



www.mchsorchestra.org

**MIRA COSTA ORCHESTRA BOOSTER CLUB
2011-2012 BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFORMATION PACKET
Sept 2011**

Dear Orchestra Families:

Welcome to the start of another school year, one that I believe will reap extraordinary outcomes for students and supporters alike. First and foremost, we have ambitious and enjoyable literature to look forward to, as well as some events that should help invigorate our focus and practice efforts.

On Fri., October 28th through the 30th, the string musicians of the Philharmonic and Symphony Orchestras have been invited to perform with the Saratoga High School Orchestras in the Bay Area. I have known the Saratoga HS music director for many years, and am excited to have our students interact with a "sister" high school program that represents a high level of excellence and class. They in turn are thrilled to host us. Earlier this summer, I received a voicemail from a group of their upperclassmen as they shouted out an excited message of welcome extended to our Mira Costa students. Not only will this exchange concert be a great opportunity for musical synergy and growth, but also, it will allow our string students to develop chemistry and camaraderie (relatively earlier during the school year) that will no doubt enable us to continue excelling throughout the year.

In other news, thanks to the incredible achievements of last year's Symphony Orchestra, this year's members have been invited to audition for a "premiere" status partnership with the LA Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Mentorship Program. Recordings submitted from last year have positioned us to be one of seven finalists for four premiere status spots. The second and final audition round will take place in mid-October, and will involve a panel from the LA Phil observing the full Symphony Orchestra in rehearsal! On top of this, the Symphony Orchestra has also been invited to compete in the ASTA National Orchestra Festival in Atlanta, GA from March 21st through the 24th. This national level competition is comprised of high schools throughout the country who, like us, submitted recordings and other supporting documents that were rigorously assessed by a panel of university professors and professional musicians. Symphony students will not only gain from the input of quality adjudicators and clinicians, but will also benefit from the professional sessions and exhibitions run by the annual ASTA National Convention. Be on the lookout for more details in the coming weeks.

Needless to say, we have much exciting work cut out for us this year. The students will practice hard, and it is my hope that many of you in the Orchestra Booster Club will take a direct part in our fundraising efforts and volunteer work. Together, we will help provide our students with the most educationally rewarding experience possible!

With sincerest regards,

Peter Park
Director, Mira Costa HS Orchestras, Manhattan Beach Unified School District
(310) 318-7337 x5098; Email: PPark@manhattan.k12.ca.us

The Mira Costa Orchestra Booster Club is looking forward to working with you! Please review this information packet, then complete and **return the Family Information/Volunteer Form, Participation Form and check in the enclosed envelope to Mr. Park by Fri, Sept. 9.**

Email message blasts and our website at www.mchsorchestra.org will be our primary means of communication with you this year. Please bookmark our website for quick access to information. For financial reports and meeting minutes, click on 'General Info' and then click on the 'Members Only' link. Enter 'boosters' as the name and 'orchestra' as the password. If you have questions, please contact web-master, Tammy Choy.

Board Members: Lynette Campbell (Pres), Eve Ahlers (VP), Cindy Bandel (Treas), Jamie Stringfellow (Sec)
If you have any questions, please contact the board members in the 'Contact Us' section of our orchestra website.

MCHS Orchestra Participation Form for String Students (2011-2012)

The Orchestra Boosters are proud to say our orchestra program is strong and growing and we now have approximately 135 participating students! However it is up to us, the families, to support our own students through the Orchestra Boosters as we are responsible for paying nearly all our own program expenses. Our expenses include music purchases, instrument purchases, concert production (posters/programs/ticket printing, publicity, supplies), concert CDs (production costs, mechanical licensing), coaching specialists, festival expenses (fees, bus transportation), instrument maintenance, and more. We need full support from our families to keep our program strong and to make it an enriching experience for your student. The benefits gained from your student's participation in our exceptional orchestra program will not only apply this school year, but will be valuable as your student applies for college, and will remain with them through-out their lifetime.

Our budget only works if everyone in the program contribute his or her “fair share”. This fair share amount is based upon our anticipated costs for this coming school year. Our budget will be covered at our Orchestra Booster Club meeting and reports on our finances can be seen at our website mchsorchestra.org. We appreciate any and all donations. If you are able to donate at a higher level, we would greatly appreciate it as it will offset a budget shortfall should families be unable to contribute at the fair share level. The Booster Board is committed to no deficit spending. Donation levels will be acknowledged in the concert programs and special mention will be given on our website to all those that donate at the “fair share” level. All donations are tax-deductible.

