



# Musical Notes

Volume 2, Issue 9

Mt. Vernon Music Boosters

March 2017

## Calendar

- **Sunday:** Daylight Savings begins ("spring forward")
- **Saturday–March 26:** Spring Break
- **March 17–21:** NYC trip
- **March 20:** Carnegie Hall performance
- **April 1:** ISSMA 8th-grade Organizational Festival competition

## Landscaping fund-raiser coming up

By **Katie Smith**  
*Senior/trumpet*

Fundraising is all well and good, but when you can help serve your community and fund-raise, it's a win-win.

That's according to **Jim Smith**, fundraising coordinator for the Music Boosters. He and fellow band parent **Darci Pelom** are planning a special community landscaping and gardening day at MVHS for May 7, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Although the Boosters are still securing vendors, plans for the "Lunch and Lawn" include certified landscape architects to be on hand to meet and help with questions on landscaping, gardening, and planning that perfect setting. Lunches will also be available for \$3.

Contact [Jim](#) or [Darci](#) if you are a vendor or know of anyone who'd like to host a stand at this event. Booths/tables will be \$25.

*More info to come!!!*

## Band prepares to take on New York City

The students heading to New York City will continue to prepare for their Carnegie Hall performance by rehearsing every day next week from noon to 2 p.m.

They will get 1 hour of "free time" after the rehearsal Friday, March 17, before having to load and board their buses.

Several students heading to New York who are also in the winter guard or indoor percussion have made arrangements to fly to New York after the buses leave. Both groups have competitions March 18. They leave

with their chaperones March 19 and will meet up with the rest of the band during the tour of Grand Central Terminal.

### Hotel amenities

This writer contacted the Row



The exterior of Carnegie Hall  
(Photo by Jeff Goldberg/Esto)

Hotel to verify some of the amenities. You can bring electronics, because Internet connectivity is included in the price. (Connectivity is also available on the buses, but because broadband is spread out over all online passengers, it is limited.)

You don't need to bring a hair dryer; each room has one available. You also don't need to bring swimwear, because the hotel doesn't have a pool.

*You can keep up with the band's tour by liking the Band of Marauders Social Page on Facebook.*

## Students compete at state Solo & Ensemble

Several MVHS band members competed recently at the state competition for ISSMA's Solo & Ensemble.

**Senior Gavin Stamper** earned a silver rating for his piano solo Feb. 18 at Perry Meridian Middle School. The following weekend, Feb. 25, he earned a gold rating for his French horn solo at North Central High School. Fourteen other students also performed solos Feb. 25:

- Junior Emma Flick, oboe, gold
- Freshman Drake Gerig, vibraphone, silver
- Senior Leah Klinestiver, flute, gold
- Junior Victoria Miller, marimba, silver
- Junior Tara Paarlberg, clarinet, gold
- Junior Michael Pellom, marimba, gold
- Junior Andrew Roembke, trumpet, gold
- Freshman Carlie Sanders, trumpet, gold

- Junior Nikki Schreiner, flute, gold
- Senior Katie Smith, trumpet, gold
- Freshman Deacon Stiff, marimba, gold
- Freshman Hailey Watson, marimba, silver
- Junior Patrick Watson, marimba, gold; and snare drum, gold
- Junior Nathan Williams, snare drum, gold

Three ensembles that also competed received gold ratings:

- **Mixed woodwind trio:** Junior Jennifer McGowen, flute; junior Tara Paarlberg, clarinet; and senior Nicole Siefker, flute
- **Brass quintet:** Senior Badri Alvandhar, trumpet; sophomore Logan Moore, tuba; junior Andrew Roembke, trumpet; senior Gavin Stamper, French horn; and senior Collin Walsh, trombone
- **Trumpet trio:** Senior Badri Alvandhar, senior Coleman Anderson,



The mixed woodwind trio of Tara Paarlberg, Nicole Siefker, and Jennifer McGowen show off the gold medals they received.

and junior Andrew Roembke

**Senior Badri Alvandhar** had a particularly golden day Feb. 25. First, he performed with the junior varsity guard at an IHSCGA competition in Fort Wayne; the team won gold. Then he returned to Indianapolis and received gold ratings in two ensembles at the state Solo & Ensemble contest.



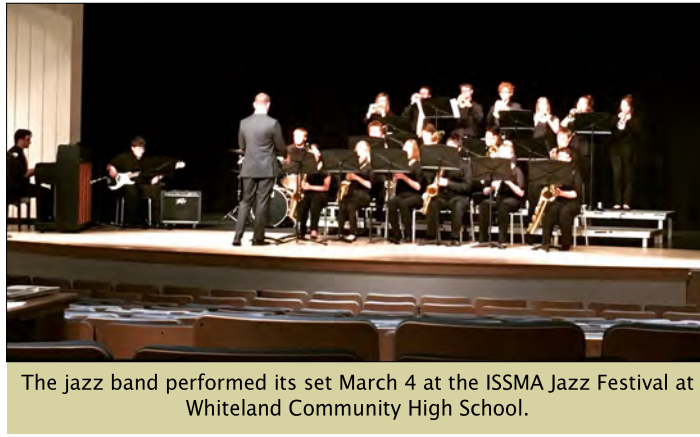
## Brief

### 8GA band heading to organizational contest

Unlike in years past, the 8th-grade band won't have a pre-view concert of the music it will perform at the upcoming ISSMA Organizational Festival contest.

