

North Georgia Homeschool Band & Choir



What is new at NGHBC this year?

As of March 2020 NGHBC has officially changed its name to **Sounds of Praise, Inc.** We're excited to have a shorter name which encompasses all of our classes and clearly points to our sovereign Lord and creator. While our name has changed our mission, core values, and non-profit status remain the same. So your next newsletter will come from Sounds of Praise! In other news, we gladly welcomed two teachers this year, Mr. Troy Elliott (Prep Ukulele) and Mrs. Mary Ada Kidd (Combined Prep) and for the first time ever offered preschool classes for babies and their parents, a ukulele class, and several strings classes.

Much of this musical year has been about change and growing through it, not the least of which has come for NGHBC in the same manner as it has for the rest of the world through the corona virus pandemic. Our teachers have risen to the challenge with online classes currently in place for our String and Prep students, and prayerful plans for summer activities for our Choir students. And, while we have had to cancel our Spring Concert we look forward hopefully to the next time we can make music together, sharing Sounds of Praise with all of our friends and family!

Inside this issue

Blessed By Strings	2
On Capitol Steps.....	2
Singing for Chimps	3
Messages for Students	3
All About Mrs. Kidd	4
Shorter Chorale	4
Mrs. Kidd to the Rescue.....	4
Senior Spotlight.....	5-6
Farewell Mrs. Fenn!	7
Movie Time!.....	7
Thank You.....	8
Donors.....	8



One of our new strings classes



Ms. Dubuc at the Fall Concert

Blessed By Strings

By Micah K. Rosario

This is NGHBC's first year to have (younger) Beginner Strings, (older) Beginner Strings, and Strings Ensemble which are all taught by Miss Hannah Dubuc. Our teacher Miss Dubuc is sweet, funny, and patient with her students. She has played the violin for 16 years and has played the piano for 18 years. Beginner Strings students have learned how

to hold our instruments correctly, how to play notes with fun activities and games, and learned to play "Jacob Drink," "Old King Cole," "Shave and a Hair Cut," and a lot of other songs. The Ensemble has played "Canon" by Pachelbel, "Blackberry" by Pachelbel, and much more. NGHBC is blessed to have Miss Hannah Dubuc teach strings class!!!

"NGHBC is blessed to have Miss Hannah Dubuc teach strings class!"



On Capitol Steps

By Emily Dubuc

The Concert Choir sang Christmas songs and showed support for Toys for Tots and Happy Feet during our annual trip to the Capitol. On the Capitol's steps, our Choir sang three songs, and invited Happy Feet—a special needs group—to accompany us for the last song. After the performance, Happy Feet donated gifts to Toys for Tots, an organization that gathers toys for children who might not normally receive one. Also, Toys for Tots provided a delicious cake for the Choir as a thank you for our support. This time for me was a great opportunity to connect with my fellow choir students. Finally, I would like to thank Mrs. Fenn and the NGHBC organization for making this amazing trip possible.



Students at the Chimpanzee Refuge

Singing for Chimps

By Anna English

Last fall our choir had the honor of being invited to sing at Project Chimps, a nonprofit organization which takes in chimpanzees that were used in medical testing facilities and cannot now be released into the wild. They currently have 79 chimps and plan to house over 200 in the future.

Our choir participated in their donor weekend, but we were really there for the chimps because apparently chimps love singing and children! We sang multiple Christmas carols at windows looking into their enclosures. They were excited and it was wonderful to see them interact with the music. One of the chimps followed us as we went from window to window until her enclosure ended. The chimps liked to jump up and slam the windows startling everybody, but they never did it when we were singing. It was a very enjoyable, unexpected and educating experience.

Messages to Students

To Emily Dubuc:
I love you and am so proud of you Emily!
- Grandma May Dubuc

To Emily Dubuc:
So proud of you Emily! We love you!
-Nanny & Papa Lee

To Jack & Annalise English:
Enjoy your time singing and playing with NGHBC! Love you.
-Aunt Linda

To Jack & Anna English:
Great job, Jack & Anna! Enjoy music in everything Jack!
-Love, Aunt Rae & Uncle Jimmy

To Jack & Anna English:
Wonderful music Jack & Anna! On to great new things, Jack!
-Love, Pop Pop.

