

LASSITER HIGH SCHOOL

ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK



2010-2011 School Year

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Purpose of This Handbook

This handbook has been created to help students and parents participating in the Lassiter High School Orchestra to be informed about the many opportunities membership includes. We hope that you'll take a moment to read through these pages to make sure that you don't miss out on one moment's fun or achievement. Keep it on hand to use as a reference when questions come up during the school year.

Ensembles

Lassiter Chamber Orchestra

The Lassiter Chamber Orchestra is Lassiter's most advanced string ensemble. They have received numerous awards and have been invited to many prestigious venues. The Chamber Orchestra performs approximately 10 performances per year. They rehearse weekly after school and meet in section rehearsals before school. Members of the orchestra perform in the GMEA All-State Orchestras, Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra, and many area youth organizations.

Lassiter String Ensemble

The String Ensemble is comprised of 2 orchestra classes (String Ensemble I, String Ensemble II). They combine in after school rehearsals prior to performances. Both orchestras require an audition. The String Ensemble has received superior ratings at the yearly GMEA Performance Evaluation since 1999. In 2007 they placed as 5th Runner up in the National Orchestra Cup, and received the Gold Award at the Heritage Festival at University of South Florida in 2008.

Lassiter Symphony

The Lassiter Symphony is comprised of 98 of Lassiter's most advanced instrumentalists from the Lassiter Band and Lassiter Orchestra Programs. The Lassiter Symphony has been selected to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Conference (2003, 2006) and the Midwest Clinic (2001). Repertoire performed includes Mozart Symphony No. 25, Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnol, Chadwick's Symphonic Sketches, Shostakovich Finale to Symphony No. 5 among others. Each year the Lassiter Symphony presents the "Night at the Movies!" featuring film clips and performing original scores from blockbuster hits.

Lassiter Small Ensembles

Small ensembles are highly encouraged at Lassiter. The Lassiter String Quartet has performed at the Governor's Mansion, Georgia Republican Convention, and many community events. Lassiter Chamber Orchestra students also have the option to sign up for the Academic Enrichment and Support class. This class offers additional opportunities to small ensemble or chamber literature. These students will perform in the Fall and Winter concerts along with various performances here on the Lassiter campus. As part of an effort to encourage music fellowship, Lassiter formed a chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society

in 2004. Tri-M holds weekly meetings and performs a recital in the spring as a fundraiser for the Children's Healthcare Hospital (raising over \$1,000).

LHSOA Membership

The LHSOA is an academic booster association whose purpose is to provide financial and volunteer support for the Lassiter High School Orchestra. Since it's inception in July 1998, LHSOA has been instrumental in providing Mrs. Doemel with the resources to make the Lassiter High School Orchestra one of the *elite high school orchestras in the country*. Your \$150.00 membership fee supports the following:

1. Orchestra Camp
2. Camp Clinicians (violin, viola, cello, bass)
3. Guest Conductors
4. Music
5. Class sets of method books
6. Wenger posture chairs and stands (new and replacement)
7. School Instruments (new and repairs)
8. Programs, Newsletters and Handouts
9. Social Events (pizza party, freshman orientation, homecoming parade, etc.)
10. Awards (trophies, medals & certificates)

Membership Levels: (attained by additional donation)

+500.00	Platinum Membership
\$200.00 to \$499.00	Gold Membership
\$100 - \$199.00	Silver Membership
\$25.00 to \$99.00	Bronze Membership

Any donation amount will receive special recognition in concert programs.

Performances

Everyone is welcome to attend the performances. The concerts are free of charge. CD's and DVD's of the concert are available for purchase which are great keepsakes and gifts. Many times there are refreshments offered for purchase as we understand that some may need to rush home from work to attend these events. Due to the fact that Lassiter's Auditorium facility is too small to accommodate the attendees, the concerts are usually held at Kell High School's Auditorium.

Fall Concert – Usually takes place in October and is the first opportunity of the year to see how the students have come together as an orchestra.

Winter Concert – Takes place in December before the winter break and usually has a “Holiday flair”.

Barrage – Mrs. Doemel, our Director, has been successful in negotiating with this very dynamic orchestra performance group (<http://www.barrage.ca/>) to do a combination clinic and performance for the last two years. This event is not guaranteed every year as it depends upon Barrage’s availability. The event gives students an opportunity to see string music performed in a format other than the Symphony Orchestra. Most kids have been very inspired by the Barrage performers and think it’s really *COOL*.

Night at the Movies – Is the crowning performance of the year usually held in April or May. The students play several pieces from popular movies. This gives them an opportunity to play contemporary pieces and also gives the audience members not as well educated in “the classics” something to participate in. The rising 8th graders are invited to play in this concert as a glimpse of things to come. The performance takes place in the Lassiter Gym which is transformed into a movie theater for the night, complete with mood lighting, private tables, concessions and movie clips. A must attend event!

