

MusicCounts! Notebook

Welcome to a New Year of Music *by Todd R. Young*

My summer life is radically different than that of the school year. I do have the typical opportunities for travel and time spent with family and friends, but it is my summer employment that feels so different. I work for the State Trial Court. There is little music where I work, but certainly lots of drama. One afternoon this past summer I had a lengthy conversation with one of the probation officers who said to me, "My greatest regret in life was that I never learned to play a musical instrument. You are so lucky that you do."

The opportunity for your sons and daughters is here and now, alive in the Canton Public Schools.

The Performing Arts Department is proud to welcome our newest member to the faculty. **Annelise Lesser** will be the music teacher at the Hansen School. Mrs. Lesser is originally from Idaho, studied in Utah, and just finished working at a summer music program in New York. We are thrilled that she will be adding Massachusetts to her list of music making.

She brings to Canton experience in general music, band, and particularly exciting – strings!

With Mrs. Lesser's orchestral experience, Canton will expand its offerings this year to include study on string instruments. Opportunity for private lessons will be available as is the potential for additional ensembles specializing in strings. This same opportunity to study privately is available for all band instruments.

Canton's Private Music Instructors:

- David Birkin – woodwinds
- Randy Cloutier – percussion
- Misha Grandel – brass
- Annelise Lesser – strings
- Rebecca Smart – flute
- Jennifer Tower – clarinet; saxophone

I can say with complete confidence that to be successful on a musical instrument requires both private study and a commitment to practice. Information on private lessons is available through your child's music teacher or through the Performing Arts Office (781-821-5050 ext. 105).

This past spring we said goodbye to a wonderful colleague and educator, **Jennifer Lilley**. Ms. Lilley will be greatly missed and deserves our sincerest thanks for her years of excellence in Canton. Good luck Ms. Lilley!

This year's Performing Arts Department:

- Charlie Carchedi – GMS
- Annelise Lesser – Hansen
- Gary McNamara – CHS
- John Russell – GMS
- Rebecca Smart – JFK / Luce
- Jennifer Tower – Luce
- Stephanie Shapiro – CHS (Drama)
- Todd Young – CHS

I am continually honored to work with such a fine group of educators. We have exciting things in store for the 2007-2008 school year!

Finally, I hope that you will take advantage of Canton's Performing Arts offerings and be active in your child's arts education. There are many, many ways to help out and support the richness of this curriculum. Why not start by joining *MusicCounts!*

Support music with your annual membership...

I would like to be a 2007/08 member of MusicCounts! and support music education in the Canton Public Schools:

- \$10 **Basic Membership** sponsors our efforts for the 2007/08 academic year.
- \$25 **"Soloist" Membership** would allow us funds to provide additional support to the program.
- \$50 **"Virtuoso" Membership** provides funds equivalent to almost half the cost of music scores for a large ensemble.

Name Renewal New Member

Address

Telephone E-mail (please provide for updates)

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

Ensemble News

All-Town Elementary Band, under the direction of Rebecca Smart and Jennifer Tower, will be starting its seventh season. This after-school ensemble is open to any students who are in their 2nd year of instrument playing (5th graders). The group plays full band music and rehearses weekly on Thursdays from 3:30-5:00, this year in the Luce school library. (Families carpool from the other elementary schools.)

String Ensembles will be back at last! With Annelise Lesser on board, we will be seeking out interested string players!

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.

GMS Jazz Band will continue as part of the middle school instrumental offering.

Music Rooms!!!

We are thrilled to announce that all three elementary schools will have music rooms this year! Not only does a permanent room provide a place where students are not distracted, it also allows the teachers the ability to integrate musical instruments more easily.

CHS Treble Makers, the female a cappella group, returns this year as a MusicCounts-sponsored ensemble.

CHS Jazz Combo, new this year, will meet after school one day a week. Led by Mr. Young, the group will introduce students to a different type of music, as well as improvisation.

If you are interested any of the small 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. Rehearsal times will be determined to best fit participant and instructor schedules.

MusicCounts-sponsored ensembles require a modest participation fee for each session (fall and spring) which covers a portion of the cost of the ensemble. We cover the rest.

Scholarships are available. 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.



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

Come One, Come All... to the First Annual Performing Arts Open House!

Tuesday, September 25th
Canton High School Cafeteria
7:00 – 8:00pm

Come join music teachers and CHS performing arts students at an hour of refreshments and camaraderie that will bring together students from all grades and their parents. Learn about the music programs, talk to your teachers and hear all the ways older students are involved in the performing arts!

Notebook is published periodically by MusicCounts!

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, Co-chair at 781-828-5437, mschay@comcast.net

Visit our website at www.musiccounts.org

Where Your Money Goes...

Especially in these tight economic times, programs such as music and performing arts are especially vulnerable to budget and curricular cuts. *MusicCounts!* is dedicated to working closely with the Performing Arts department to ensure that the program is not only maintained, but continues to thrive. With your membership and financial support, we are able to send a strong message to the administration, the School Committee and the town that music is considered a vital component of our students' education.

There are also tangible benefits of supporting *MusicCounts!* Over the years, we have sponsored "special" music-related programs in several schools with guest artists. We have obtained acoustic rugs in order to turn elementary classrooms into music rooms. Most importantly, we have

purchased music for bands and choruses, something crucial given the fact that there is currently no money in the operating budget for new music. Other miscellaneous expenses such as piano tuning have been covered by *MusicCounts!* as well.

Students pursuing music outside of school day benefit from *MusicCounts!* subsidized ensembles, since the participation fee covers only a portion of the total cost. The CHS chapter of Tri-M, the music honor society, receives funding, and we cover the registration fees for GMS and CHS students accepted into the Southeast District Music Festival.

We hope that you will agree that *MusicCounts!* membership money is well spent, and will consider supporting the cause!



Mark your
Calendar...



The CHS Drama Club, under the direction of Stephanie Shapiro, will be presenting the musical *Pippin*, with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz of *Wicked* fame. It is a story of a young prince looking for the meaning of his life.

Canton High School Auditorium
Friday-Saturday, November 16-17, 7:00pm
and Sunday, November 18, 2:00pm