



PCS Music Friends

Fall 2008 Newsletter



Composer/Conductor John O'Reilly at AAK Middle School

The grade 7-8 band students had prepared for several weeks to play John O'Reilly's composition, "Overture for a New Decade". His rapport with the students was outstanding. He worked with each section of the band on various parts of the piece, and held them to high standards in articulation and rhythmic accuracy. He talked about the pop and rock music which influenced the piece, and how he visualizes the ensembles for which he is writing. In his process of orchestration, each instrument is integrated from the beginning, rather than starting with a melody and then harmonizing and orchestrating it.



Students were amazed when O'Reilly told them that the method books which they use, the "Accent on Achievement" series, were written at his Hannawa Falls home. Thirty million students worldwide use them to learn to play band instruments. He has written over 350 band works, 120 of which are currently on the market. Mr. O'Reilly's visit was arranged by **Jill Rubio** and student teacher **Andrew Stortz**.

Instrument Fund, Piano Endowment, & Membership

As of September, Music Friends has reached 92% of its goal of raising \$140,500 by the end of 2009. Our total raised is now \$129,300, with \$11,200 remaining to help provide instruments for the students and an endowment to maintain the new grand piano. Your annual membership gift to Music Friends is also important to student musicians. Membership gifts support music department field trips, student participation in All-State and Area All-State weekends, students at summer music camps and scholarships for graduating seniors. For more information on making a gift to any of our projects, contact Sal Cania, PO Box 123, Hannawa Falls, NY 13647, 265-3023.



Music Students Represent Potsdam at State Level

Six Potsdam High School students have been honored by the New York State School Music Association to participate in the prestigious All-State Conference performing ensembles in Rochester, NY this December. Well over 100,000 students perform solos in New York State each year of which only 800 are selected to participate in the eight All-State performing ensembles. Congratulations to these stellar young musicians! **Rachel Hartman**-soprano, **Mary Catherine Jadlos**-soprano, **Katja McCall**-alto, **Noëlle McCall**-alto, and **Kathryn Waters**-soprano. **Devin Gruneisen**-tenor-was selected as an alternate. **Ben Stone** was also selected as an alternate for the very competitive New York State School Music Association Piano Showcase. Congratulations to all!

PCS Music Friends Instrument Project

The Potsdam Central School Music Friends is in the fifth year of a fundraising program to purchase new instruments for the district. Below is a list of the instruments already purchased and in use by elementary, middle school, and high school musicians, along with a list of instruments still needed.



Instruments Purchased:

1 violin
2 violas
6 cellos
3 basses
1 piccolo
1 oboe
3 bassoons
1 Eb soprano clarinet
3 bass clarinets
1 contra-alto clarinet
1 soprano saxophone
1 tenor saxophone
3 baritone saxophones
1 French horn
1 trombone
1 bass trombone
4 baritones
2 euphoniums
4 tubas
1 bell kit with stand
1 marimba
1 set concert chimes
1 timpano, 32"
1 set concert toms
1 pair crash cymbals
2 practice pads with stands
2 electric pianos
1 piano amplifier
2 bass amplifier

Other Purchases To Date:

6 sets cello strings
8 sets bass strings
2 cello bags
2 bass bags
various mouthpieces
1 tuba stand
2 sets concert toms stand
crash cymbal holding stand
suspended cymbal stand
marimba cover
rolling bag for electric piano

Still To Go!:

violins
cellos
basses
piccolo
oboes
bass clarinet
bassoons
French horns
baritone sax
tuba
timpani (23")



Music Friends Awards

The Music Friends Higher Education Award for 2007-08 went to **Mary Rubio, Nick Hartman, and Dannielle Kreider**. Mary is continuing her work in the arts as a theater major at the University of Southern California. Nick is continuing to study the French horn as a music major at Rice University, and Dannielle is majoring in music at Crane!



Music Friends summer camp scholarships went to Middle School students **Kelsey Travis** (flute), and **William Baker-Hastings** (trumpet), who both attended Crane Youth Music.

Music Students Went to Summer Camp

The following middle school kids attended a several-day Summer String Camp at Crane: 8th graders **Mike Maresca** (bass) and **Rosa Desmond** (violin), 7th graders **Carrie Potter** (violin) and **Kelsey Sixberry** (cello), 6th graders **Gwen Deuel** (violin) and **Madi Dow** (harp), and 5th grade violinists **Jane Wang, Rebecca Miller, and Katherine Blanchard**.

Attending Crane Youth Music (CYM) in Potsdam were high school students **Frances Clark** (violin), **Rukan Khondker** (voice), **Liz Miraglia** (voice), and **William Yellott** (piano), and middle schoolers **Kelsey Travis** (flute), **William Baker-Hastings** (trumpet), and **Ryan Yellott** (piano).



