



BUTLER PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE PERFORMING AT PMEA STATE CONFERENCE

Butler Music Dept Newsletter

Fall 2016

NEW MUSIC TEACHER AT IHS

Butler Golden Tornado Percussion Ensemble

BIOGRAPHY

The Golden Tornado Percussion Ensemble was founded in the fall of 2015 to enrich and expand the skills of the percussionists in the Butler Area School District. The ensemble rehearses twice a week as an extra-curricular activity. The Golden Tornado Percussion Ensemble is made up of approximately sixteen percussionists ranging from 8th through 12th grade. All of the members of the group are members or soon to be members of the Butler Golden Tornado Marching Band. One of our goals with the ensemble is to promote all of the members to be "total" percussionists as per the PMEA goals. To be a "total" percussionist, the students need to be able to perform on a variety of instruments instead of just specializing on one. Since our group was founded, the Golden Tornado Percussion Ensemble has performed at the Butler Area School District's Fine Arts and Beyond exhibit and their annual spring concert. The Percussion ensemble is pleased to accept an invitation to perform at the PMEA State Conference in Erie, Pennsylvania. The group is conducted by Mr. Todd Karenbauer, Director of Bands and Percussion at the Butler Intermediate High School.

PMEA PERFORMANCE

The honor of being selected to perform at the state conference is rare and significant! This denotes a level that is considered the top in the state, and it provides an opportunity for an audience made up entirely of music educators to hear the group (PMEA stands for Pennsylvania Music Educators Association). For the directors and the students it can be a high stress performance, but Mr. Karenbauer and the percussion ensemble is gearing up for a successful performance. PMEA aims to provide high level performance opportunities for students and professional development experiences for music educators. The Butler Women's Ensemble enjoyed this honor, performing at the PMEA conference in Pittsburgh in 2010, and in Lancaster in 2012. The Butler Flute Trio earned this honor, performing at the state conference in Hershey in 2015. The Butler Golden Tornado Percussion Ensemble will perform at the state conference in Erie in April of 2017. The Butler school community and the community at large should be very proud of their accomplishment and wish them well on their journey to prepare for this endeavor.



Mrs. Mia Tepper has joined the music staff at Butler Intermediate High School. Mrs. Tepper is serving as the ninth grade choral director and teaching seventh and eighth grade general music. Tepper is no stranger to the Butler

Music department, having served as a long term substitute in this position last school year, and having served multiple times in the same capacity. According to Tepper, "I had some of the best learning experiences in my life through the music program of the Butler Area School District. I owe my career as an educator and performer, and my hard work ethic to some of these experiences. It is an honor and a privilege to be finally giving back!"

HONORS CHOIR AUDITIONS

On September 29, students in grades 9-12 from the Butler Choral program auditioned for the PMEA Honors choir festival. Students traveled to Westminster College and auditioned for a panel of three judges who rated their tone quality, diction, accuracy of notes, rhythms and musicianship. Singers had to place in the top 12 of their section to be selected for the festival, which consists of the highest scoring singers from among Butler, Mercer, Lawrence and Beaver counties. The Honors Choir festival will take place from October 27 to October 29, culminating in a concert at 2 pm in Westminster College's Orr auditorium on Saturday, October 29. Admission is \$5 and you are encouraged to support our students. Congratulations to the students who will represent Butler at Honors Choir: **Joe Atkinson, Amanda Bishop, Steven Beichner, Leah Mills, and Noah Reed.**

CHOIR CONCERT OCT. 12

The Butler Senior High Choirs will present a free concert on Wednesday, October 12 at 7:30 in the Senior High School Auditorium. Groups to perform are the Concert Choir, the Women's Ensemble and the Mixed Ensemble. After a tumultuous summer and fall in terms of national and international news, the choirs will be performing music that reflects world cultures in a way that unifies people through music. You will hear music from Afghanistan, Georgia (the country, not the state), Australia, and South Africa, just to name a few.

We will end with combined Senior High singers on a piece called "It Takes a Village," bringing home the message of unity. This will be followed with a guest appearance by the ninth grade choirs singing our school's Alma Mater and a great piece titled "Alterations," whose message questions how great the world might be... if it was altered by me.

Music educators in the Butler Area School District are truly teaching more than just notes. You will see that in the Fall Choral Concert and in so many great things that occur across the disciplines of the Butler Music Department.

Additionally, if any parents can volunteer for cookies and donations, please email bryan_helsel@butler.k12.pa.us



Piano Donated

The Butler Middle school choral room has a noticeable improvement thanks to a generous donation by a community member! Mrs. Kathy Sawyer has kindly donated funds so that Miss Ali Pabrinkis would have a competent instrument for rehearsals

and performances. The Butler Middle school will benefit greatly from this beautiful new piano. Rehearsals are underway for the holiday concerts, which will occur on December 20 and 21 at 6 pm in the Butler Middle School Auditorium.

Band Notes

The Butler Golden Tornado Marching Band will be performing at the Fort Ligonier Days parade on October 15, 2016. They are one of two bands invited, and the other is a college band. They have been invited performers in this parade for over 15 years. The event pays travel expenses for the Butler band to perform. The band will also march here in Butler for the Veterans day parade on November 11, and in the Butler Holiday Parade on November 26.

Recently, the eighth grade band students participated in a side-by-side event for Eighth grade band night. Upcoming band members got the opportunity to play the pre-game show with the upperclassmen. This opportunity provided for them excitement about the group that they will be joining next year.

Band Quotes

According to brass player, Gabby Finan: "I'm really excited about our brass quintet getting more active. Also, Jazz band is doing more challenging Tonight Show arrangements."

According to drum major, Tyler Snodgrass: "I'm very excited for the work the bands put in this year, and to see it pay off. I'm especially excited for it to come out in the Disney trip, when we march in the Magic Kingdom parade."



Upcoming Events

- October 5: Marching Band Indoor concert. 7pm. IHS Auditorium
- October 12: Senior High Choir Fall Concert. SHS Auditorium 7:30pm
- October 15: Ligonier Parade (band)
- October 29: Honors Choir concert. 2:00 pm Westminster College
- November 11: Veterans Day Parade
- November 26: Butler Holiday Parade
- December 3: Honors Band. 2 pm. Westminster College
- December 6: 8th grade band. 7pm. IHS
- December 12 – IHS orchestra and rock orchestra. 7 pm. IHS auditorium
- December 13 – Senior High Orchestra. 7 pm. IHS auditorium
- December 14 – Senior High Choir concert. SHS Auditorium 7:30 pm
- December 19: 7th and 8th grade choir concert. 6 pm, IHS Auditorium
- December 19: 9th grade choir. 7:30 pm, IHS Auditorium.
- December 20: 5th grade Holiday Concert. 6pm. Middle School Aud.
- December 21: 6th grade Holiday Concert. 6 pm. Middle School Aud.