

Welcome to the Troy High School Orchestras
and the
Orchestra Association of Troy High (O.A.T.H.)

To all new and returning members, welcome to the 2011-2012 Troy High Orchestras! While we are working to update our email addresses for our students and family, this packet is being sent by O.A.T.H. to give you an overview of the Orchestra program, including performances, events, trips, and fundraising opportunities. Visit our website, www.troyhighorchestra.org at any time for further details.

First, a few items to note:

- **Orchestra Picnic** (all students and their families invited) - Monday, August 29, 2011, 6:00 pm, Boulan Park, see page 5.
- **First Board Meeting** (all parents invited) - Wednesday, September 7, 2011, 6:30 pm, prior to the String camp meeting below, Orchestra room.
- **String Camp Meeting** (mandatory for all students and parents) - Wednesday, September 7, 2011, 7:00 pm, THS Auditorium. Chaperone meeting immediately following.
- **String Camp** (all students) - September 9 – 11, 2011, Camp Copneconic. **Important:** See page 5 for additional information, or if you have not yet registered for String Camp.
- **5k and Fun Run** (ALL) - Sunday, October 2, 2011, Boulan Park in the morning
- We are always welcoming **Volunteers**. Please refer to the last section of this packet to see how you can get involved (page 9).

About the Troy High Orchestras - Mr. Alan MacNair, Director

Freshman Orchestra: consists of all 9th grade string players.

Concert Orchestra: consists of 10th, 11th, and 12th grade string players.

Symphony Strings: consists of 10th, 11th, and 12th grade string players; membership is by audition only. Auditions are generally held in May for membership the following year.

Symphony Orchestra: consists of all Symphony String members, and selected members of Symphonic Band who rehearse with the Symphony Strings twice a week as a full Orchestra. These combined rehearsals generally begin in November.

Troy Country Fiddlers: a special performance group consisting of string students from all three Troy High Orchestras. Membership is voluntary, by audition only. Auditions are generally held in November for current year membership.

About O.A.T.H.

All Troy High Orchestra families are automatically members of O.A.T.H. (the Orchestra Association of Troy High). O.A.T.H. is a parent and community-supported non-profit organization, whose purpose is to help support the Orchestra Program at Troy High. All O.A.T.H. members are volunteers.

O.A.T.H. supports the Orchestras throughout the school year in many ways to ensure a successful and enriching experience for our students. As you read about these activities, please consider how you may become involved with O.A.T.H. and with the many volunteer opportunities available to support the Troy High Orchestra program.

The members of the O.A.T.H. Board manage the general affairs of the Association in accordance with its Bylaws. The Board is elected at the annual meeting held in May. In addition to the annual meeting, regular monthly O.A.T.H. meetings are held. Tentative meeting dates are shown on the Orchestra Calendar included in this packet. Unless announced otherwise, O.A.T.H. meetings are open to all members. The O.A.T.H. Board also hosts an Orchestra/String Camp Parent Orientation meeting in early September.

O.A.T.H. Board of Directors 2011 – 2012

Director	Alan MacNair	
President	Nora Otero	709-8756
Vice President	Lauren Leney	641-5952
Secretary	Karen Pawlik	641-1474
Treasurer	Kenneth Jewell	879-2884
Receivables	Leigh Huang	637-7052
Banquet	Julie Kohring	879-7830
Concert Manager	Varsha Pathre	528-0367
Decorations/Showcase	Laura Jewell	879-2884
Email	Andy Chu	952-5473
Gala Coordinator	Julie Kohring	879-7830
Newsletter Editor	Jean MacLeod	250-4744
Picnic	Julie Kohring	879-7830
Programs	Tony Gee	563-1354
Publicity	Patrice Rowbal	879-3242
Student Database	Flora Tan	879-3205
String Camp	Nora Otero	265-7707
Student Directory	Ulka Vaishampayan	563-3850
Trip Coordinator	Kathy Hug	643-8857
Uniforms	Kathy Hug	643-8857
	Karen Pawlik	641-1474
Volunteer Coordinator	Varsha Pathre	528-0367
Web Site	Andy Chu	952-5473
Band Liaison	Randa Seifeldin	
	Donna Sadjak	804-8698
	Julie O'Donovan	

How to Stay Informed

There are several ways to stay informed about Orchestra activities and events:

- The Troy High Orchestra web site at www.troyhighorchestra.org
- Through e-mail notices and updates from O.A.T.H. **It is highly recommended that both student and parents establish an e-mail address with the Orchestra. This means of communication is used frequently throughout the year as the best way to keep everyone up-to-date on current information.**

