

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Langley High School 6520 Georgetown Pike McLean, Virginia 22101

August, 2014

Dear Langley Orchestra students and parents,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Langley High School Orchestra for the 2014-15 academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the families and students who are new to our program and invite you to our **Freshman Orientation** on **Wednesday**, **August 27**th at 12:15pm in the new (temporary) orchestra room -- room 115. At this time, we will take orders and measurements for the formal tuxedos and dresses which are necessary for all students who perform within our orchestra. We will also have information about ordering our fantastic spirit wear (including the required t-shirts and polos which are used in some concerts; other spirit wear items are optional). At this event, I will also be able to answer any questions that new students might have about their future with the orchestra program.

For those who do not know me yet, I am a violist, originally from Canada, returning for my 14th year of teaching at Langley High School. I completed my doctoral degree in Performance & Literature at Indiana University and began my career as a Visiting Professor of Strings at the University of Alabama before moving to Northern Virginia. In addition to my FCPS teaching, I am also a member of the music faculty at Patrick Henry College where I serve as an adjunct professor of instrumental music and music theory. I also maintain an active concert schedule with several professional ensembles in the area, including the Washington Bach Consort and the orchestra of the National Cathedral.

This will be a challenging year for our orchestra. The long awaited school renovation is finally upon us and the construction process will become a daily reality to everyone at Langley. After a decade in the friendly confines of Hertzler Hall, the orchestra will be temporarily moving across the hall **to Room 115**. We will need to cultivate an environment of patience and cooperation as we adjust to the new facilities.

We will also be unable to hold concerts at our school while the Auditorium is being remodeled in the first phase of the construction. Fortunately, our friends at **Oakcrest School** (just down the street off the Georgetown Pike) have graciously opened their doors so that we can share our concerts with the community. However, their schedule could not accommodate our usual quarterly performances, so we will instead switch to three concerts giving us a little more time to prepare each one. We will also need to make alterations to our performance routine, moving concerts to 7:30 to allow more time for set-up, sound-checks, and parking. It is also important to be mindful that we will all be guests in their sanctuary.

With obstacles at home, we figured this would be a great time to strive to take our show on the road. Last year we submitted audition samples of our performances to Manhattan Concert Productions and I am excited to report that they accepted each of our orchestras for a performance slot at Carnegie Hall in New York City. I am extremely excited to work toward preparing our group for such a prestigious opportunity. I am hopeful that it will also provide great motivation for the students to raise their expectations to the high standards of this historic stage. Please join an important parent meeting on Monday, September 22 at 7:30 pm at the LHS library to learn more about the details for this trip.

For the past three year, I have had the immense pleasure of working with my friend and colleague Ms. Bo-Min Son (Cooper MS and Langley orchestra teacher). She has been an inspiration to us all and I was deeply saddened when she announced her departure, but we are excited for her new opportunity to lead Longfellow Middle School. A couple of very promising candidates have emerged for our position, and we should be able to make a formal announcement soon. I am very confident that our students will be in very good hands and look forward to welcoming a promising new member to our orchestra team.

I would like to encourage everyone to bookmark our **orchestra website**, which can be found at <u>www.langleyorchestra.org</u>. Please refer to this site for announcements, schedules and deadlines, as it will be updated regularly with the most recent form download and class and trip information. Students will also want to check the website for the Tri-M honors society (created and curated by current seniors) at <u>www.langleytrim.org</u> and those who wish to communicate through social media can do so at our orchestra Facebook Site which they also lead and monitor.

This year, we have assembled a fabulous board of **parent volunteers** led by our fearless LOS president Claudia Fraley. Susan Poliquin will be our new treasurer, and Christina Nazarian will be our website expert. Joyce Toor will continue as our secretary and Greg Pennington will again lead our travel committee which has been working over the summer to finalize plans for the New York trip. Susan McQuade leads our publicity and concert programs lead is Becky Corcoran. Fundraising is headed by Karla Divney, Spirit Wear by Jennifer Steffy, CDs / DVD by Nancy Rau, White House Ornaments by Michelle Mort Ranta, Concert Photography by Chi Pham,

Tri-M Coordinator by Lien Chiu, Car Wash coordinator is Mahnaz Fatemi, Volunteer Coordinator is Alex Thornton, Cooper MS Liaison is Susan Bickel and Hospitality is led by Julie Hohl. Our orchestra could absolutely not function at the level we have come to expect without the amazing contribution of our parent volunteers. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you would like to get involved behind the scenes at the concerts, as a chaperone on trips, or supporting events like our fundraisers and banquet. Music can be a catalyst for meaningful and enduring relationships, and this is evident both with students in the classroom and for the parents who support them.