To Davis, Kate, Kyla, Caroline, and Levi Fenn:
Davis, Kate, Kyla, Caroline and Levi, We love you!
-Love, Aunt Brenda & Uncle Tim

To Davis, Kate, Kyla, Caroline, and Levi Fenn:
Look forward to hearing you all perform someday. Keep learning and enjoying school.
-Love, Uncle Stan and Aunt Claudetta.

To Davis Fenn, Kate Fenn, Kyla Fenn, Caroline Fenn, Levi Fenn:
Davis, Kate, Kyla, Caroline, and Levi. You are music in our souls!
-Gramma & Gramps

To Alyssa, Isabel & Naomi Myerscough:
We're so proud of all three girls! Love that you're learning music and discovering your talents! --Gram & Papa Pete

To Chelsie Reed:
To my little angel. You have a beautiful voice.
-Linda C. Reed

To Micah Rosario:
May God use your talents Micah to glorify His name! We love you!
-Sara Swan & Shari Swan

To Jade, Colden, and Theron Warren:
Congratulations for all your hard work and dedication in the Homeschool Band & Choir.
-John & Charlene Gravely

To Sydney Wolfe:
Sydney, Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Psalm 105:2
-Love, Gma C and Gpa D.

New Teacher Spotlight

All About Mrs. Kidd

By Lina Rosario

This year NGHBC has been blessed with our new teacher Mrs. Kidd to teach Prep Class and Band Ensemble. Mrs. Kidd recently moved here in GA from Florida where she taught music classes in Ft. Lauderdale and in the Daytona Beach area for 32 years. In Florida, when she taught at public schools, a few homeschoolers were permitted to join her class, but at NGHBC this is her first time teaching a whole class of homeschoolers. She is an awesome teacher!

Mrs. Kidd had learned all the band instruments and a few string instruments in college, played in a jazz band, marching band, and a symphonic band. She currently plays the flute and EWI (electronic wind instrument) with the Mountain Jazz.

Mrs. Kidd loves sharing the joy of music with children and her favorite part of teaching at NGHBC is "all the precious people both parents and students!" Mrs. Kidd says her students here are "the absolute best" and I think she is a terrifically awesome teacher whose heart is set on providing us students a musical education.



Shorter Chorale

By Jack English



Students attending the Shorter Choir Clinic

As with most Choir trips the Shorter Chorale trip began with getting up very early and going on a long car ride. Fortunately, as with most Choir trips, the Shorter Chorale Experience was phenomenal. We arrived early in the morning at Shorter University, and quickly became part of a busy, all-day rehearsal involving not only other high schoolers, but also members of the Shorter University Choir. As we practiced, we were encouraged to ask questions, make observations, and meet new people. After about 8 hours of practice (punctuated by breaks), we performed our pieces for a large audience. The performance was of course a massive success, but I think the best part of the day was the journey to the concert. We learned a lot, made new friends, and got an idea of what it is to be in choir on a collegiate level. The Shorter Chorale trip was an amazing opportunity, and I cannot thank Mrs. Fenn and NGHBC enough for arranging it.

Band Ensemble - Mrs. Kidd to the Rescue!

By Noelle Snell

Due to low enrollment numbers for band this year NGHBC was unable to offer regular band classes, fortunately for the several, dedicated young musicians who longed to continue studying with their favorite band instruments the Lord brought to them a seasoned, professional and extremely gifted music teacher - Mrs. Mary Ada Kidd. The following article by ensemble member and flute player Noelle Snell gives you the inside scoop.

The Band Ensemble is made up of NGHBC students who had originally enrolled for band for the 2019-2020 year. Mrs. Gray, NGHBC's Executive Director, was seeking other options for the students still interested in learning their instruments when she met Mrs. Kidd at square dancing class. Mrs. Kidd is very knowledgeable of music. She agreed to teach an ensemble class.

During fall semester we learned about staccato, a form of musical articulation. It signifies a note of shortened duration, separated by the note that may follow by silence. We also worked on dynamics, which is the volume or sound of a note, and rhythm.