To receive these e-mails and the newsletter, send an email to: andyhrchu@yahoo.com

Please include the following information:

Student Name
Orchestra (Freshman, Concert, or Symphony)
Instrument
Year of Graduation
Student e-mail address and Parents' e-mail addresses

Once you have established an e-mail account with the Orchestra, please make sure that your account is kept current by forwarding any changes in your e-mail address to: andyhrchu@yahoo.com

- The Orchestra Notes newsletter, e-mailed throughout the year.
- The "Orchestra Notes" article in the monthly Troy High-Lites school newsletter.
- The Board members. If you have any questions regarding the Orchestra program, please feel free to contact any of the Board members listed in this packet. They can be reached via e-mail by clicking on their name in the Board listing on the Orchestra web site, or by phone at the numbers provided.

Orchestra Calendar 2011 - 2012

This calendar is a preliminary listing of most of the major orchestra events, activities, and meetings for the 2011-2012 school year, based on information available at this time. All dates, times, and events shown on this calendar are subject to change. Updates will be provided throughout the year by Mr. MacNair, and will be reflected on the web site and in newsletters and e-mails accordingly.

August	29	O.A.T.H. Picnic Boulan Park Pavillion #2	6 pm	FO,CO,SS
September	7	O.A.T.H Board Meeting	6:30 prior to parent meeting	
	7	<u>New Student Parents & String Camp Mtg</u> (Chaperone mtg to follow)	7 pm	ALL /Auditorium
	9-11	String Camp	After school Fri. - Noon Sun.	FO,CO,SS
October	2	5k Run and Fun Run	various	ALL
	3	O.A.T.H. Meeting	7 pm	Orch Room
	26	Spooktacular Rehearsal /Uniform distribution	6-9 pm	FO,CO,SS
	27	Spooktacular Concert	7 pm	FO,CO,SS
November	3	Solo and Ensemble Application Deadline	3 rd hour	
	7	O.A.T.H. Meeting	7 pm	Teachers lounge
December	5	O.A.T.H. Meeting	7 pm	Teachers lounge
	14	Holiday Concert Rehearsal	7-9 pm	FO,CO,SS,FID,FULL
	15	Decorate for Concert	2:15 pm	FO,CO,SS,FID,FULL
	15	Holiday Concert with Choir	7 pm	FO,CO,SS,FID,FULL
January	9	O.A.T.H. Meeting	7 pm	Teachers lounge
	21	Workshop Perf. At Music Educator's Conf.	TBA	SS,FULL
	28	District Solo and Ensemble Festival	TBA	Entrants
February	3	Gala Rehearsal	6-9pm	FO,CO,SS,FID,FULL
	4	Gala Concert	7 pm	FO,CO,SS,FID,FULL
	6	O.A.T.H. Meeting	7 pm	Teachers lounge
March	2-4,8-11	Troy High Musical	TBA	Pit Orchestra
	9-10	MSBOA District Festival	TBA	FO,CO,SS,FULL
	<u>19</u> (note change)	O.A.T.H. Meeting	7 pm	Orchestra Room
	24	State Solo Ensemble Festival	TBA	Entrants
April	9	O.A.T.H. Meeting	7 pm	Teachers lounge
	?	Chaperone Meeting	6:30 pm	Orch Room
	?	<u>Spring Trip Parent Meeting</u>	7 pm	Parents/ ALL / AUD
	25-29	Spring Trip to San Antonio		FO,CO,SS,FULL
May	7	O.A.T.H. Meeting	7 pm	Teachers lounge
	8	All-City Concert	7 pm	FO,CO,SS,FULL
	21	Concerto Rehearsal	7-9 pm	FO,CO,SS,FULL
	22	Concerto Concert /uniform turn in	7 pm	FO,CO,SS,FULL
	31	<u>Orchestra Banquet – San Marino</u>	6:30 pm	FO,CO,SS,FULL
June	4	O.A.T.H. Meeting	7 pm	TBA
	5	Board Recognition	7 pm	FO,CO,SS
	12	Freshmen/8 th Grade Concert and Camp Mtg	7 pm	FO

Key to Orchestras: FO = Freshman Orchestra, CO = Concert Orchestra, SS = Symphony Stings, FID= Fiddlers, FULL = Symphony Orchestra & Band Members Included, ALL= All students

Orchestra Trips

String Camp: This three-day camp is filled with rehearsals and sectionals (concluding in a concert performance for parents on Sunday Morning), and lots of opportunities for fun and relaxation. Activities in the past have included campfires, scavenger hunt, dances, canoeing, archery, tennis, card and board games. The 2011 Camp will be held at Camp Copneconic in Fenton, MI from Friday, September 9 – Sunday, September 11. All forms required for String Camp are available on the OATH website www.troyhighorchestra.org. All students are expected to attend.