The LHS Orchestra program is one of the only FCPS performing ensembles that does not require any mandatory participation fees or charge admission at concerts. We strive to make music as accessible as possible to every student in our community. Our group is dependent on **each and every one of our families to join the Langley Orchestra Society with a tax-deductible monetary donation**. Your contribution supports our ability to maintain our instruments, hire professional clinicians, and cover fees for Langley students representing our school at events. We can make all this possible if every family would donate at the Sponsor level (\$100). Please see the website and LOS board minutes for more detail about the many ways that LOS funds are used to support our young musicians.

Also on the subject of fundraising, we will again sell **White House Ornaments** - what could make a classy holiday gift for friends and family! We also have a fundraiser event planned on September 12th at Vineyard Vine (4:00 pm - 8:00 pm) and Lilly Pulitzer (4:00 pm - 9:00 pm) in the Tysons Galleria. These sponsors will make a 10% donation to our program for all merchandize purchased in the store. You can also shop online at <u>AmazonSmile</u> and select Langley Orchestra and we will receive 0.5% of your eligible purchases! There will also be **carwash** on Sat. Sept 20th at the McLean BP from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to kick off the year and meet new people in our organization while supporting our group.

We are also counting on your help to continue gathering **corporate sponsors**. Many local businesses donate to our program in exchange for advertising in our beautiful concert programs. We are also searching for partners who would donate goods and services for bidding at our annual Silent Auction. Please help us if you have any leads and by supporting the businesses who have made the effort to give back to the community by supporting arts education.

Finally be aware of the upcoming date for **Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions** which can sneak up on students who need to prepare for this rigorous selection process. This year's SRO auditions will be held on **Mon**, **Sept 29th at** **McLean HS.** There will also be a mock-audition known as SRO prep day at McLean HS on Sept 13th. **District XII Orchestra** Audition music will also be available as school opens so that students can begin their preparations for that audition on **Tuesday Nov 18th at Carson MS**.

I always welcome feedback from students and parents about the direction of the program, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I wish you all the best in your summer activities and look forward to meeting you in a few short weeks.

Sincerely,

Scott McCormick, D.M. <u>Scott.mccormick@fcps.edu</u> (703)287-2700

2013-2014 Orchestra Dates

Weds, Aug 27 - Freshman Orientation Fri, Sept 12 Vineyard Vine/Lily Pulitzer Fundraiser @ Tysons Galleria Sat, Sept 20 - Orchestra carwash at McLean BP Mon, Sept29 - SRO Auditions @ McLean HS Thurs/Fri/Sat, Nov 13-15 - SRO Event @ Herndon HS Tues, Nov 18 - District Auditions @ Carson MS Thurs, Nov 20 – "An Evening in Vienna" Concert @ Oakcrest School Dec 18 or 19 - Holiday Assembly (during school hours) Fri/Sat Jan 9/10 - District Festival Event @ Wakefield HS Tues, Feb 17 "Start Spreading The News" Concert @ Oakcrest School Sat, Feb 28 - All-State Auditions @ JMU Fri/Sat, Mar 20/21 - District Assessment @ Oakton HS or TBA Sat/Sun/Mon, Mar 28-30 – Spring Trip to New York Thurs/Fri/Sat, Apr 9-11 - All-State Orchestra Festival @ CNU Fri, Apr 17 - Solo & Ensemble Festival @ Rocky Run MS Tues, May 26 - "Pops Concert" @ Oakcrest School TBD Year-End Banguet in LHS Cafeteria

Langley High School Orchestra

Course Expectations

Dr. McCormick

scott.mccormick@fcps.edu

Welcome: Congratulations! By choosing strings as an elective class, you have become a member of the Langley High School Orchestra. Participation in a music program provides an excellent opportunity to develop musical skills, to explore historic literature, and to make new friends while representing our school in the community. The purpose of this syllabus is to familiarize you with the goals and expectations of the orchestra program and to clarify your role as an orchestra member or parent. If at any time during the school year you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. I look forward to a productive and enjoyable year with you all.