One of the things about the ensemble I like is that no matter how badly we may have messed up on a part in a song we're learning, Mrs. Kidd keeps encouraging and assuring us we can do it.

Senior Spotlight

Chelsie Reed

How long have you participated in NGHBC?
6 Years

In which classes have you participated?
Treble Choir, Concert Choir and Chorale

What are your future plans?
Going to attend North Georgia Technical College in the fall to pursue a career in business.

What is your favorite NGHBC memory?
The field trip to a Tennessee

Do you have a favorite quote or quip you'd like to share with us? "Spend a little more time trying to make something of yourself and a little less time trying to impress people." From the Breakfast club



Alyssa Myerscough

How long have you participated in NGHBC?
2 Years

In which classes have you participated?
Choir, Strings Ensemble, and Chorale

What are your future plans?
I hope to spend 9 months in Guatemala helping a missionary family and then follow God's leading to be a foreign missionary, possibly attending Word of Life Argentina or Ethnos 360 Bible Institute.

What is your favorite NGHBC memory?
I loved attending the Northwest Georgia Choral Festival at Shorter University in Rome, GA!

Do you have a favorite quote or quip you'd like to share with us?
When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. Isaiah 43:2 NLT



Megan Mercer

How long have you participated in NGHBC?
One Year

In which classes have you participated?
Concert Choir

What are your future plans?
To get my associate's degree in business and become a dance instructor

What is your favorite NGHBC memory?
The fall concert.

Do you have a favorite quote or quip you'd like to share with us?
"If [it] doesn't feel good, then change it!" ~Marko Germar



Senior Spotlight

Theron Warren

How long have you participated in NGHBC?
5 Years

In which classes have you participated?
Band-Beginner, Advanced Band, Choir, chorale.

What are your future plans?
College-Business Marketing

What is your favorite NGHBC memory?
Choir- Tennessee Field Trip, Shorter College

Do you have a favorite quote or quip you'd like to share with us?
Phil.4:13 I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Sawyer Snell

How long have you participated in NGHBC?
I've been a part of NGHBC for six amazing years.

In which classes have you participated?
I've been a member of Concert Choir.

What are your future plans?
Currently, I have no plans.

What is your favorite NGHBC memory?
Picking a favorite memory isn't an easy choice. I've had several fun years here. If I had to choose, I think the time we students spend together.

Do you have a favorite quote or quip you'd like to share with us?
Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.- Psalms 33:3

Jack English

How long have you participated in NGHBC?
A really long time (10 years I think...)

In which classes have you participated?
I have participated in Beginning Recorder, Intermediate Band, Beginner Band, Intermediate Band, Advanced Band, Treble Choir, and Concert Choir.

What are your future plans?
I plan to attend the University of North Georgia as an undeclared major, and when I get there, I'll just see what the Lord has in store for me!

What is your favorite NGHBC memory?
There are numerous memories that I look back on with great joy (i.e. The "Nope not Today Shirt" and the "Mrs. Finger" discussion), but I don't have a specific memory. If I had to quantify it, I would say the joy I have gotten from hanging out with friends and mentors is my favorite memory from NGHBC.

Do you have a favorite quote or quip you'd like to share with us?
"Music's a good thing...." Josef Stalin.



Farewell, Mrs. Fenn!

Interview With NGHBC Choir Director McKenzi Fenn

By Carter Snell



Mrs. Fenn Concert Choir

This year NGHBC sadly says good bye to our long-time choir, prep and preschool teacher Mrs. McKenzi Fenn. NGHBC has been incredibly blessed by Mrs. Fenn's teaching, enthusiasm and love for her students, and we wish her great success in all her new ventures, most especially spending more time with her family!

Student: So how long have you been teaching at NGHBC?

Mrs. Fenn: I am currently on my seventh year as choir director here.

Student: After all these years as a choir director, what would you say is your favorite music to teach?

Mrs. Fenn: I enjoy teaching all kids music of any kind!

Student: What would you say your favorite quote for music is?

Mrs. Fenn: I have several, but two really stand out:

"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul" - J.S.Bach

"To be a good conductor, one must first turn his back on the crowd" - Anonymous

Student: What is your favorite part of choir?