Lassiter Orchestra Camp

This camp usually takes place at the very beginning of the school year. It’s an opportunity for the students of all ensembles to get to know each other and to get to know our esteemed director, Carol Doemel. It is especially important for the new freshmen to get comfortable with a new level of playing. It usually comprises one Friday evening and the following Saturday all day. There are clinicians brought in to teach each of the instrument groups. Students have the opportunity to meet other musicians in the community to broaden their orchestra experience.

Parents are usually asked to send the student with lunch for Saturday as well some snacks for the hungry teenagers. The camp culminates with a “just for fun” activity like bowling and pizza so students have a chance to blow off all the energy collected while working so hard and can further bond with new friends.

Rehearsals

It is a common practice to have several rehearsals leading up to a performance. Many times these pre or post-school practices seem to come at the last minute. Please understand that scheduling gets very complicated attempting to coordinate with the myriad other activities going on at Lassiter. The notice sent out regarding the rehearsals will let you know if food will be included or if you should take care of feeding your student. You will also need to arrange for transportation, this is where getting to know other parents in the group will be handy for setting up car pools.

Uniforms

Casual Attire: We will reuse the 2009-2010 t-shirt this year. These will be worn for some of the more casual concerts as well as for trips and other special events. If you purchased a t-shirt last year, feel free to use it again this year. All new students must purchase one; simply indicate your size on the checklist in the front of the packet, and include \$15 in your fees for this.

Formal Attire:

GIRLS: Girls wear a black, washable gown that can be used for all four years, black hosiery and black closed toe pumps. Please note that sandals and clogs are not permitted. Incoming students and returning students who wish to order a new gown can now order their gown directly from the distributor.

Ordering information is as follows:

Tuxedo Wholesalers
1-800-828-2802
www.tuxedowholesaler.com

Please order under the Concert Attire tab, click on the Catalog tab at the top, and select Women's Wear, Gowns. Please order the "Angelique" gown in the black classical style. Cost including shipping is approximately \$60.00 to \$85.00 depending on your choices (extra length, waist ties...) Please allow about **2 weeks** for the order to be processed and shipped. So place your order early to make sure you have it for the fall concert!

GUYS: Guys wear a basic black tuxedo for performances. Concert attire for the guys consists of black tux, white shirt, cummerbund, black socks and black dress shoes.

Ordering information is as follows:

Tuxedo Wholesalers
1-800-828-2802
www.tuxedowholesaler.com

Please order under the Concert Attire tab, click on the Catalog tab at the top, and select Men's Wear, Tuxedo/Jackets/Tails/Coats tab. Please order the "Tuxedo Package Notch Lapel". You may order the exact waist or the adjustable waist. The cost is approximately \$89 to \$94 (depending upon the waist), plus shipping. Please allow about **2 weeks** for the order to be processed and shipped.

Tuxes may be purchased from another source if you would like to do so.

Girls and Guys: please note that pants and gowns are sold unhemmed. Please make arrangements to have your garment hemmed as soon as you purchase it so that it will be ready in plenty of time for our first concert scheduled for this fall.

Field Trips

There will be an opportunity for each member of the orchestra to participate in our annual trip. Parents will receive detailed information including costs, payment schedules, trip schedules, itineraries, packing lists, etc. Look for information in future memos sent to you directly.

Year End Banquet

This is the last orchestra event of the year and the final farewell to our graduating seniors. It is held in May to honor the students for their achievements with a special focus on the careers of the seniors. This event is planned and organized by the students. It is generally located off-site for a more formal feel, and better food! Families are welcome and encouraged to attend. Dinner is served before the ceremony. The ceremony entails letters and awards being given as well as some impromptu “roasting” of seniors in good spirit! This is a chance to really see the kids in a fun and celebratory setting.

Additional Enrichment Opportunities

All-State Orchestra: A State Wide auditions only orchestra. There are two auditions one in October and a final audition the beginning of January. The event will be held in Savannah. The concert performance is in the Savannah Civic Center on Saturday Evening. It is a wonderful enrichment experience; all travel, hotel and All-State fees are the responsibility of the participant and family.

Honors Orchestra: A Cobb County audition orchestra. The event is held in the winter at a Cobb County High School. It is a great opportunity to play with the finest musicians in the county at a nominal cost.

Fund Raisers

All fundraisers help support the many activities students participate in all year long. They help pay for clinicians, rehearsal & performance food, transportation, music and field trips. The more we participate in the fund raisers, the lower we can keep the membership dues. Volunteers are needed for ALL fund raisers. There will be a fall fundraiser in which you will receive more information on soon.

Poinsettia Sale – sales for this event usually occur during November with the plants being delivered in early December, just in time for the holidays! These plants have been absolutely spectacular in past years, please keep this in mind for your holiday decorating.

