

Director's Note

It appears with the cold and snowy weather outside that Wisconsin winter is coming a tad earlier than expected. The change in temperatures also marks the end of the first quarter. And WOW, what a first quarter it's been.

At the top of the list of fall accolades is the European orchestra trip. What an incredible experience for students, adults, and their teachers! All and all, we couldn't have asked for a better trip! Students had three beautiful performances, all in very different venues and our trip culminated with a performance at the Czech Museum of Music. Concert was sold out and the space was filled with a very enthusiastic Czech audience.

Just a few days after our return, all students gathered on stage in the Dale K. Hidde Theatre to perform a lovely fall concert. This has certainly been one of the quickest starts to a school year that I can remember. 6 weeks, 8 songs, and 4 performances. Hard to imagine.

Two weeks ago, students were treated to an in class performance and masterclass from the new music group Juxtatonal. Featuring cello and voice, Juxtatonal works with composers across the country to commission and perform new works of music. They are currently touring the US with Chicago based composer and saxophonist, Nick Zoulek.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual East / Longfellow winter orchestra concert held early next month, December.

~Michael Hayden

Upcoming Events

December 11th, 2019

Winter Orchestra Concert
7:00pm

Dale K. Hiddle Theatre
Tosa East and Longfellow Orchestras

February 29th, 2020

WSMA District Solo & Ensemble Festival
Longfellow Middle School
All Day

Spooky Composition

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, East orchestra will dedicate time to music composition this year. All students had their first composition activity last week, Thursday (Halloween). This was first in a twelve part composition series.

After watching two different versions of the introduction to *The Shining*, students had one class period to create their own soundtrack. And the results were very spooky! This activity focuses on using music to communicate an idea and gets students more accustomed to composing using notation software. The assignment also deemphasizes the need for structured melody/harmony and instead places a greater emphasis on texture and mood.

Be sure to ask your student about their piece. And ask to listen!

White House Store

Looking for items for your string instrument but just don't have time to get to the music store?

White House of Music has set up an online store just for Tosa East. The "store" right now is fairly limited but has items most commonly needed. What's the best part? Buy online and White House will deliver it to Tosa East!

There's no better time than now to get those extra strings for the winter.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access/login information the Tosa East Student Store.

Password is tosa east (including the space).

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