



JFK Music Musings

OCTOBER 2017

UPCOMING CONCERT DATES:

- Winter Concert Friday, 12/15/2017 7:00PM, KHS Auditorium
- Winter Concert Snow Date, Tuesday, 12/19/2017 7:00PM, KHS Auditorium
- Naugatuck Community Band Benefit Concert, TBD
- Solo and Small Ensemble Recital, Wednesday, 4/4/2018 7:00PM KHS Auditorium
- Spring Concert, Tuesday, 5/15/2018 7:00PM, KHS Auditorium
- Memorial Day Parade, Sunday, 5/27/2018 12:00 Freight Street Waterbury

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A View From The Podium

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School year! It has been an eventful 1st month as we have tried to get back into the swing of things. We are looking forward to our concerts as always but also getting ready to kick off our fundraising campaigns.

The percussion class this year is a little bigger than last year with quite a few new faces. In the early going we have focused on rhythm reading and just started to work on rudiments and fundamental etudes. We started our first Battery percussion piece, Sub-sonic, and will also begin mallet percussion soon.

The band is running a little different this year, no students will be exclusive to percussion instruments this year, they will also be learning a wind instrument as well. In each song we play I will pull students from the band to cover the percussion parts, with a preference given to those who have played percussion previously. This has resulted in the band running out of equipment! The group has gotten off to a great start working on a new piece called "New Horizon." They finished learning the song in Mid-September. We have already started a second

song, Oceanus, while we clean up parts from New Horizons,

We are also getting ready to start our fundraising campaign, which we do to offset the cost of our annual trip to the High Note Music Festival in late May. We will be hosting a Video Game Competition in October, a fundraiser at Laser Planet in November, an Open Mic in December, along with sales for KHS Music T-shirts, Fleeces and miscellaneous other items.

It's been a nice start, I'm looking forward to another great year for KHS Music!

-Mr. Knecht

The Voice of the Choir

The chorus has gotten off to a great start this year! The talent level is some of the best the chorus has seen in several years. We have started the year with an a cappella piece in 5 part harmony – something the group has never accomplished before. Music that is much more difficult has been selected for this entire year – including multiple a cappella songs, songs in different languages (including Latin and Hebrew), and songs from all different genres and historical periods. We are hoping to expand our music history

knowledge with this new repertoire. We have started with basic sight-singing and sight reading to help improve our musical literacy skills. This will be continued with work on aural interval identification and more difficult sight reading. Sight reading and sight singing also helps students to learn music faster and more efficiently in class. This year we will have a "Men's Choir" as well as the select women's group "The First Ladies." The theme they have chosen for their performances

this year is "the 1950's/60's." Each choir will perform songs in their individual group and also perform a few together. Auditions are open to anyone – whether they are involved in the music department or not. These groups will perform at the small ensemble concert in the spring as well as a few extra-curricular performances during the year. The chorus shows great promise this year and we are very excited to see what the year will bring.

-Ms. Pape

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Instrumental Music

Each month an instrumental music student will be awarded this distinction. No student can win the award twice in one school year. The student must show dedication and commitment to the ensembles, and an unrelenting focus in class. In addition, to be considered the student should set an example for others to follow, and show an overall improvement in their ability to play the music that has been covered in class. Performance ability is a factor, but improvement, dedication, commitment, and leadership are weighted more heavily.



October

Rick Ramos, Senior

Trumpet

Rick has been an active member for the band for all 4 years in high school. When he joined us he was already one of the better players in the ensemble, and has only improved over his time with KHS.

Rick has been the principal trumpet player for the past 3 years, and this year has spent time in 2 of the band periods mentoring the new trumpet players. His work in the first

few weeks of school has resulted in the 1st year players in the trumpet section getting off a fast start and showing great control on their instrument.

Aside from band class, Rick also plays with the Jazz Ensemble and is looking to put together the first Brass Quintet in our school's history. In his spare time Rick obsesses over Hello Kitty and hangs out with his friend Morty.

2017-2018 Winners

Oct. - Rick Ramos

Vocal Music

Each month a vocal music student will be awarded this distinction. No student can win the award twice in one school year. The student must show dedication and commitment to the ensemble, and an unrelenting focus in class. In addition, to be considered the student should set an example for others to follow, and show an overall improvement in their ability to sing the music that has been covered in class. Performance ability is a factor, but improvement, dedication, commitment, and leadership are weighted more heavily.

October

Shania Gould-Turner,

Senior

Shania is in her second year of choir this year and has already shown great improvement over last year. In one short month she has become a leader in her section in not one, but two choir classes. Shania is a leader in the music department this year – in the role of secretary for the music student council. She is also one of only two returning

members of the First Ladies and has been instrumental in recruitment for this year. Her dedication and enthusiasm make her an important part of the choir.

2017-2018 Winners

Oct. - Shania Gould-Turner



Video Game Competition Fundraiser

The music department will be hosting a Video Game Competition fundraiser on October 11th, afterschool from 2:00-3:30. The fundraiser is going to support our end of the year field trip and some other expenses for the program. We tried this fundraiser last year with good success, as it is a nice way for the kids to unwind after the school day with friends.

The cost to play is \$5 for a unlimited games wristband, or \$2 for a single game ticket. Each game that is played lets

winners stay while those who lost make way for new players to join. This system worked very well last year to keep new players coming into each game. At the end of the competition we will present prizes for the top performing player on each game.

We will also sell snacks and drinks at the event. We are asking that students in the music department bring in items for us to sell. We are asking music students to bring in either a package of canned soda or snacks for us to sell.

The most requested snack items are single serve bags of chips, Little Debbie snacks (Honey Buns and Cosmic Brownies in particular) and candy bars. Students who bring in items for our snack shack will get either a wristband or a single play ticket (based on what they bring in).

This year we will have Smash Bros Brawl, Marvel v.s. Capcom, Call of Duty, WWE 2K15, and Pacman and we are hoping to have additional games available as well.

“To play a wrong note is insignificant, to play without passion is inexcusable.”
-Ludwig Von Beethoven

Bad Music Humor!



2017-2018 Music Student Council

The Council is made up of students from percussion, chorus and band, who want to aid the directors in fundraisers and group activities that we do throughout the year. They are the student voice in the work that we do. We started the group a few years ago, and did voting at the end of last year to elect this year’s officers.

They will help plan activities and will help with decisions such as field trips, concert day hangouts, and are usually the first students to step up when volunteers are needed. They meet once a month and anyone is allowed to attend a meeting. All meetings are announced in class in case a student wishes to attend.

The 2016-2017 Student Music Council is:

- Rebekah Merancy—President
- Tony Garcia—Vice President
- Isaac Smyth—Treasurer
- Shania Gould-Turner—Secretary
- Dante Torres and Sebastian Cavada—Members at Large