



PCS Music Friends

Spring 2009 Newsletter



PCS Named One of the “Best Communities for Music Education”

The NAMM Foundation recently designated PCS one of the “Best Communities for Music Education”. Nationwide, there were only 124 schools recognized with this honor. This was the 10th annual NAMM survey which acknowledges schools and districts across the U.S. for their commitment and support of music education. The NAMM Foundation’s mission is to ensure that all children have access to quality music education programs that encourage lifelong participation in music making.

The NAMM Foundation survey was developed and administered by The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service, an affiliate of the University of Kansas. Detailed information about PCS’s music program and teachers was provided. Also, information about how the community supports the district’s music education programs was given and included: enrichment opportunities provided through SUNY Potsdam and the Crane School of Music, Clarkson University, Community Performance Series, The Orchestra of Northern New York, Northern Symphonic Winds, and the Children’s Chorus of Crane. Information was also provided about Potsdam Music Friends which formed in 2001 to advocate for maintaining staff and increasing funding for district music programs.

The uniqueness of our cultural community in a small town of Northern NY was described in the survey. Mrs. Madeja added, “The Potsdam music program is a great source of pride for our district and community. What makes our program most unique are our students. Potsdam students have gone on to attend the most prestigious music education schools and conservatories. In addition to students who go on to pursue music as a career, many former students continue to make music a part of their lives by attending concerts, performing in community bands, orchestras, and choirs, and by encouraging their children to participate in school music programs.”

Wal-Mart Foundation Donates \$1000 to Potsdam Music Friends



Patrick Devine, center, community involvement coordinator at Wal-Mart, Potsdam, presents a donation of \$1000 to Potsdam Central School Music Friends Co-presidents **Carol Strome**, left, and **Adrienne Hartman**, right. The gift will be used in Music Friends’ campaign to raise money for the purchase of musical instruments to be used by students at all levels of instruction. As of February 2009, Music Friends has reached 94% of its goal of raising \$140,500 by the end of 2009. Its total raised is now \$132,000, with \$8,500 remaining to help provide instruments for the students and an endowment to maintain the new grand piano.

For more information on making a gift to any of our projects, contact **Sal Cania**, PO Box 123, Hannawa Falls, NY 13647, 265-3023.

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**.

PCS Music Friends Instrument Project

A recent purchase of a piccolo was made possible by the PCS Music Friends Instrument Fund. This instrument will be used by AAK middle schoolers for Band, solos, ensembles, etc. Pictured with the new piccolo is 8th grader **Kaylee Peck**.



PCS students go to All-County

The St. Lawrence county Music Educators Association expanded the number of festivals for music students this year, and many PCS students were able to participate! The first festival was held in Hosmer Hall at the Crane School of Music in January, and the 2nd festival was hosted by Gouverneur Central in February. For the first time ever, there was an Elementary Chorus, in which 8 students from Lawrence Avenue sang. At the middle school, 46 AAK students participated in the All-County Band, Chorus, and Orchestra. For the high school, 36 students performed in the All-County Band, Senior Chorus, Chamber Strings, Jazz Ensemble, and Vocal Jazz.

Music Friends Raffle Drawing – June 2nd!

If you would like to support Music Friends and the Instrument Fund, please consider buying a few raffle tickets for several exciting prizes! Tickets are available from music students and from **Northern Music and Video**. Prizes include: Dinner for 2 at the **Cactus Grill & Cantina**, \$40 Gift Certificate for **La Casbah**, \$25 Gift Certificate for **First Crush** or **Sandstone Grill**, 2 tickets **Orchestra of Northern NY** July 1, 2009, \$50 gift certificate for any **CPS** event and several more surprise prizes! Tickets are \$5 each or a bargain price of 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at the outdoor concert on June 2nd.

“Band Night” at Potsdam Central School With 250 Students!

Approximately 250 students, grades 4 -12, performed a concert in the Potsdam High School Gym on March 18.

