

TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

NMM

news



Spring 2009

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Students Sing Their Way to Class

Chapter 1241

Washington Township High School, Sewell, NJ

By Jan Giel

Sparked by a student request at the start of the school year for a more lively exchange during the change of classes in the school day, the Washington Township High School Tri-M Music Honor Society began playing 30 seconds of music at the tail end of the interchange between classes. Tri-M students take turns editing daily musical selections into 30-second spots with the

Tri-M Advisor's, Music Teacher Jim Beyer, final approval. Students and teachers can now submit music requests, so future themes might include "Teacher Tuesdays" to feature the cherished music of a science teacher or a librarian.



Pictured are members of the WTHS Tri-M chapter.

The Tri-M idea has been music to the Washington Township High School administration's ears. Administrators have embraced the concept and used it as a way to encourage the nearly 3,000 students to get to class on time. WTHS Executive Assistant Principal Joe Bollendorf has charted data to show that the total number of infractions for lateness to class went down 26% in October, from 142 infractions in October 2007 to 105 this October.

"It really has been a win-win for the school," Beyer said of the project. "The Tri-M students are very involved and are getting hands-on experience with the editing software. The music also serves a practical purpose because the students know that once the music begins, they have 30 seconds to get to class. We are trying to represent all diverse musical interests and genres. The response has been really positive."

New Uniforms, Anyone?

Chapter 3811

Milpitas High School, Milpitas, CA

By Alan Berryhill, Tri-M Member

The Milpitas High School Marching Band has been using the same uniforms for 20 years. We were in the interesting situation in which our band director's son (entering as a freshman in 2009) could find himself wearing his father's old band uniform.

So we rejoiced when in 2007, the superintendent of our school district informed us that the district and high school would match the contributions from our music boosters for new uniforms. However, the California budget crisis had begun, and our governor slashed school funding mid-year. Just as we were about to place our order, our superintendent informed us that he could no longer provide funding for the new uniforms.

Fast-forward one year, and thanks to the support of the community, we raised enough money for new uniforms. Band alumni, high school teachers, and families reached deep into their pockets netting more than \$12,000 in donations. The Milpitas Alliance for the Arts, a local non-profit supporter of the arts, hosted a gala that raised another \$10,000 through a silent auction and a murder-mystery dinner where professional actors involved over 200 attending supporters in a crime that rocked the community. Twenty members from our Tri-M club donned old marching band uniforms, played our Fight Song, solicited more donations, and entertained our guests.

With all of this local support, our superintendent, matched the gala donations with another \$10,000. It was a fun night for all, raised critical funding, and allowed the Milpitas High School Marching Band to finally order 200 new uniforms for the 2009 season.

Who done it, you ask? Mr. Chris Kaldy, the music director, was accused and convicted for his passion for music, and for providing the community with an outstanding high school music program.



Milpitas High 2008-2009 Tri-M members

Musical Toys for Tots Drive Chapter 4410 Ranney Middle School, Tinton Falls, NJ

By Lilly Torrente, Advisor

As part of the Third Annual Musical Toys for Tots Drive, sponsored by Ranney Chapter 4410 of the Jr. Tri-M Music Honor Society, Ranney Middle School students and their advisor met on a Saturday morning at a local "Toys R Us" in Eatontown, NJ. Using monies collected during the school year through fund-raising efforts, students had \$500 to purchase "musical toys" which eventually made their way to the U.S. Marine's "Toys for Tot" drop off location in Lincroft, NJ. The toys purchased that day were added to others donated by Ranney Middle School students and faculty members during the Holiday Season.

Students had fun searching the aisles for toys that "sang," "played music," or just "looked like" musical instruments. Working in groups, they were responsible for organizing selections to cover a wide range of ages, tallying dollars spent, and loading the toys for delivery. It was a great way for students to come together and donate their time for a worthwhile cause.



Members of Ranney Middle School purchase and collect "musical" Toys for Tots.