Formal Orchestra Pictures – new in 2008, this will take place in the fall and gives you an opportunity to have a professional picture taken of your student in their tux or gown with their instrument. These are great to include in holiday cards!

Auction – When circumstances permit, the LHSOA sponsors an auction that includes a silent and live auction of many great prizes which are donated by members of LHSOA and the entire Lassiter community. It is typically held off-site and includes a dinner for an entire evening of fun.

Communications

LHSOA Website: Found at <http://www.lhsoa.org/members.htm> is a wealth of information all in one convenient location. You'll find:

- Calendars (print them out to put on the fridge to keep up to date)
- Permission and Event Forms
- News and Events
- Community resources like information on instrument rental and purchases, camps etc... along with links.
- This is a transactional website that allows you to make online payments via **PAYPAL** for field trips and other events.

Email: It is important that anyone with an email address share it with us. You will receive valuable and convenient notices and reminders to keep you informed regarding the many opportunities students have access to all year long.

Calling Post: Is an automated calling service utilized by the LHSOA. You will receive a call and/or voice message from this service to remind you of upcoming events, fundraisers and other need to know information.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways to get involved and help out throughout the year. Both Moms and Dads are welcome to pitch in.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Hospitality – Arranges food for guests at special events such as seating auditions and student clinics. Responsible for calling and scheduling volunteers to help purchase food (with orchestra funds), pickup and deliver the food to the school (usually). May include serving and/or cleanup duties. This job is particularly good for people who work out of the home or are homemakers with a flexible daytime schedule. Usually requires work during or shortly after the school day.

Poinsettia Sale - Orders are taken in Mid November and poinsettias are delivered the first or second week of December. Responsibilities include publicizing sale, distributing order

forms to all students, collecting orders and money, placing order with Nursery, recruiting volunteers on delivery day to help unload truck, organizing individual orders and overseeing student/parent order pick up.

Auction – When circumstances permit, the LHSOA sponsors an auction. Committee Chair will recruit volunteers and oversee their appointed duties for the dinner and auction. The chair will create subcommittees for various duties.

Some of the duties include:

- ❖ Getting donations from local merchants (we try to get all parents to help with this)
- ❖ Obtaining sponsors and advertisers
- ❖ Maintaining a list of donors and items donated
- ❖ Creating and printing bid sheets
- ❖ Getting volunteers to work the auction (collecting money, helping patrons get their items, etc.)

This will require a person with great organizational skills and the ability to put together and work closely with a team of dedicated volunteers.

Concert Assistance –includes supervising students back stage, handing out programs, moving and setting up equipment and general cleanup after the concert.

Awards Banquet – finds a location for the annual Awards Banquet. Makes arrangements with facility and works with Treasurer on budget and getting payments to facility on time. Helps with decorating and other special needs (podium, microphone, etc.) as required for the event.

Chaperone – includes monitoring activities at the school and for local field trips (i.e., day trips) Note: **Overnight trip chaperones are selected by the Orchestra Director.**

Night at the Movies – over 30 volunteers are needed for this to be a success!

Opportunities include concessions, ticket sales, distribution of programs, decorations, set-up, and clean-up.

Board Member Contacts

These are the LHSOA board officers for the 2010-2011 school year. In the event you have a question or need to talk with someone about an issue that couldn't be resolved by reviewing this handbook and/or reviewing the LHSOA website <http://www.lhsoa.org/>. You may contact the appropriate officer from the list below. *Please bear in mind that these board volunteers maintain jobs and family responsibilities in addition to their duties as officers, so please contact them conscientiously. Thank you.*

Name	Title	Email
Chris Creagan	President	president@lhsoa.org
Diane Thibaudeau	Co-Vice President - Fundraising	fundraising@lhsoa.org
Lynn Garris	Co-Vice President - Fundraising	fundraising@lhsoa.org
Teresa Murray	Co-Vice President - Events	events@lhsoa.org
Meg Dillon	Co-Treasurer Income Mgmt	treasurer@lhsoa.org
Pauline Miller	Co-Treasurer Expense Mgmt	treasurer@lhsoa.org
Mary Besch	Secretary	secretary@lhsoa.org
Nada Encisco	Communications	communications@lhsoa.org
Ellen Gros	Director Liaison/Trip Planner	liason@lhsoa.org

Forms

The most commonly used forms are listed below. If you need a form and did not receive it at the Parent Meeting or Camp Check-In, please reference the LHSOA website.

1. Membership Form (basic contact information)
2. Parent Meeting Checklist (includes a listing of items to be purchased, forms to be signed/notarized, fees paid...)
3. Lassiter Uniforms (summarizes the casual and formal uniforms along with ordering and purchasing information)
4. Cobb County Blanket Permission to Participate Form (1FCB-3)
5. Cobb County Medical History Permission and Release Form (1FCB-5)

There will be other forms that will be required to attend the field trips. These will be given out prior to the trips and will be sent home with the students.