Band Night is a once-every-three-years special event which presents a unique opportunity for listeners and performers. The audience is treated to music individually by each group, starting with the 4th grade Band, followed by the 5th-6th Grade Band, the 7th-8th Grade Band, and then the High School Concert Band and Wind Ensemble.

The “Grand Finale” is a combined band that features all of the young musicians together. On the recent Band Night, students of all ages sat side by side to perform the famous Can-Can of Jacques Offenbach, arranged by Andrew Balent. Older students got to “relive” their early days of Band and note (sometimes with amazement) how far they have come. Younger band members got a chance to “see the future” and feel the inspiration to continue to diligently work.



Photo by David Centofanti

ONNY Practice-a-Thon Winners

The Orchestra of Northern New York held its first annual “Practice-a-thon” for students. There were 3 winners from PCS who went up on stage at Hosmer Hall during the April 25th ONNY concert. Prizes were given for most hours practiced and most money raised. **Emma Visser**, grade 6 violin and clarinet, placed 1st in both categories for her age group, and won \$100 for each! It pays to practice! **Sammi Frick**, grade 4 flute, and **Lily Nagy-MacArthur**, grade 10 violin, were also winners. Congratulations!

Perfect Scores at NYSSMA 2009

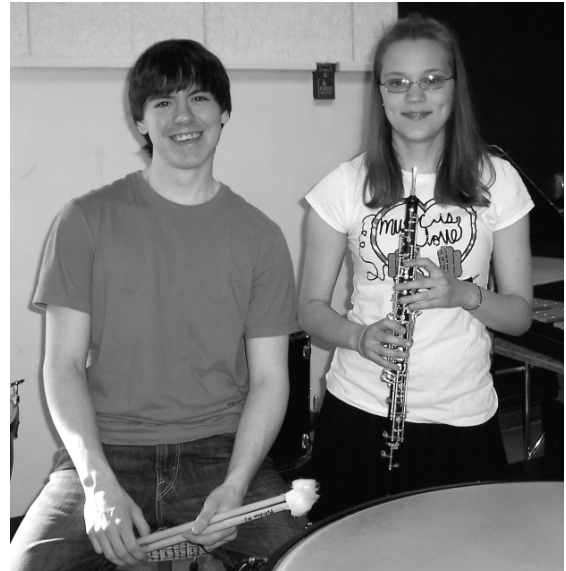
Sixty-four students from the high school and 51 students from AAK middle school performed at the NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Solo and Ensemble festival this spring. Much work went into preparation for these students, sometimes including years of practice to achieve the skills and musicality necessary for their performance.



Perfect scores were achieved by (l to r): **John Coleman**, 10th grade, trombone level 6; **Avery Nagy-MacArthur**, 10th grade, violin level 3; **Rachel Hartman**, 11th grade, clarinet All-State level), **Ben Stone** 11th grade, All-State level vocal (bass voice) and level 6 piano; **Crystal Myler**, 11th grade, vocal All-State level (alto voice); and **Emma Visser**, 6th grade, violin level 3. Missing from photo: **Sage Romey**, 5th grade, vocal level 2 (soprano voice) and **Elaine Rava**, 9th grade, vocal level 4 (soprano voice).

PCS Students Perform with NYSBDA Honor Band

NYSBDA: New York State Band Directors Association hosted the 2009 Honor Band, under the direction of **Dr. Brian Doyle** in Syracuse this past March. Potsdam students selected for this prestigious group were **Emily Theisen**, oboe and English horn, and **Colin Borsh**, timpani. Both students were selected based on their NYSSMA solo scores from last spring. Admission is very competitive, with only the top young musicians in the state being accepted.