Hazelwood West Trick-or-Canning for Food Bank Chapter 3944 Hazelwood West High School Hazelwood, MO

By Daniel Torrington, Chapter President

This past Halloween, members of the Hazelwood West Tri-M chapter canvassed for cans. Donned in full costumes, members went "trick-or-canning" through local neighborhoods, asking candy-givers to donate nonperishable foods instead of excess of sugar. Under a sliver of silver moon, pillowcase after pillowcase of food was collected by the likes of Sweeney Todd, Harry Potter, and Lucille Ball.

These donations, which amounted to hundreds of cans, were then given to a local St. Louis food bank, where the added supplies came as a welcome surprise during a difficult time.



Tri-M members prepare to trick-or-can.

For the members themselves, the project was the perfect excuse to put on a costume once again and flock to the sidewalks, among the ghosts and goblins of younger years. The overwhelming positive response from the would-be candy-givers served as an added bonus: ringing doorbells, the members met words of encouragement and support as can after can was given to charity. For those involved, the evening was filled with laughter, adventure, and a never-ending supply of cans.

Entertaining for Houses of Hope Chapter 5268 Finneytown High School, Cincinnati, OH

By Heidi Johnson, Advisor

Sixteen members of the Finneytown High School Tri-M Chapter performed at the 2nd annual Houses of Hope Gingerbread House Contest & Display on Dec. 5, 2008. It was an entertaining hour of vocal and instrumental holiday music, including violinists from the Finneytown HS Orchestra, flautists from the Finneytown HS Band, and members of the Jazz Vocal Ensemble. While they were performing, a group of severely burned children who are currently receiving treatment at Shriners were brought to see the exhibit of over 250 Gingerbread Houses and enjoy the music. The students were impressed by the courage of these children and felt honored to use their musical talents both to entertain and support a worthwhile cause at the same time.



Members of Tri-M group pose for the camera.

The mission of the Houses of Hope Organization is to raise funds and awareness for the Shriners Hospital for Children in Cincinnati. It is one of the four Shriners Hospitals in the USA that specialize in burn care and research, treating both the physical injuries and providing emotional rehabilitation for children. The money raised will go to the Cincinnati Shriners Hospital for Children for new surgical and medical transport equipment.

Tri-M Chapter Adopts a Family

Chapter 2401

Braddock Sr. High School, Miami, FL

By Mayra Cobia, Advisor

The Tri-M Chapter at Braddock Sr. High School has been very busy the past two months in two community projects: Adopt-a-Family for the Holidays and Greenbriar Nursing Home Holiday Performance.



PHOTO BY ROSIE MARTINEZ

Braddock Tri-M performs at a nursing home.

The Adopt-a-Family Project, which the honor society has been sponsoring for the past 10 years, was a big success this year. Twenty-three teachers, 16 clubs, and our school administrators participated. In cooperation with a local Head Start Program, school groups adopted a needy family or families for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. Gifts, gift cards, food, and clothing were delivered on designated dates to the Head Start Agency for distribution.

Additionally, in December, the Tri-M members rehearsed and performed a holiday concert for the elderly at a local nursing home. It was a very rewarding and memorable experience for all in attendance.

Tri-M Visits Adult Day Care Center

Chapter 5833

H.D. Jacobs High School, Algonquin, IL

By Don Stinson, advisor

On November 17, 2008, over 40 members of the H.D. Jacobs High School Tri-M Society visited the Cherished Place Adult Day Care Center to entertain and meet their residents. Students performed vocal and instrumental music, played miniature golf and ring-toss with the residents, and even danced with their new friends to their favorite songs. Afterwards, the Jacobs' Tri-M Society served lunch. The students came to the center for a service project, and left with a great feeling of care and service through music.



Jacobs Tri-M visits with residents.