Director background: Dr. McCormick (aka "Doc") is returning for his 14th year of teaching with the Fairfax County Public school system. He is also a faculty member at Patrick Henry College, where he serves as director of instrumental music and theory. He also serves as principal violist of the Washington Bach Consort. Dr. McCormick and his wife Rebekah live on Second Fiddle Farm in Loudoun county with their daughter Norah, their son Hugh, two horses, six sheep, and sixteen chickens.

Internet: You can learn more about our orchestra program and get the latest updates on schedules and events at our website: <u>www.langleyorchestra.org</u>.

Concert dress: Wearing appropriate concert attire is an essential component of performance as it sets a professional atmosphere and shows respect for the great tradition of classical music. Each string player is required to dress in appropriate concert attire in order to perform on our stage. Please contact the director if acquiring concert uniforms is a hardship and you qualify for financial assistance.

- *Ladies* Perform in the glamorous Saxon Green dresses that have become the signature of our orchestra over the years. You will also need black dress shoes that are close-toed. (No Flip-Flops!)
- *Gentlemen* Perform in a solid black tuxedo and tux pants, solid white ruffled tux shirt, black bow tie, **black socks**, and black dress shoes.

The Orchestras

The orchestra will be restructuring this year to accommodate the temporary (smaller) rehearsal space and the performance requirements of the Carnegie Hall concert.

<u>Philharmonic</u> (3rd Period)

- Membership is by Audition only, private instruction is necessary
- Competes Annually at the Grade VI Level at Orchestra Assessment
- Members are expected to represent LHS in District, Regional, and All-State events
- Often combines with members of the band for full orchestra projects

Sinfonietta (4th Period)

- For Seniors who have completed the intermediate class
- Competes at the Grade V level at Orchestra Assessment
- Often combines with Symphonic orchestra for performances

<u>Symphonic (5th Period)</u>

- For juniors who have completed the intermediate class and by audition
- Competes at the Grade V level at Orchestra Assessment
- Often combines with Sinfonietta class for performance

<u>Sophomore Orchestra (6th Period)</u>

- For sophomores who have completed the intermediate class
- Competes annually at the Grade IV level at Orchestra Assessment
- Often combines with Freshmen class for performances (Concert Orchestra)

Chamber Orchestra (6th Period)

- By audition with recommendation of the director
- advanced juniors and seniors who wish to enroll in two orchestra classes
- Explores literature designed for smaller forces
- Entertains at receptions and events in the Langley community

Freshman Orchestra (7th Period)

- Membership is for freshmen beginning their exposure to high school orchestra
- Competes annually at the Grade IV level in Assessment
- Often combines with Sophomores for performances (Concert Orchestra)

Grading

Rehearsal participation (30%)

- Bring instrument and music to every rehearsal
- Be ready to start on time, stay on task, and do not disturb others
- Mark up your music with a pencil, seek to improve with each repetition
- Make a positive contribution to the rehearsal experience
- Connect with others through your instruments, not your phones

Playing Tests (30%)

- Show evidence of preparation for quarterly playing tests
- Demonstrate improvement in performance as the year progresses

Rehearsal Attendance (10%)

- Prompt attendance is required for dress rehearsals in preparation for concerts
- Be responsible with your schedule, identify conflicts in advance, and be pro-active in finding compromises that will satisfy coaches and teachers alike.

Concert Attendance (20%)

- Wear proper concert attire to show respect for the audience
- Display appropriate behavior on and off the stage
- Lead the audience by example by modelling active listening and enthusiastic support
- Note that your responsibilities end when the concert finishes all groups are important

Performance Project (10%)

The performance requirements must be met by the end of each quarter. Students are required to complete one project that encourages their involvement in music outside the classroom. Students may choose from the following list of musical activities:

- Weekly Private lessons submit form with teacher contact info, time of lesson, literature studied)
- Participation in an outside orchestra AYP, McLean Youth, regular worship service
- Audition or participation at VBODA event (District, SRO, All-State, Solo & Ensemble)
- Concert Review (Langley group or involving string instruments description and critique)
- Essay on a musical topic of interest (composer or musical reflection)
- Class presentation introducing literature being played
- Original Composition

In the 3rd and 4th quarters, students fulfill the performance requirements through their participation in VBODA assessment, Spring Trip, Graduation performance, and Awards Banquet.