Senior oboist **Emily Theisen** went to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan.

PCS Music Alumni Who are Still Making Music: Then and Now

Jason Sutter, Class of 1987

Then: Played percussion in Band and Orchestra, played drum set in Jazz Band. Went to AAK to help out with younger drummers. Had his first professional gig with his own band at age 10 and played out several nights a week all through high school.

Now: Degree in Music Education from the University of North Texas; Master's in Orchestral Percussion from the University of Miami.

Since moving to Los Angeles in 2000, Jason has had the opportunity to record, perform and tour with such artists as: *The Rembrandts, Jason Faulkner, Kenny*

"Babyface" Edmonds, Pink, The Campfire Girls, Chantal Kreviazuk, Joe Walsh, Butch Walker, Our Lady Peace, Dean and Robert DeLeo(Stone Temple Pilots) and Nina Gordon (Veruca Salt). He has performed on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, The Carson Daily Show, The Late Late Show and Nickelodeon.* After a 2005 worldwide tour with his band *American Hi-Fi*, Jason went on to play with the band *Smash Mouth*. He's now working with *Chris Cornell*, touring throughout the US and Europe.



Dennis Creighton, Class of 1993

Then: Tenor in Concert Choir and Canta Sera, role in *Carousel* at PHS. In Band, Dennis started with trumpet; in high school, he stepped in to fill the need for a euphonium player, and played in Band and Orchestra.

Now: B.S. and M.S. in Music Education from The Crane School of Music. Dennis is a choral director on Long Island.

Andrew Unsworth, Class of 1989

Then: Played trumpet in Band and Orchestra. Enjoyed playing organ and playing basketball.

Now: Ph.D. in Organ Performance Practice from Duke University and is an organist with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Andrew was the featured performer for the 9th annual L. Felix and Helen Miller Ranlett Organ Recital at Hosmer Hall on October 26th.



Mollie Vogt-Welch, Class of 2000

Then: soprano in Concert Choir and Canta Sera, roles in *Sound of Music* and *West Side Story* at PHS.

Now: B.A. in Music Theater from Penn State University. Performed role of Guinevere in *Camelot* and Wendy in *Peter Pan* on national tours. Currently on Broadway in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

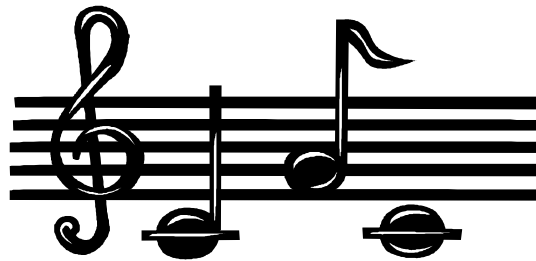
Laura Fitzsimons Gilbert, Class of 2001

Then: Soprano in Concert Choir and Canta Sera, performed in *West Side Story*.

Now: B.S. in Music Education from The Crane School of Music. She had a lead role in the 2007 Community Performance Series production of *The Taffetas*.

Mark Your Calendars! November, December & January Music Department Events

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
NOVEMBER				
Monday	11/10	6:30 pm	Music Friends Meeting	HS: 744
Thursday	11/20	7:30 pm	H.S. Fall Concert: Symphonic Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir	HS: Auditorium
Fri./Sat.	11/21-22		All day rehearsals Area All-State Music Festival, Concert: 2:00 Saturday	Crane School of Music
DECEMBER				
Thursday		7:00 pm	Potsdam Tree Lighting	Potsdam Museum
Thurs.-Sun.	12/4-8		All-State Music Festival	Rochester, NY
Monday	12/8	6:30 pm	Music Friends Meeting	HS: 744
Tuesday	12/9	6:30 pm	3-4 Lawrence Avenue Chorus	Concert Lawrence Avenue
Tuesday	12/16	6:00	5-6 Concert	AAK Cafeteria
Tuesday	12/16	7:30 pm	7-8 Concert	AAK Cafeteria
Thursday	12/18	7:30 pm	Holiday Concert: Concert Band, String Ensemble, Treble Choir	HS: Auditorium
JANUARY				
Fri.-Sat.	1/16-17	times TBA	All-County: H.S. Choir, Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, J.H. Band, Elementary Chorus	Crane School of Music
Monday	1/12	6:30 pm	Music Friends Meeting	HS: 744



PCS Music Friends Meetings

The PCS Music Friends group meets on the second Monday of each month in room 744 of the High School. If you would like to learn more about the group, or volunteer your time and ideas, please attend an upcoming meeting! Thank you! 2008-2009 Music Friends

Officers: Co-Chairs: Adrienne Hartman & Carol Strome, Secretary: Joan Collins, Treasurer: Sal Cania.