Choir for a Cause

Chapter 3434

St. Brendan High School, Miami, FL

By Katie Huber, Tri-M Member

The Sabre Singers of St. Brendan High School have not had much time for themselves this year. They sang the National Anthem at a Florida Marlins game, auditioned for the Candlelight Processional Choir at Disney World, and (once accepted), they practiced to sing Thanksgiving weekend among a choir of approximately 400 singers. After the four-hour drive back home to Miami, the choir began preparation for this year's biggest achievement.

The Sabre Singers' director, Jennifer Guevara, was asked to participate in a school fundraiser to help the community. Ms. Guevara handed the project over to one of her Vocal Ensemble members, Kathleen Huber, who organized a Christmas concert to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Not only did the girls spend several hours practicing the music, but they also spent their time writing letters to family and friends asking for donations for the cause. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is run primarily by donations.

The concert was held on December 17, 2008, in the St. Rafael Chapel next door to St. Brendan High School. A representative from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital opened the evening with a short presentation explaining what St. Jude does and how you can help. Then, the evening fell into a musical trance. There was never a moment of silence: when music was not flowing through the chapel, a rush of applause was surrounding the singers. There was also a special nativity scene performed by the St. Brendan drama department.

The Choir for a Cause concert raised \$1,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The Sabre Singers hope they have started a new tradition that will continue through the years.



The Sabre Singers perform at the Choir for a Cause concert.

Villa Maria Organizes "Reindeer Romp"

Chapter 1227
Villa Maria Academy,
Malvern, PA

By Jacqueline Coffey, Tri-M Member

Walking through what seemed like a winter wonderland, the Tri-M members organized a charity event called The 1st Annual "Reindeer Romp" to benefit the Special Olympics of Delaware County. Their motivation? "We wanted to organize an event where students could share their time, talents, and abilities to make the Christmas season a little brighter" said Tri-M member Rebecca Nagel, whose brother Ronald is a current Special Olympics athlete and participated in "Reindeer Romp." Over 160 participants braved the cold as they walked around Villa Maria's campus to raise money for this organization. The participants included the members of Chapter 1227, students from Malvern Preparatory School, parents, and the Special Olympics athletes.

Following the event, students and athletes shared time getting to know each other while singing Christmas Carols and enjoying some hot chocolate. The day proved to be a success with over \$3500 raised for the Delaware County Special Olympics. Chapter 1227 hopes to continue the tradition of "Reindeer Romp." Chapter Advisor, Mrs. Joyce Prichard, feels that the "Reindeer Romp" was a perfect way for the students to experience what joy it brings to give to others in such an unselfish way.



Tri-M members pose with some of the Special Olympics athletes.

Tri-M Chapters Share Holiday Joy

Chapter 2351, Unionville High School, Ontario, Canada

By Faith Lau (Historian) and Michelle Kam (President)

Each month, our chapter eagerly prepares for musical performances at two senior residences. We prepared a production of "A Charlie Brown Christmas", a small skit based on Charles M. Schultz's story. The script was prepared, holiday music was inserted throughout, props were gathered and parts were assigned. It was a worthwhile experience to hear the laughter and singing of seniors throughout the performances.



PHOTO BY: DENNIS BECK, ADVISOR

Unionville Tri-M members performing "A Charlie Brown Christmas".

Chapter 3405, United High School, Armagh, PA

By Acey Gongaware, Advisor

In December we gathered at our local mall and rang the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle Fund Drive for three hours. We rang the bell, opened the doors for shoppers, and sang Christmas carols. It was a small way to help a lot of people during the Holiday season.

Chapter 5409, Franklin High School, Franklin, NC

By Robert Jessup, Chapter Co-Advisor

Our Tri-M Chapter took time this Holiday season to spread some Holiday cheer by participating in Operation Christmas Child. For Operation Christmas Child, they sponsored a "Fill-a-Shoobox Drive" in which the entire school participated. The response was phenomenal. Enough items were raised and enough money was donated to help send 37 shoeboxes to underprivileged kids all over the world.