Student Advocacy Protocol

Students will:

- take ownership of their education through active engagement in the orchestra
- consult the orchestra Blackboard and website regularly
- use an agenda or other device, as agreed upon with the instructor, to track their assessments, rehearsals, and performance obligations
- communicate directly with the director before parent/teacher communication is initiated

Langley High School Orchestra Uniforms (Dresses, Tuxedos, Polo shirts, T-shirts)

Concert dress for the Langley High School Orchestra is a black tuxedo with white tux shirt for boys and a floor length dress with black velvet bodice and green taffeta skirt for girls. In addition, each student is required to own a **polo shirt** and **t-shirt** with the LHS Orchestra logo, which will be worn at casual performances, events, and on trips. Please contact Dr. McCormick (Doc) if you qualify for financial assistance acquiring these items.

Girls: In the seamstress who makes the concert dresses. She will come to measure dresses during Orchestra Orientation on Wednesday, August 27th at 12:15 pm in the new orchestra room, Room 115. After you have been measured, you will be called from for a fitting at her house when your dress is nearly completed. (Her English is very limited, so her husband, **Section**, will probably call.) Please take the black shoes you would wear for concerts with you to your fitting. This will ensure the dress is hemmed at the right length.



Dresses cost \$175 each. Checks should be payable to and presented at time of measurement. (Bring checkbook to orientation)

If you miss the measurement on August 27th, please arrange a measurement with as soon as possible. She needs enough time to finish all dresses before the first orchestra concert.

Boys: Boys must wear a black tuxedo with a white wing collar shirt, black bow tie, and black cummerbund. The tuxedo must be worn with black socks and black dress shoes. A complementary measurement of boy's uniform will be provided by board members from Langley Orchestra Society after Orientation on August 27th. **All tuxedos will be purchased online from Superior Band Supply**. Please go to the following link and you will find all required pieces from the section of men's concert attire.

http://www.superiorband.com

There will also be a link to this site on our website at <u>www.langleyorchestra.org</u>.

Before ordering, please note that you must know your student's measurements. It is the decision of the parents and students to either measure to fit **OR** measure to accommodate

anticipated growth. If you are not sure how to measure you may have your student measured by a tailor before you order. Attached is a measuring guide. It is important to note that tuxedo pants will be delivered unhemmed. Please remember to have your student's pants hemmed before the concert!

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Vaughan C Sawdon from Superior Band Supply at 1-877-822-2766.

Sizing Guidelines			
These a	re some basic guidelines to follow if you don't know your suit size:		
	Coat Measurement There are two different ways to measure your chest size. Both require the help of a friend. 1. Raise your arms out to the side. Place tape measure around your back and across the fullest part of your chest, just below the armpits. When you lower your arms, your chest will expand slightly. Take this chest measurement, inserting one finger between measuring tape and chest for a comfortable fit. Add 2 inches. This is your jacket size. 2. Keep your arms at your side and place the measuring tape around your back on top of your shoulder blades, and across the fullest part of your chest, over your arms. Subtract 6 inches. This is your jacket size. This method is preferable for gentlemen with an athletic build.Use the following guide to determine which coat length you'll need: Regular = 5' 7" to 5' 11" Short = 5' 4" to 5' 7" Long = 5' 11.5" and up		
	Waist Measurement Place the measuring tape around your natural waist just below the navel. This is your waist size. Some gentlemen have disproportionately large hips or thighs compared to their waist measurement. It may be necessary for these men to order a larger waist size.		
	Shirt Measurement Collar: Place the tape measure around your bare neck, just below the Adam's apple, where your collar would typically button. Measure loosely enough for comfort. This is generally a number between 15 and 18. Dress shirts come in 1/2 inch increments from 14.5 to 19 and 1 inch increments from 20 to 22. Sleeve: Place the tape measure at the base of your neck in back. Extend the tape over the broadest part of your shoulder and down the length of your arm to approximately 1" - 1 1/2" below the wrist bone. If necessary, round up to the nearest inch. This is generally a number between 32 and 35. Dress shirts generally come in average sleeve lengths such as 32-3 (meaning a sleeve length to cover a 32 to a 33 inch sleeve) and 34-5. Tall men's shirts (generally someone over 6'3") are 36-7.		

Langley High School Orchestras' Trip to Carnegie Hall March 28 - 30, 2015

Join a parent meeting to learn more about this trip!