Important note to bassists: Arrangements must be made to get your own instrument to (and from) string camp.

Contact Nora Otero, at 248-709-8756, nrodri8849@aol.com for additional information.

Spring Trip: The Spring Trip is the culmination of all the rehearsing and fundraising through the school year for the Freshman, Concert and Symphony Orchestras. It provides the students an exciting opportunity to compete at a national level, and have some fun at the same time. In past years, the Orchestras have traveled to Virginia Beach, Atlanta, Montreal, New York City, Orlando, and Chicago. In 2012, the trip will be Wednesday, April 25 – Sunday, April 29, destination to be determined.

Orchestra Events and Activities

Orchestra Picnic: The annual Picnic is the first O.A.T.H. event of the school year. It provides all Orchestra students and their families a chance to get reacquainted, share lots of good food, and have some fun. Freshman and new orchestra students and their families are especially encouraged to attend – the picnic is a great way to help ease into the Orchestra in a ‘no stress’ environment. O.A.T.H. generally provides plates, napkins, utensils, hotdogs and fried chicken. Each family brings their own beverages, and a dish to share:

Freshmen: appetizer
Sophomores: salad

Juniors: main dish
Seniors: dessert

The 2011 Picnic will be held on Monday, August 29 (rain or shine) in the Pavilion #2 at Boulan Park starting at 6:00 p.m.

Orchestra Banquet: The annual Banquet is generally held in late May. It provides an opportunity for Orchestra members and their families to gather for dinner and celebrate the students’ accomplishments and successes for that year. Each student receives recognition for their participation in the Orchestras, and special awards are given for exceptional achievement. The graduating seniors are also given special recognition for their contribution and commitment to the Orchestras. The tentative date is May 31, at San Marino.

Performances

Spooktacular Concert: Back by popular demand, this concert is a zany-creative series of skits presented by the orchestra students. The hilarious, loosely connected theme is the best of the students' work developed at String Camp. As expected, the skits are backed by orchestra accompaniment. The 2011 Spooktacular Concert is scheduled for Thursday, October 27.

Holiday Concert: Traditionally, this festive musical event marks the first performance of the year by the full concert and symphony orchestras complete with strings and band members. The evening has also included performances by the Troy High choir members. The 2011 Holiday Concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 15.

Gala Concert: Since 1993, the Orchestra Gala has combined the talents of the Troy High Orchestras with those of professional performance artists to provide a unique and unparalleled evening of entertainment. Proceeds from the concert benefit the Orchestra program and its students. The 2012 Orchestra Gala is scheduled for Saturday, February 4.

MSBOA District Festival: The District Festival showcases the many fine orchestras from Troy and surrounding school districts. The Troy High Orchestras have traditionally performed exceptionally well in District competition. The 2012 MSBOA District Festival is **tentatively** scheduled for Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10. Times are to be announced.

All City Concert: The All-City Concert brings together orchestras from many grade levels and schools in the Troy School District to present all they have learned and accomplished in the past year. The 2012 All City Concert will be held at Athens High School on May 8.

Concerto Concert: The Concerto Concert, traditionally the final public performance of the school year, features performances by all of the Orchestras, and solo Concerto performances by selected Orchestra seniors. The 2012 Concerto Concert is scheduled for May 22.

Freshmen/8th Grade Concert: This concert allows our Freshmen Orchestra to demonstrate all they have learned and accomplished throughout the year and to welcome our incoming freshmen. The Freshmen/8th Grade concert is on June 12, 2012.

Commencement: Alternating every other year with the band, the combined Concert and Symphony Orchestras perform at the Troy High School Commencement Ceremony. Their music helps to make a memorable day even more special for the graduating seniors and their families and guests. In 2013, the orchestra will be performing at the Commencement Ceremony.

Production Fee

This fee covers various ancillary costs that are incurred over the course of the school year on behalf of your student, such as cost of awards, refreshments, uniform cleaning, and transportation. This fee is due by the end of the first week of classes in September.

501(c)3 Status for O.A.T.H.

In 2006 O.A.T.H. became an IRC **501c3 Organization**. Basically, this means the group has become a charitable organization that is tax exempt when it earns funds for the good of the charity-in our case, the orchestras. Under IRC Section 170, individuals giving to 501(c)(3) organizations like OATH may deduct those contributions (up to 50% of the donor's adjusted gross income). Corporations may deduct all contributions to 501(c)(3) organizations up to an amount normally equal to 10% of their taxable income.

