

MusicCounts! Notebook

Silence Would be Deafening!

As you know, our schools are facing a budgetary crisis, which could very well hurt the music program just as we've begun to grow!

The town currently has a serious fiscal crisis which is the result of Proposition 2½, which says that towns can only increase property taxes up to 2½% from year to year. Anything more must be authorized by the town's voters. This worked when the State augmented funds to help cities and towns, but in the last several years, this funding has been drastically reduced.

In the meantime, we've been faced with many expense increases such as heating which has been impossible to keep within a 2½% growth rate. Until now, service cuts and user fees combined with the access to the town's cash savings held us over. We no longer have enough cash, and further service cuts (teachers and programs) no longer make sense. A vote is likely to be held in January for an Operational

Override. This is where the voters decide that the revenue growth has been insufficient to fund the services the town deems to be necessary.

What You Can Do for Music

Support the override. Get the facts from CantonPride (cantonpride@comcast.net) and attend or watch School Committee meetings. Talk about it with friends and family. Most of all, whether a Town Meeting or an election, **VOTE!**

Join MusicCounts! Your membership sends a strong message to the administration, the School Committee, and the town that music is supported and considered a critical component of our students' education.

Grab the baton. Only with your help can MusicCounts! continue to flourish. The founders of MusicCounts! have seen their children benefit from the enhancements achieved by our organization. For

MusicCounts! to continue to be a vibrant force, we need new ideas, enthusiasm and most of all, volunteers ready to work for the performing arts program.

Attend performances. Attend performances of your children... don't accept them saying "You don't need to come." Go to school wide concerts and attend concerts and shows of your child's friends! A good audience sends an important message of support to the performers. They've worked hard and should be rewarded.

Make music a part of your daily life. Talk with your children about what their doing in their music classes. Listen to all kinds of music at home and in the car. Make singing part of your family tradition, whether it be in the shower, as a way for the entire family to say good night, singing lullabies, around the fireplace or campfire, during car rides, etc. Dance to all types of music in the living room! Take your child to concerts, musicals and dance performances.

Did you forget to join or renew your annual membership?

Yes, I would like to be a 2006/07 member of MusicCounts! and support music education in the Canton Public Schools:

- \$10 **Basic Membership** sponsors our efforts for the 2006/07 academic year.
- \$25 **"Soloist" Membership** adds a MusicCounts! water bottle! (Available for pickup at your school if you provide email contact.)
- \$50 **"Virtuoso" Membership** adds a MusicCounts! water bottle and two school concert admission vouchers!

Name Renewal New Member

Address

Telephone E-mail

School affiliation (check any that apply): Hansen Kennedy Luce GMS CHS Other

..... I am interested in becoming involved or am willing to help with a small volunteer task. Feel free to contact me.

..... I would like to make an additional donation to the music lesson **Scholarship Fund** in the amount of \$

Please make your check payable to Town of Canton, and write "MusicCounts!" in the memo line.

Mail to: Todd Young, Coordinator of Performing Arts, Canton High School, 900 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021

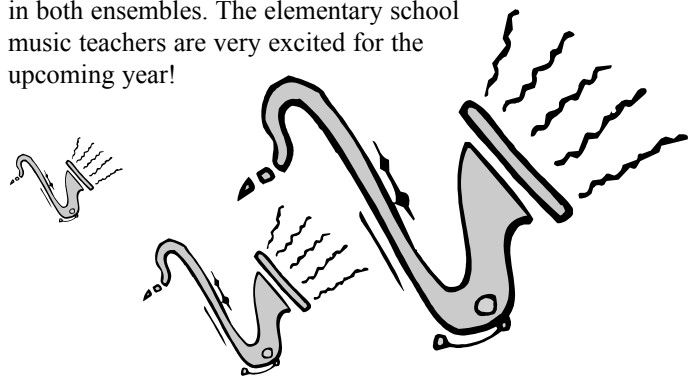
Fall News from Our Teachers

Our school music programs are on a roll! Here's what's happening at your school:

Elementary Schools

Jennifer Lilley, *Luce*
Rebecca Smart, *Kennedy*
Jennifer Tower, *Hansen*

The elementary band program is in full swing at the Kennedy, Hansen, and Luce Schools. Many fourth and fifth graders have signed on to learn flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion and are already making music. Fifth graders continuing into second year band are rehearsing in a full band setting and preparing for their winter concerts. A large number of students have also signed up for chorus and some students are even in both ensembles. The elementary school music teachers are very excited for the upcoming year!



Galvin Middle School

Charles Carchedi, *GMS*
John Russell, *GMS*

The GMS welcomed 47 new students to the 6th Grade Band. They join the 60 other instrumental students at the Middle School. The Jazz Band resumed rehearsals on Thursday afternoons.

In addition to our instrumental students, there are also approximately 170 choral students participating in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choruses. Both groups have begun preparations for the Winter Concert, which will take place on January 17, 2007.

