families of students with the last names beginning with the letters, L-Z, please enter the gymnasium through Door #10 (north end of the parking lot/backside of the school building). Upon entering, please sit on the south side bleachers (or right-side bleachers as you face the stage).
- 3) Face masks are to be worn at all times while inside the school building.
- 4) Please maintain social distancing by using seats in the bleachers marked with a blue "X." Families may sit together in the immediate vicinity of a bleacher seat with a blue "X."
- 5) At the conclusion of the concert, kindly exit through the door in which you entered in a timely and orderly fashion. Unfortunately, no lingering about in the gymnasium will be allowed at this time. If weather permits, you may wait outside for your student while practicing social distancing.

**PLEASE NOTE: Because of the tighter guidelines regarding extra-curricular activities recently mandated by the Marion County Board of Health, ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS OF PERFORMERS ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THIS CONCERT.**

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, adhering to these guidelines and taking personal responsibility for our safety and the safety of our neighbor ensures that we can continue to move forward with gatherings and events like the Christmas Concert.

As we have already witnessed with the events we have hosted since this summer (graduation, fall sports, Fall Concert and rehearsals, Trojan Tours, etc...), we know how to get this done the right way - yet another indication of the unwavering sense and strength of community that is Bishop Chatard.

## ***Piano & Electronic Keyboard Class***

With the move to our new, all-virtual schedule beginning on Monday, November 23rd, all piano students will be using their handy-dandy iPads with *The Piano* app and *GarageBand*. Though not entirely ideal, it will give us the opportunity to continue to explore piano musicianship with the use of our Alfred series method book. Additionally, we will be doing a bit of listening to, and writing about some top-notch pianists/keyboardists. Stay tuned!

## ***Coming Soon: Guitar Class (next semester!)***

Next semester will be here before you know it so the need to plan ahead is now! All members of the upcoming (Spring Semester) Guitar class will be required to bring their own, 6-string, acoustic (it can have electronics, but it's not necessary) guitar. I recommend a full-size (4/4) "dreadnought" size, wooden guitar with steel strings, and a storage case or dust-cover.

If you are planning to purchase a new or used guitar before the next semester, use one that's already yours, or have access to one, that's awesome! You'll be able to bring it in and store it here safely on the first day of the new semester. In case you need a new or used guitar, check out the following establishments, all with which I have done extensive business:

### **Music-Go-Round**

8470 Castleton Corner Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46250  
(317) 436-8286

### **IRC Music**

5911 E 82nd St, Indianapolis, IN 46250  
(317) 849-7965

### **Sam Ash Music Stores**

8284 Center Run Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46250  
(317) 577-3006

### **Guitar Center**

8475 Castleton Corner Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46250  
(317) 578-9570

### **Sweetwater Sound Inc.**

5501 US-30, Fort Wayne, IN 46818  
(800) 222-4700  
([www.sweetwater.com](http://www.sweetwater.com))

Guitars make a GREAT Christmas list item for St. Nicholas Day (shoes/stockings by the fireplace on December 6th, people!). That said, I'm not sure Santa Claus took a PPP loan for the employees in his workshop - he and the folks at the North Pole may be feeling the financial pinch from the pandemic, too!

**PLEASE NOTE: We have a very limited number of loaner guitars for use, and not nearly enough to outfit the entire class.** If you are in need of one of our loaner guitars, please contact Mr. Duray ([mduray@bishopchatard.org](mailto:mduray@bishopchatard.org)) as soon as possible to reserve one for use in class.

## **Sounds of Silas gig for Seeds of Hope at Sullivan's Hardware**

We have been honored to provide a holiday offering of Christmas music for the annual Seeds of Hope Dinner at Sullivan's Hardware on Sunday, December 6th. The itinerary is as follows:

6:45 pm        Sounds of Silas meets at Sullivan's Hardware (6955 N Keystone Ave). We will be wearing our concert apparel. Please bring your music folders and all necessary materials.

7:00 pm        *Seeds of Hope Dinner* begins. Once our performance portion of the evening has concluded, singers may leave to go home. Once the program itinerary is finalized and sent to me, I will forward a more precise time of conclusion. We were finished last year around 7:40 pm.

## **Introducing: The NEW BCBS Jazz Band!**

Call-outs for the new ensemble were recently held on Monday and Tuesday, November 9th and 10th. **SEVENTEEN** musicians "answered the bell" - a full complement of rhythm section and horn players - and we had our first rehearsal on Monday, November 16th. By the end of the Seminar, we had Charlie Parker's *Now's The Time* swinging and grooving, with all players taking their very first steps in improvising jazz solos over the chord changes. There's definitely more to come from this exciting, new crew once in-person school is back in session! Even through a hybrid schedule, virtual school, quarantine, whatever...we're still growing this program - just can't stop us!



## **In Conclusion**

Should you have any questions about any of the information found in this newsletter, feel free to contact me by email at [mduray@bishopchatard.org](mailto:mduray@bishopchatard.org).

As we continue to endure this pandemic-stricken year of 2020, there can certainly be a cause for stress, anxiety, sadness and bitterness in our lives. As I told the students during Seminar and class last week, it's okay to spend a bit of time to be sad about what, or whom, we may have lost throughout this year.

I encouraged them all to try not letting that sadness taint or sour the time we spend together with family and friends and all the blessings - the good things and times we still have and cherish in our midst - especially with the holidays rapidly approaching.

Even though things can be daunting, and the need to adapt exhausting, I remain absolutely grateful to be making music with our students here at Bishop Chatard High School. We will create and deliver despite.

-Mr. Duray, *Director of Music* - Trojans together!