Colin Borsh and Emily Theisen

ONNY Concerto Competition

Potsdam High School Senior, **Noah Throop** (violin) earned third place honors at The James and Katherine Andrews Young Artist Competition on January, 24th with his performance of the Mozart Violin Concerto in D Major. The competition began in 2007 and is sponsored by the Orchestra of Northern New York. Talented high school musicians from all across Northern New York State are eligible to enter, and this year's field was a strong one, coming from as far away as Beaver River, Ray Brook, and Keene. Each



Noah Throop, left, with Ken Andrews, right, Music Director, ONNY

competitor performs a concerto completely from memory for a panel of professional judges in a concert setting. Students compete for cash prizes and a chance to perform as soloist with the Orchestra in March. This is the 3rd year in a row that a PCS high school student was named one of the top 3 winners!

Emily Theisen Performs with Northern Symphonic Winds at Hosmer Hall

On January 24, senior oboist **Emily Theisen** was one of 7 high school students chosen from the North Country to perform a piece with the professional concert band, Northern Symphonic Winds, on their concert in Hosmer Hall at SUNY Potsdam. The concert was conducted by **Brian Doyle**, Director of Bands at Crane. By the way, Emily was recently accepted to the prestigious Crane School of Music, following her oboe audition. Pictured at right: Dr. Brian Doyle and Emily Theisen.



State in his junior and senior years. Tom played trumpet in the pit orchestra for *The Sound of Music* in his sophomore year and went on the stage to play the role of Tony in *West Side Story* during his senior year.

After graduate school, Tom relocated to Philadelphia, PA where he is a free-lance musician, composer, and teacher. Tom lives in Philly with his wife,



Liz, who is the marketing director for the Philadelphia Orchestra. Tom performs regularly with experimental jazz and fusion ensembles in Philadelphia. The group, Agent Moosehead, frequently performs at World Café Live whose broadcasts can be heard on National Public Radio. In addition to the jazz scene, Tom performs with several area orchestras, bands, and theaters. He has performed with such world class artists as Itzak Perlman, Maria Schneider, Clark Terry, and Wycliff Gordon. Tom recently formed his own ensemble, New Directions Chamber Brass, to combine the improvisation of jazz with the classical medium. Tom composes much of the music for the ensemble which is planning to release its first CD later this summer. Tom is an artist teacher for the Philadelphia Orchestra School Partnership program and is on the faculty of the Darlington Arts Center.

PCS Alumni News

Tom Madeja (PHS class of 2000 & pictured in the second column) received a Bachelor of Arts from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MFA from Baylor University.

While in high school, Tom performed in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Orchestra, Jazz Band, Concert Choir, and Canta Sera. He was principal trumpet in the Area All-State Orchestra and went to Conference All-

Mark Your Calendars! May & June Music Department Events

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
MAY				
Wednesday	5/6	7:30 pm	HS Concert: Bands and Choirs	HS: Auditorium
Monday	5/11	6:30 pm	Music Friends Meeting	HS: 744
Wednesday	5/13	6:30 pm	4th Grade Band and Orchestra Spring Concert	AAK Cafeteria
Tuesday	5/19	7:00 pm	5-6 Concert	AAK Gym
Friday	5/15	TBA	NYSSMA Major Organization Festival	Watertown
Thursday	5/21	7:00 pm	7-8 Concert	AAK Cafeteria
Monday	5/25	9:00 am	Memorial Day Parade: HS Bands	Potsdam
Thursday	5/28		Norwood Stage Band/Show Choir Festival	Nor. Village Green
JUNE				
Tuesday	6/2	6:30 pm	HS Outdoor Concert	HS Lawn
Monday	6/8	6:30 pm	Music Friends Meeting	HS: 744
Tuesday	6/9	6:30 pm	3rd Grade Instrument Petting Zoo	Lawrence Avenue
Tuesday	6/23	10:00 am	2nd Grade Concert	Lawrence Avenue
Thursday	6/25	12:00 pm	Graduation Rehearsal	Hosmer Hall
Friday	6/26	7:30 pm	Graduation	Hosmer Hall