Chapter 1768, W.T. Clarke High School, Westbury, NY

By Sam Colbert

It is an annual tradition for W.T. Clarke High School's Tri-M chapter to carol at the local hospital. As we sang in the pediatrics ward, we handed out gifts, donated by our members. We then went to the recovery ward where we encircled a table of patients and began to sing away. An elderly woman was smiling from her doorway, and a nurse stopped her busy duties to come and partake in some holiday cheer.

Chapter 2388, Jackson County High School, Jefferson, GA

By Miles Adams

Tri-M members of the Jackson County High School performed Christmas carols and spread holiday cheer at Banks-Jackson-Commerce Hospital, Peachtree Assisted Living, and Northminster Homes.



PHOTO BY: HELEN ADAMS

Members of Jackson County HS perform Christmas carols for local hospitals and retirement centers.

**New Chapter Makes Strides
Chapter 5585
Mohonasen High School
Schnedtdy, NY**

By Taylor Pugliese

While the music program at Mohonasen High School started its Tri-M chapter in May, its presence wasn't truly felt in the community until October.

That was when the students and their advisors, Kim Kondenar and Gail Sparlin, traveled to Washington Park in Albany, NY. They donned pink and joined many other concerned citizens to walk for Making Strides for Breast Cancer. This walk, an annual event that gives funds to the American Cancer Society for research, is famous for its windy, bone-chilling fall conditions. That didn't deter the group—their excitement built each day while they collected donations and the event drew closer. When the day finally arrived, they bundled up and braved the elements to make the two loops around the park to support the cause. That day, they'd added over \$1200 to the school district's total of \$8000 and the event's total of \$1.05 million. This confirmed their feelings of accomplishment and pride as they moved towards the future.



PHOTO BY KAREN SMITH

Mohonasen students participate in the Making Strides for Breast Cancer walk.

**Principal Welcomes
New Russellville Chapter
Chapter 5793
Russellville High School, Russellville, AR**

By Brad Coffman, Advisor

Russellville High School's Tri-M Music Honor Society recently held its new member induction at Russellville High School. In conjunction with the new member induction, the chapter was officially presented its charter by Wesley White, principal of RHS. During the ceremony, officers were installed, new members were inducted, and a special lifetime honorary membership was presented.

Chapter advisor Brad Coffman presented a special honorary lifetime membership to Principal Wesley White for his efforts in supporting music education at Russellville High School.



The school principal presents the charter to the new Tri-M Chapter at Russellville High School.

**New Chapter Beginnings
Chapter 5886
Bell High School, Bell, FL**

By Sara Gover

We began in November and have a total of 11 outstanding, dedicated members. We are in the process of selling candy cane grams for our chapter. We have also played Christmas carols outside of CiCi's pizza and at our local nursing home for some dinner entertainment! In the spring we look forward to hosting a band night lock in!



Tri-M members try to make the "M" in Tri-M.

**From Hardships to Harmony
Chapter 5757
West Bridgewater Middle-Senior High School, West Bridgewater, MA**

By Carly Walter, Kayla Junkins, Rebecca Smith, Sue Ellen Duffy

With a music department looking for greater recognition, West Bridgewater Middle-Senior High School knew the best place to turn: Tri-M. With support from the school, the modern music masters of WB dove in. Not too long after, the first induction was held. With a total of twelve members, our society was officially established.

Friday Night Live Chapter 3891 Shenendehowa High School, Clifton Park, NY

By Rachel Dentinger, Chapter Vice-President

This past December, Shenendehowa's Tri-M Society vamped up its annual talent show—by adding comedy. The show was renamed "Friday Night Live," like the popular show "Saturday Night Live."



PHOTO BY: LAUREN BERGERON

Tri-M members perform their rendition of "Brown-Eyed Girl."

This year, the MCs auditioned rather than being handpicked by the society's officers. Those hoping to host the night as a Master of Ceremonies were required to come up with an original comedy skit to perform at a meeting.