Supporting Levels:

- ___ \$100+ Legato
- ___ \$150+ Allegro
- ___ \$250+ Presto (“MY FAIR SHARE is \$250 for one string student”)
- ___ \$350+ Crescendo
- ___ \$500+ Fortissimo (“MY FAIR SHARE is \$500 for two string students”, etc.)

Levels with accompanying benefits:

- ___ \$750+ Grandioso (2 complimentary tickets per concert*)
- ___ \$1000+ Virtuoso (4 complimentary tickets per concert*)
- ___ \$2500+ Maestro (4 complimentary tickets and 1 CD per concert *)
- ___ \$5000+ Symphony Circle (8 complimentary tickets and 2 CDs per concert *)

*For \$750+ levels, comp tickets will be available for you at the box office the evening of the concert.

[] Here is my contribution for the year

[] I prefer to contribute in 3 installments (by Sep 9, 2011; Jan 9, 2012 and Mar 9, 2012)

Name of Student(s) in orchestra program: _____

Instrument: _____

Donor name(s) to be listed in concert programs: _____

******* Please make out your check to MBAF. Send your check, this form and the Family Information/Volunteer Form in the envelope provided by Sept 9. *******

Please return to Mr. Peter Park, 1401 Artesia Blvd., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

MCHS Orchestras - Family Information / Volunteer Form

Student name(s) _____

Parent names: _____

Phone #s: _____

Email addresses (Primary form of communication: Multiple addresses may be provided; Please note we are starting a new email list so please provide your email addresses again even if you were on the old list.)

WE NEED LOTS OF PARENT PARTICIPATION – PLEASE SIGN UP! (We also need people to serve as back-ups and to start learning jobs of parents whose kids will be graduating soon.)

MCHS Orchestra Committee Chair Positions (please check boxes you're interested in)

Chamber Strings Coordinator

Philharmonic Orchestra Coordinator

Symphony Orchestra Coordinator

Band Liaison

Student Accounts Coordinator

Concert Coordinator

Fundraising Coordinator

Other Orchestra Volunteer Jobs

Volunteer coordinator

CD production and distribution

Publicity

Photographer

Mechanical licensing

Audio recording

Concert sales (tickets, CDs, photos)

_____ (fill in)

Will help where needed

(PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM IN ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO MR. PETER PARK **)**

MCHS Orchestra Calendar for 2011-2012 School Year

Please mark your calendars now with these important dates! Updates to calendar will be communicated to families via email and posted on our web-page (www.mchsorchestra.org).

We will also have several Orchestra Booster Club meetings throughout the year. A schedule for special section rehearsals held outside of class will be distributed separately.

2011

- Sep 14 Mandatory Orchestra Parent Meeting at 6:30 pm (Orchestra Room)
- mid-Oct L.A Philharmonic judging for "Premiere Status" Partnership (Symphony Orchestra)
- Oct 20 Prism Concert (Symphony Orchestra, Strings only)
- Oct 28-30 Exchange Concert in Saratoga, N. CA (Symphony and Philharmonic, Strings only)
- Dec 9 MCHS Orchestra Winter Concert (All orchestra groups, strings, winds & percussion)

2012

- Jan 13 Preliminary performances for Rotary Competition at MCHS (strings only)
- Feb 3 Rotary Winds and String Competition Finals at MCHS
- Feb 9 All District Orchestra Festival (All orchestra groups, strings, winds & percussion)
- Mar 16 MCHS Orchestra Spring Concert (All orchestra groups, strings, winds & percussion)
- Mar 21-24 ASTA National Orchestra Festival in Atlantic, GA (Symphony Orchestra)
- mid-Apr Weekend Festival/Trip (Philharmonic Orchestra)
- Jun 8 MCHS Orchestra Pops Concert (All orchestra groups, strings, winds & percussion)
- Jun 15 End-of-year orchestra banquet

=====

NOTE: Standard concert attire is required for ALL students. Concert attire order information will be provided soon.

- Symphony string students need to have their clothing ready in Oct for the Prism Concert.
- Attire for Saratoga trip TBD
- All orchestra students need to have their clothing ready for the Winter Concert on December 9.

If you have a returning orchestra student, please ensure his/her concert outfit is complete and still fits!