Mrs. Fenn: Teaching kids to read music and the notes is a passion of mine. I also love having the ability to foster friendships and experiencing the community that takes place in ensemble.

Student: What are you most proud of to see your students accomplish?

Mrs. Fenn: I love it when the younger students are able to match pitch and keep a steady beat. As for the Concert and Treble choir, when they are able to read a piece of music in parts the first time they see it. That makes my heart overflow with pride!

Student: Do you have any advice you would like to give to those in your class?

Mrs. Fenn: Keep singing and always "remember the voices".

Student: This may be a hard question: What is your favorite or funniest memory from choir?

Mrs. Fenn: I love all the laughs we share in rehearsal. It is hard to choose just one memory! I loved our trip to Chattanooga, playing laser tag with the Concert choir, having a music escape room, and singing Irish Blessing with our Alumni every spring.

Student: How do you bring your love of God to your teaching?

Mrs. Fenn: I can't separate music from my faith. For me, any notes I sing and any song I conduct are ultimately for an audience of one - Christ. I hope I am a constant example of faith and obedience for all my students.

Student: What are you looking forward to in the future?

Mrs. Fenn: I am looking forward to homeschooling my kids full time in the fall. I will miss everyone at NGHBC so much.

To close out this article, I decided to ask several students, past and present, that if they could describe Mrs. Fenn in three words, what would they be?

Teresa Harrison: Loving, energetic, and enjoyable to be around!

Clark Hayes: Funny, musical, and kind.

Sawyer Snell: Creative, fun, and dedicated.

Jack English: Considerate, energetic, and loving.

Jade Warren: Passionate, loving, and funny.

Movie Time!

By Anna English

Early in 2019 our choir had the experience of filming a scene in a movie called [Charlie's Christmas Wish](#). This locally filmed movie was made to raise awareness for homeless veterans. The story takes place when a soldier comes home from war struggling with PTSD. His family has adopted a dog, Charlie, who helps mend the tears in the family. She also encourages a group of veterans who are found living in the woods. Then everyone pitches in to build them a home.

In the film our singers joined by "Jimmy," one of the main characters, perform as the Etowah Children's Choir in a Christmas concert.

The movie release date originally set for November 2019 has been postponed to the fall of 2020. Although they had a special viewing for Veteran's Day in November 2019 which several NGHBC students and parents attended.

NGHBC

NGHBC

Our Mission: Working together to provide a quality, well-rounded music education for homeschooled students and their families in our community.

Our Vision: Creating a community of musicians that spans generations.

Visit us on the web at NGHBC.org
North Georgia Homeschool Band and Choir
PO Box 1441
Jasper, GA 30143

We are a 501(C)3 organization, accepting tax deductible donations. For more information, email treasurer@nghbc.org.

THANK YOU, MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

As we wrap up another wonderful year of making music and memories, we sincerely thank Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Pastor Mock for giving us a place to call home. Mt. Zion Baptist Church is a wonderful facility. We couldn't ask for a better host for our group!

SUPPORT POURS IN FOR NGHBC

Thank you to all students, families and friends for their efforts in supporting the financial needs of North Georgia Homeschool Band and Choir. Whether you donated yourself, sent letters to friends and family members, or sold candles, all these contributions add up to make this amazing group of students and teachers a huge success.

DONORS

Cindy Biles
Marilyn M. Buening
Patricia B. Clark
Hazel P. Cochran
Grandma May Dubuc
Janet Dubuc
Troy and Tammy Elliott
Dan and Jenn English
John & Charlene Gravely
Jeff and Jackie Gray
Scott and Kristy Henderson
Judy Hiers
Ken Jones
Aunt Linda
Steven & Julie Leibel

Gramps and Gramma Mason
Stan and Claudetta Mason
Leroy & Ruth Mendyk
Dave & Cathy Ocasek
Aurea Damaris Pagan
Sharon & Jeff Pepple
Linda C. Reed
Tony Richards
Aunt Brenda & Uncle Tim Ritchie
Peter and Cheryl Robinson
Bob and Linda Smith
Pete & Judith A. Smith
Sara Swan & Shari Swan
Rachel Jones-Sybor & James Sybor
Erwin & Judy Wolfe