Our students are learning pieces such as "A Sleigh Ride," "Why We Sing," the theme from the "Pink Panther;" "We Are One," a Korean folk song, and a Sousa march.

Canton High School

Gary MacNamara, *CHS*
Todd Young, *CHS*

Canton High School musicians have already been busy this year. They have performed for the Kindergarten Tree Plantings and the Block Party Parade. In upcoming weeks the band will be "playing out" the German Exchange Students at their farewell banquet and providing music at the football games. The band is also thrilled to finally be in their permanent home, the new CHS Band Room.

The *Treble Makers*, the high school all female a capella ensemble, began rehearsals on September 13th. They have been busy preparing new music by Thomas Weelkes and Oscar Peterson, as well as a classic American folk song and other surprises.

The CHS Chorus is also busy rehearsing works by Mozart, Clausen, Byrd, and Morley. Interest in the After School Chorus has also grown where additional rehearsal time may need to be added to allow all those who wish to sing to have an opportunity.

On November 17, 18, and 19th the Canton High School Drama Club will be presenting their fall musical, *Les Misérables*. Students have been hard at work rehearsing and designing sets for the show. Many band members play in "the pit."

Tri-M, the Music Honor Society, recently met to elect new officers for the '06-'07 year and plan for their future. There are many exciting ideas and service projects in the works!

New Coordinator of Performing Arts Brings Breadth to the Program

Todd R. Young, Canton's new Coordinator of Performing Arts, brings his wide-ranging expertise and experience in administration, instrumental, and choral music to our schools. Mr. Young comes to Canton from the Needham Public Schools, where he was the director of the middle school bands and jazz ensemble, and a private instructor of saxophone, percussion, and clarinet. He taught chorus at the Pollard Middle School, as was also the Private Instruction Coordinator for the school system.

Mr. Young received a bachelor of music degree in film scoring & music education from Berklee College of Music. He also holds a masters degree in sacred music from Boston University, with a concentration in choral conducting, and additional graduate work in school administration. He sings for pleasure with the Dedham Choral Society.

Currently, Mr. Young and his faculty are working on a three-year plan for performing arts in the Canton school system.

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"My hope for Canton is that we can continue to develop our programming so that as many students as possible can enjoy the richness that the performing arts has to offer. Regardless of whether you become a professional musician or actor, perform in community ensembles, or attend performances as a learned audience member, knowledge in the performing arts offers the participant significant joy and understanding of the world around them." – Todd Young

Canton Hosts Statewide Music Festival

Canton is proud to announce that we are hosting the annual conference of The Society of General Music, here at Canton High School. The conference, which begins on May 5th, 2007, brings music educators from around the state to plan, discuss, and learn.

Scholarships Available for the Pursuit of Music

In the music department in Canton, we feel that no child should lose the opportunity to participate in Canton music programs, to rent an instrument or to take private lessons if they have the desire to learn and participate.

Financial arrangements as well as scholarship help are available by contacting Mr. Young in the Performing Arts office. We encourage anyone who is interested to pursue this option. All requests will be kept confidential.

If you can, please consider making an additional contribution to MusicCounts! for our Scholarship Fund!

Message from Todd Young, Performing Arts Coordinator...

It is hard to believe that only a month has passed since I came on board as a new member of the Canton Performing Arts Department. My students, colleagues, and the greater community have been welcoming. I have come to feel very much at home.

There is little rest in the Performing Arts Department, however. There is an incredible amount of learning, performing, and experiencing the arts going on in this department. It amazes me how much is happening with a faculty of only eight teachers. Canton should be extremely proud of their Performing Arts Teachers. They truly represent the best of the best. I am proud to be their colleague.

Composition and Community: A New Fifth Grade Project!

This year, through a grant provided by the Canton Alliance for Public Education (CAPE) and MusicCounts!, the Luce and Kennedy schools will feature a program for fifth graders that combines music and writing. The project will culminate this spring with a performance of the work. Proceeds from this concert will raise funds for a charity chosen by the students.

Each 5th grade class will create and perform musical work using Carl Orff methodology and instruments. They will be part of an Orff ensemble, singing while playing rhythmic percussion instruments and pitched percussion such as wooden xylophones, metallophones (metal xylophone), or glockenspiels (xylophones that are laid out like a piano keyboard), and playing recorders.

Their music will be based on original poetry written by the students. The composition will include an introduction, a rhythmic or spoken section, a section that

features a melody composed by the children, accompanying creative movements, improvisation, different dynamics (loud vs. soft), and changes in tempo (fast and slow). The students will research charities, create publicity posters and fliers, and write program notes about the musical process and final composition.

MusicCounts! plans to expand the program to the Hansen with the purchase of additional Orff instruments there as well.



Hone Your Skills with Private Lessons!