Normally, the 8th-grade band performs with Mr. Day's bands and receives a critique from visiting judges. This year, however, is different. "The [concert] for the 6th and 7th grade is too early," Mr. Ellinger said, "and the time between our return from spring break and the [contest] performance will be spent remembering our music."

The band will compete at 6:20 p.m. Friday, March 31, at Greenfield Central Junior High School. Both high-school bands, on the other hand, are currently scheduled to compete at Pendleton Heights April 22—the day of the prom—although Mr. Ellinger has requested the 21st.



The jazz band performed its set March 4 at the ISSMA Jazz Festival at Whiteland Community High School.

### Jazz band shines in competition

The jazz band again brought home gold for its performance at the annual ISSMA Jazz Festival this past weekend.

Not only did the band receive a gold rating, but **senior Gavin Stamper** also received a Distinguished Soloist award for his improvised piano solo on the band's first piece, "Alright, Okay, You Win" by Sammy Nestico. "Starting this year, soloists are now rated at jazz contests," Mr. Ellinger said. He explained that each judge rates each soloist in each piece from one to five. A soloist receiving fives from two of the three judges receives a Distinguished Soloist ribbon.

Last year, the band competed in Group III; this year, the band moved up into Group II. "The students did a very nice job with challenging music," Mr. Ellinger said. "We certainly increased the level of challenge with the music and going Group II instead of Group III."

The band performed three pieces as part of its set: "Alright, Okay, You Win"; "When I Fall in Love," arranged by Roger Holmes; and "Manteca," arranged by Mike Tomaro.

## Sign up to volunteer at Speedway

You should have already received an email notice about working at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to help pay band fees.



This work is one of two mandatory fund-raising opportunities for the "My Fair Share" marching band payment plan. The other is Lucas Oil Stadium concessions, which recently finished for the season. You don't have to be participating in the "My Fair Share" plan to work at the IMS.

The jobs at IMS will be relatively simple: working at the gates, ushering in the stands, or assisting with parking.

The email you should have received about this opportunity includes a form that you need to return by **Monday** (yes, during Spring Break). Refer to that email and its attached form for more details.

## Heading to college? Consider the college marching experience

Graduating from MVHS doesn't mean your marching days have to be over. You can join a band at one of the following colleges, and you don't have to major in music to do so.

College band is much different than high-school band, but just as fun and rewarding. (Full disclosure: The person who wrote this *Musical Notes* article marched in IU's Marching Hundred for two years.) For a good idea of what to expect should you join a college marching band, read this [blog post](#).

Indiana has seven colleges with marching bands; other colleges in the state use pep bands at their football games. This month features the four public colleges with marching bands; next month will feature the three private colleges with marching bands.

### BSU's Pride of Mid-America (POMA)

If you are heading to Muncie for Ball State University this fall, consider joining the POMA band. You don't have to audition to join [POMA](#), unless you want to be on the drumline or in the color guard. [Guard](#) audi-

tions are coming up in April, [drumline](#) auditions in May. For general info about POMA, visit these two pages: [here](#) and [here](#).

### IU's Marching Hundred

If you are heading to Bloomington for Indiana University this fall, consider joining this 280-member band. By participating in the Marching Hundred, you receive two hours of *tuition-free* credit.

All brass and woodwind players are automatically accepted into the band. The [Red Steppers](#) dance team has auditions in April and August; the [drumline](#) has auditions Aug. 12 (during band camp). For general info, visit this [page](#).

### ISU's Marching Sycamores

All brass and woodwinds are accepted into Indiana State University's [band](#) in Terre Haute, regardless of playing ability. Percus-



**Left:** Former MVHS drum major Evan Schacherer marches with POMA. **Middle:** Former MVHS drummer Denton Sutherland leads a line of Marching Hundred drummers at the [Foster Farms Bowl](#). **Right:** MVHS grad Courtney Cochard (not pictured here) plays clarinet for the All-American Band.

sion and color guard, however, must audition. Visit this [page](#) for details.

### Purdue's All-American Band

Purdue University's [band](#) in West Lafayette marches at football games and the Indianapolis 500. Auditions for winds and percussion happen during [band camp](#) in August. However, auditions for the band's [Goldust-ers](#) dance team are April 1, and [Golden Silks](#) color guard auditions are April 29.