From those who auditioned, two MCs, writers, a booming offstage announcer, and a cameo actress were picked. They all worked together to write skits in the style of "SNL" to be performed between every couple of performances

Student performances ranged from jazz, ballet, tap dancing, comedic skits, monologues, and rock. The principal, good-naturedly, was involved in a skit spoofing his infamous quirks. Many teachers participated by singing or playing piano, guitar, or harmonica. This event was, after all, originally named "The Student-Faculty Talent Show."

Tri-M Chapter Hosts Jam Sessions

Chapter 4695 Danbury High School, Danbury, CT

By Zia Ornorato, Tri-M Secretary

Every Thursday after school, our chapter holds a jam session. Students learning to play guitar are joined by other musicians to improvise. Students outside of Tri-M partake in our Thursday jam sessions. This has been inspirational to students who are not currently in the music program and a great outlet for musicians to experience playing with their peers in small groups and bands.

One of our members composed music to portray the movie, "Twilight." The composer recruited four other students from our Thursday jam sessions to help in the making of this song.

Tri-M Helps with Nation's 2nd Largest State Music Conference

Chapter 2115, Brandon High School, Brandon, FL

By Sarah Kelp, Chapter President

Every January the city of Tampa hosts the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) All-State Clinic/Conference. The past three years, the Brandon High School Tri-M



Tri-M students that help at the conference.

Chapter has been asked to help out behind the scenes. This past year students helped out with registration, vendor displays, the main dignitary office, All-State concerts, awards banquets, and the Tri-M booth.

Out of our 50 active members, 20 participated in the clinic/conference. Seven members stayed in a nearby hotel and were on call to help out when needed. We also met 15 students from different high schools around the state, plus a group of music students from Amman Baptist School in Amman, Jordan. Members helped out with ushering 14 concerts and manning the Tri-M booth.

Tri-M Chapter Raises Funds for Local Middle School Music Program

Chapter 5269 Bracken County High School, Brooksville, KY

By Sheryl Hicks, Advisor

On November 3, 2008, members of Bracken County High School Tri-M performed various Broadway musical selections in a concert to raise money for the Bracken Middle School Music program. The \$634 donated will be used to purchase music and other equipment for their program. This is only this chapter's second year as an organization, and the students are very proud of their commitment to their community. The event was a great success, and both the community and students are looking forward to this becoming an annual event.



Students who participated in the Broadway Nights singing "Season's of Love"

Student Recognitions

Student Goes to GRAMMYS

Chapter 4360
Kent School Music, Kent, CT

By Jennifer Malone Hobbs, Advisor

Tri-M student Cory Pyon won \$3,000 as a Grand Prize Key Change Grant Winner. He was selected from a pool of over 100 qualified applicants by an all-star judging panel. He will be able to use these funds to support his project. He was also awarded an all-expense-paid trip to attend the GRAMMY Awards® on February 8th.



Cory Pyon is a violinist, singer, and guitarist. He created a student organization as part of Tri-M called "Melody for Community" that focuses on creating charitable projects through musical performance. Cory's Tri-M project-group, "Melody for Community" (faculty advisor, Bob Diehl) decided to raise funds for the Mekele School for the Blind in Ethiopia. They decided that by helping to fund an active music program for them (getting instruments for them, for example) they would improve their learning environment, create a happier atmosphere and give them hope. To read his proposal you can visit <http://www.dosomething.org/project/hearing-believing-music>.

Georgia On My Mind...

Chapter 5905
Edmonds-Woodway High School,
Edmonds, WA

By Jake Bergevin, Advisor

The Savannah Music Festival has selected EWHS Jazz Ensemble I, directed by Jake Bergevin, as one of twelve outstanding high school jazz bands from across the nation to participate in the fourth annual SWING CENTRAL High School Jazz Band Competition & Workshop between March 25 and 29, 2009. This year, the nationally recognized three-day workshop features some of the country's finest high school jazz bands going head-to-head for \$13,000 in cash awards.

Tri-M Chapter Has an Experience with Strings Attached!