Orchestra Uniforms

Orchestra uniforms (tuxedos for the boys, dresses for the girls) are provided by the Troy School District for all orchestra students. **The boys in all orchestras are responsible for providing their own tuxedo shirt.**

Uniforms are distributed before and after the Spooktacular rehearsal. Uniforms are generally collected after the Concerto Concert, although students playing at the THS Commencement will turn in their uniforms after the ceremony. Dates and times, and any other information regarding uniforms will be provided in the Orchestra newsletters, on the web site, and/or via e-mail as the year progresses.

Educational Opportunities

In conjunction with sponsorships and grants provided by the community, O.A.T.H. helps provide several educational opportunities for the Troy High Orchestra students. In the past these have included sectional clinics with members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and other string professionals, and the opportunity to premiere original string music commissioned by and composed for the Troy High Orchestras.

Student Service Award

The O.A.T.H. Student Service Award is presented annually to the Troy High Orchestra graduating senior who has exemplified commitment and service to the orchestra program at Troy High through their high level of participation in O.A.T.H. sponsored events and their involvement and assistance with a variety of O.A.T.H. functions benefiting the orchestra program. This award is intended to promote and recognize student involvement in the Troy High orchestra program beyond class work, for the purpose of helping to maintain a quality and highly regarded orchestra program. The award is without regard for future music study or career goals.

This annual award of \$500.00 will be paid to the educational institution of the student's choice for application to the student's tuition and fees.

Volunteer Opportunities

Your support and involvement is **crucial** to the continued success of the events, activities, and opportunities provided by O.A.T.H. for the Orchestra students. Becoming involved will enrich both your student's and your own Orchestra experience.

A "Call for Volunteers" will be sent out 2 – 4 weeks prior to an event, and we will be using an e-signup sheet (by way of email). Please respond to these emails to offer your help. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Varsha Pathre at 248-528-0367 or varshapathre@hotmail.com.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, it is necessary to have a background check performed for each volunteer for any parent working in any capacity with a Troy High School student. This background check is required of every sitting Board Member as we work with the students throughout the year on various projects – you can find this form on the TSD website under parent links. A copy of the form can be found at <http://www.troy.k12.mi.us/images/volunteercheck2010.11.pdf>.

There are many ways to volunteer with the orchestra; a few of these are described below:

Backstage Coordinators: Volunteers are being sought for each concert to help coordinate students before and after the performances.

Banquet: Volunteers may be needed for registration, decorations, gifts, and check-in.

Chaperones: Chaperones are needed for String Camp, and for the Spring Trip. Because of the popularity of these events, we may not be able to accommodate all chaperone volunteers. However, we often find that a back-up list of chaperones is needed to fill in as plans change and chaperones are not able to attend, so please sign-up! Please note that all chaperones will be required to attend a Chaperone Meeting prior to their assigned trip in order to participate, unless other arrangements are made and approved by the O.A.T.H. President. The dates for these meetings will be announced. Chaperones must also agree to strictly abide by the list of Chaperone Responsibilities provided by O.A.T.H. Failure to do so could affect participation in future Orchestra trips.

Flower Sales: Volunteers are needed for flower sales at concerts.

Gala Concert: Coordinators and volunteers are needed for the following committees:

Ticket Sales	Publicity	Program Brochure
Decorating	Food/Refreshments	Host/Guest Relations
Fundraising	Clean-Up	

Group Activities: Volunteers are needed to assist with the group activities outside of the orchestra program, Noodles Night and future programs and ideas.

Newsletter: Volunteers are needed to help compile a newsletter with information about upcoming events for the orchestra for email distribution to orchestra families, as well as an update for the Troy High Lites.

Showcase and Decorating: Throughout the year, Orchestra parents design and prepare the displays contained in the Showcase and Bulletin Boards outside the Orchestra Room at THS. These displays highlight and promote the various Orchestra activities and concerts through the year, as well as stage decor for concerts.

Spooktacular: While the students do most of the work in preparing for this event, parent volunteers are needed for such things as publicity, decorating, and supervision.

Student Directory: Parent volunteers are needed to assist with such things as collecting ads from students, directory design and printing, and coordination of sales. Student Directory preparation begins in September, ads are sold and collected in October, and sales take place in November at conferences.

Uniforms: Volunteers are needed for fittings (as needed), record keeping, and uniform distribution and collection.

Volunteer Pool (“Contact as Needed”): Can’t decide what to sign up for, but want to help? Contact our volunteer coordinator, and she will be in touch with you through the year as to how and when you can help with a variety of O.A.T.H. events and activities. If you have a preference for how you would like to help (decorating? food? administrative?) please indicate to the volunteer coordinator.