MusicCounts! highly recommends taking private instrumental lessons! Your lessons are tailored to your needs and your pace. With weekly guidance, you'll learn how to play your instrument much more quickly and be able to play songs for your friends and family. You'll be able to play songs in band easily. You can join extracurricular groups where you'll play exciting and fun new music and you'll make new friends who share music in common.

Private lessons are for any level music student; whether you are an advanced middle or high school player who wants to hone their skills, or an elementary school beginner anxious to progress. You'll be proud of your work and accomplishments, able to enjoy expressing yourself through music for the rest of your life. Playing an instrument is a fabulous way to meet people, to share in a team effort, and to have fun! Sign up today!

Through the private music lessons available in the Canton Public Schools, you'll have the opportunity to study one on one with some of the top performers and music educators in the Boston area. Lessons are currently available for Trombone, Trumpet, Saxophone, Percussion, Flute, and Clarinet. If you have a particular instrument in mind, let us know.

If you are interested in lessons, please see your school's band director or contact Todd Young, Coordinator of Performing Arts, at youngt@cantonma.org or 781-821-5050 ext. 105.

We've Made a Difference!

We often hear the question, "What do you do?" While we continue to build the organization, MusicCounts! has helped to enhance our music programs since its inception in 2001. Here's a partial list of accomplishments:

- ◆ Research about the music programs in neighboring towns, which was analyzed and presented to the School Committee and Administration (2001)
- ◆ Ongoing advocacy for the Canton's music programs (since inception)
- ◆ Parent volunteers assisting with elementary band rehearsals (2002)
- ◆ Organized family ticket reservations for the Boston Symphony Youth Concerts (2004)
- ◆ Sponsored new rehearsal/performance opportunities at all levels...
 - All Town Band (elementary) (2002)
 - A Cappella singing ensemble (high school) (2002)
 - Small instrumental ensembles (all levels)... flute quartet, clarinet trio, wind ensemble, string ensemble (2003)
 - Jazz Band (middle school) (2004)
 - Reintroduction of string ensemble (2006)
- ◆ Sponsored "special" music-related programs in the schools, including the Five O'Clock Shadow (a capella group in 2003) assembly and master class for CHS (with 8th grade chorus at class) and Made in the Shade (jazz program in 2004) for all elementary schools
- ◆ Helped to coordinate instrumental lesson program (2003, 2005)
- ◆ Support the CHS chapter of Tri-M, the music honor society (founded 2003)

- ◆ Soundproofing for dedicated music room at the Hansen School (2004)
- ◆ Purchase of District Music Festival registration fees (ongoing)
- ◆ Provided scholarships to students for ensembles and lessons (ongoing)
- ◆ Provide recognition "cords" for graduating Tri-M members (ongoing)
- ◆ Purchase new and repair instruments including bass clarinet, bassoon, vibraphone, etc. (2003-05)
- ◆ Grant to support the 5th grade "Composition and Community" program

Ensemble News

All-Town Elementary Band, a MusicCounts! sponsored ensemble under the direction of Jennifer Lilley and Rebecca Smart, has started its sixth season. This after-school ensemble is open to any students who are in their 2nd or 3rd year of instrument playing (5th and 6th graders). The group plays full band music and rehearses weekly on Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 in the Luce school library. (Families carpool from the other elementary schools.)

For anyone who missed the first rehearsal, it's not too late to join up: contact Miss Lilley (lilleyj@cantonma.org) for more information.



These programs are supported in part by grants from the Canton Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Les Misérables

The CHS Drama Club, under the direction of Stephanie Shapiro, will be presenting the musical *Les Misérables*, based on the novel by Victor Hugo. Set in France in the early 1800s, it is an inspiring story of a man that rises above his circumstances. You'll learn about historical hardships and politics while you're treated to wonderful music and acting!

Canton High School Auditorium
Friday and Saturday, November 17-18 at 7:00pm and Sunday, November 19 at 2:00pm

String Ensembles will be back! Despite the short-lived start last year, we are dedicated to making it possible for our string players to make music together.

Small Instrumental Ensembles can be formed for anyone interested. So if you are looking to play in a flute quartet, wind ensemble or the like, please let us know.

A small (\$50) participation fee for each session (fall and spring) covers a portion of the cost of the ensemble. MusicCounts! covers the rest.

If you are interested any of the ensembles, please see your school's band director or contact Todd Young, Coordinator of Performing Arts, at youngt@cantonma.org or 781-821-5050 ext. 105.

Notebook is published periodically by MusicCounts!

Special thanks to Susan Caplan and Marla Schay Barker for the writing and production of this issue.

To contact MusicCounts!, you can write to:

MusicCounts! c/o Todd Young, Coordinator of Performing Arts, Canton High School, 900 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021

Or you can call or email:

Todd Young at 781-821-5050, ext.105, youngt@cantonma.org or Marla Schay Barker at 781-828-5437, mschay@comcast.net

Visit our website at www.musiccounts.org