Chapter 1227
Villa Maria Academy, Malvern, PA

By Jacqueline Coffey, Tri-M Member

On Oct. 9th, many Tri-M Music Honor Society musicians attended a string workshop at the Kimmel Center sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Over 120 students from schools in the Philadelphia area attended the workshop. Villa Maria's music director, Mrs. Joyce Prichard, presented



PHOTO BY: JOYCE PRICHARD, ADVISOR

an hour-long session on "How to Prepare and Survive an Audition," which was followed by music reading. At the end of the day, students performed for each other in three levels of proficiency. It was a wonderful experience for students to meet with musicians from many different schools in this setting.

Tri-M members with Tri-M Sponsor Mrs. Joyce Prichard (back) attend the string workshop at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center.

Tri-M Chapter Performs at America's Youth in Concert

Chapter 2381
Flushing High School, Queens, NY

By Kevin Mullany, Advisor

The Flushing High School Chorus and members of Tri-M chapter 2381 performed on the stage of Avery Fisher Hall. They had a performance at Lincoln Center in Avery Fisher Hall at the America's Youth in Concert performance on December 2. One of the pieces of music the students performed in Avery Fisher Hall is an original composition for piano and chorus, and it won 1st place in the Composers Guild's Annual Composition Contest. The piece is entitled "Weathered Fields" and was written by the Tri-M chapter advisor.



Members from Flushing Tri-M chapter on stage.

Global Youth Service Day

Each April, millions of young people participate in and lead service projects, working with their families, schools, community organizations, faith-based communities, and businesses, to improve their communities by addressing critical issues such as global climate change, education & illiteracy, poverty, health, hunger, and homelessness. In 2009 events will be held April 24-26 across the globe. Visit GYSD.org to follow the latest updates and event postings!



Spreading Passion for Music

Chapter 5619
Mont' Kiara International School,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

By Kuan Yu Shen, Chapter President

Though we're a newly formed organization at our school, we have more than twenty young, dedicated, and capable musicians who are all eager to spread their passion for music to the community. For Christmas 2008, we took pride in promoting and spreading the joy of this festive season with our sincere voices through carols that brought alive the Christmas spirit! We will be holding MKIS's first Mini-Film Festival where students and teachers of all ages will be able to showcase their DIY (do-it-yourself) films to the entire school, each student competing for the 300RM prize! Lastly, our goal for the year is to raise enough money to purchase a piano for one of the local-homes in Malaysia.



Harley, the Tri-M Dog

Harley has been traveling at home and abroad ever since he was

weaned and named after Tri-M founder Alexander Harley. Adopt Harley for only \$10.00 by asking your Tri-M advisor to place an order by calling 800-336-3768 ext. 224.

16th Notes

- **Do you have an article or picture you would like to see in the next edition of the Tri-M News or the Tri-M monthly E-News?** Mail your submissions to Tri-M News at MENC headquarters at 1806 Robert Fulton Dr., Reston, VA, 20191, or e-mail Tri-MNews@menc.org. Submit your articles with your name and chapter number. All photo submissions should be clear, of good quality, and include captions, credits and permission.
- **Participate in the Chapter of the Year recognition!** Send your Tri-M scrapbook to MENC by April 30, 2009, for your chance to be the 2009 Chapter of the Year! Earn more points this year by sending in signed Equal Access to Music Education Petitions. Point evaluation forms are available at www.menc.org/tri-m. Questions? Call 800-336-3768, ext. 332.
- **Does your chapter have a Web site?** If so, e-mail shaunal@menc.org to have it added to the Tri-M Web site list.
- **Music educators, students, and their family members are invited to Washington, DC, in June 2009 for music education advocacy,** professional development, and stirring performances against the backdrop of the nation's capital's historic monuments. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn from and perform with other students from across the nation!



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Article and photo submissions are welcome. Deadlines for submissions to Tri-M News are August 15 for the Fall issue and January 9 for the Spring issue.