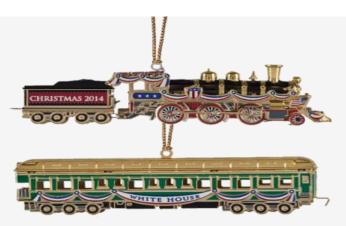
The Carnegie Hall trip is a tremendous experience for all orchestra students. Each orchestra will participate in special music clinics, culminating with a performance at Carnegie Hall. Adding to the musical experience will be a Broadway show, cast dinner and sightseeing!

The approximate cost is \$1260 per student which includes hotel, breakfasts and dinners, Broadway show, instructional clinics and assessment from Carnegie Hall conductors. Join us at the parent meeting to learn more details!

When:	Monday, September 22
Time:	7:30 pm
Where:	Langley High School Library

Have a question? Email: los.orchestra.trip@gmail.com

White House Christmas Ornaments – 2014



Fundraiser for Langley Orchestra Society

<u>The 2014 White House Christmas Ornament honors President the administration of Warren G. Harding</u>, who served as the twenty-ninth president of the United States from 1921 to 1923. As a young boy, <u>Harding dreamed of being a locomotive engineer</u>—a wish that was to come true for 51 minutes when as president. This 33rd annual White House Christmas Ornament is <u>the first ornament to be comprised of two pieces</u>, which can be hung as two separate ornaments or linked together.

The locomotive is a <u>detailed miniature replica</u> of one of several <u>steam-powered locomotives</u> that pulled the Presidential Special, the train that carried Harding west at the outset of his ambitious voyage; it is <u>attached to the coal car</u> that held its fuel. The other <u>miniature car</u> is the Superb, the president's private heavyweight Pullman car. <u>The last known</u> <u>photograph of President Harding</u> is an image of him on the Superb shortly before his death on August 2, 1923.

То	purchase 2014 White House Christmas Ornaments, Send Payment and
Complet	ed Form to Michelle Mort Ranta 10202 Forest Lake Dr., Great Falls, VA 22066
Email <u>la</u>	ngleywhitehouseornaments@gmail.com or call 703.759.6609 with questions
******	**************************************
l would like 20	14 Ornaments at \$22.00 each; Total Amount Enclosed :
	(Make check payable to: Langley Orchestra Society)
Your Name:	
Your Address for Deliver	y: (Please Print Clearly)
A Contact Phone Numbe	r: Email Address:
Langi	ey Orchestra Society thanks you very much for supporting our program



If you would like to purchase the 2014 White House Christmas Ornaments, please fill out the form below and mail with payment to: Michelle Mort Ranta, 10202 Forest Lake Drive, Great Falls, VA 22066. Questions email: langleywhitehouseornaments@gmail.com

I would like ______ 2014 ornaments at \$22.00 each; Total amount enclosed: ______

(Make check payable to: Langley Orchestra Society)

Your name:

Your Address for Delivery (print clearly)

Contact Phone Number: ______ Email: _____

JOIN the LANGLEY ORCHESTRA SOCIETY

Support Langley High School's Award Winning Orchestra Program

Your contribution provides enhanced opportunities for Langley's orchestra students, including participation in regional and national competitions, additional sectional instruction by professional specialists, plus additions to the school's music library and instrument collection. Monetary donations are tax deductible, and all Orchestra Society members are recognized in the concert programs throughout the year. Please complete both sections of this flyer to let us know we can count on your support.

Langley Orchestra Society, Inc. 2014-2015 Membership				
() Impresario (\$1,000 and up) () Maestro's Circle (\$500) () Sustaining (\$200) () Benefactor (\$150)	() Sponsor (\$100) () Patron (\$50) () Member (\$35) () Other \$ e.g. Corporate Donations - We welcome all donations!			
Your name(s)				
(as you prefe	r to be listed in the concert programs)			
Address				
Phone (Em	ail			
	f upcoming events and correspondence)			
Please make check payable to Langley	Orchestra Society and mail with this form to:			
Langley Orchestra Society, Inc. P.O. Box 147				
McLean, VA 22101-0147				
•	for your support!			

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Please select those areas below where you have an interest or expertise. Whether you're willing to chair a committee or only have time to help once or twice, we need and appreciate everyone's participation.

-) Concert Program Content, Design, Printing) Field Trip Planning / Chaperones) Concert Hospitality Helper) End of Year Banquet) Music Honor Society Fundraising) Concert Program Advertising) Instrument/Music Inventory Management) Concert Stage Management) Orchestra Publicity
 -) Volunteer Coordinator
-) Christmas Ornament Sales

-) Communications/Mailing List/ E-mail
-) Orchestra Wear Sales