

# North Georgia Homeschool Band and Choir Newsletter

NGHBC  
Fall 2017  
Issue #7

## "Friends of NGHBC" Mission Continues

We are so happy to announce that last year's goal of purchasing a used 6x12 trailer as a storage unit is now well within our reach!!! We have \$2000 in reserve thanks to many generous donations. We are ready to research our best options and find the perfect trailer. But, the need for your support continues. This year our goal in regards to fundraising is to purchase some much-needed new instruments like a bass drum for marching, high-quality barred instruments such as xylophones and glockenspiels, and many others.

Every year, NGHBC asks our students to personally invite their family and friends to learn about our program and partner with us. This involvement is vital to our program at many different levels - we need our friends and families to ask about our classes, to share their own musical talents and experiences, to come see us perform, to support us through donations, to be enthusiastic, and to encourage our efforts.... when this happens our young musicians thrive! In addition, contributions from our supporters enable us to keep our class costs affordable and to provide musical opportunities above and beyond what we could ever do on our own.

A big thanks to those who have already sent donations for this year. Special messages submitted for students will be featured in the spring edition of the NGHBC newsletter. If you have not done so already, and you would like to partner with us this year, we invite you to become a FRIEND of NGHBC. Just visit our website at <http://www.nghbc.org>. or send correspondence to PO Box 1441 Jasper, Georgia 30143. Thank you for caring about NGHBC's musicians. Your support, both personal and financial, greatly benefits our program.

### Mark your calendar...you're invited!

Please join us for our Spring concert.

- ◆ Saturday, May 5th, 2018
- ◆ 6:00 P.M.
- ◆ Cherokee Presbyterian Church  
1498 Johnson Brady Road  
Canton, Georgia 30115

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

## Shorter University Band Day

Shorter band day was a great experience. I was given the privilege of borrowing and playing a marching baritone. Playing the stand tunes was a blast and they just so happened to play my favorite one multiple times. I got a taste of some of the challenges of a marching band performance when the wind kept turning the pages of my flip folder while we were on the field. Dr. Warfield and the college students made me feel welcome and were really friendly. I'm thankful for the opportunity.

By Colton Sharp



## NGHBC Students and Families Attend Performance by “The Hypnotic Brass Ensemble”

In October, some students and parents from NGHBC went to see Hypnotic Brass Ensemble at the Cobb Energy Center. They had trumpets, trombones, baritone, bass guitar, electric guitar, and drums. They played many numbers including “War,” from the Hunger Games movie, which made a lot of people excited. Seven of the members were brothers, and they said their goal when playing was to keep an upbeat, hypnotic groove. It was fun to watch them perform because they kept the beat with their entire body – not just by tapping their foot. We all had a great time, and I hope it inspired our band to work as hard as they do.

By Josh Gray



## NGHBC Choir Invited Back to Capitol to Perform for the Toys for Tots Kick-off Event

On November 8, 2017, the concert choir of NGHBC was honored to perform at our state's capitol for the Toys for Tots ceremony -- a remarkable event I shall always remember. Among those present were: The Happy Feat Organization, the Toys for Tots coordinator—Ms. Kelly Wilson, several marines, the gentleman who invited us to sing and co-chair of Toys for Tots—Mr. Fox, Fox 5 News, Georgia's First Lady—Mrs. Sandra Deal, "Jolly Ol' St. Nick, several of our parents (my mom was among those attending), Mrs. Gray—the director of NGHBC, our choir instructor - Mrs. McKenzi Fenn, and of course, the choir.

During the event, Mrs. Fenn led the choir through the performance of several songs with Mrs. Gray performing the piano accompaniment. Of the songs sung, the one I felt most honored to sing was the opening song of the ceremony: our nation's anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner." As we sang, four marines stood at attention at the front: two color guards and two men who shouldered muskets. Next, we performed my personal favorite piece: Sleigh Bells, with Seth Hanenburg maintaining a steady tempo with some bells. This was a brilliant addition to the piece. Then we performed a combination of "Silent Night" and "Night of Silence." These beautiful melodies, I believe, were enriched by the piano music of Mrs. Gray and Seth and his guitar. Lastly, we closed the ceremony by accompanying the kids of Happy Feat in the famous Jingle Bells. It was the Happy Feat kids that made this song so much fun to sing and my favorite part of the event.

At intervals in between our singing, several speeches were made. Among those made was a touching speech by Ms. Kelly Wilson. In this speech, a story was shared on the impact Toys for Tots has towards needy children. A marine shared the joyful involvement of the marines in Toys for Tots. Also, a proclamation was read by our governor's wife, Mrs. Deal. In the proclamation, our governor, Mr. Nathan Deal, proclaimed November 8, 2017, as Toys for Tots day.

After the ceremony closed, the choir enjoyed refreshments of cake and punch and mingled for a bit before returning home. A few of my friends and I had the honor of speaking with Mrs. Deal. Afterwards, I left with a warm feeling in my heart.

I would like to thank several people: Mrs. Fenn for making this possible via her outstanding teaching, Mrs. Gray for directing NGHBC and her beautiful piano accompaniments, Seth for his bells and guitar music, Oliver Shaw for greatly aiding me in singing the correct notes, Mrs. Shaw for the ride to the capitol, and the rest of the choir and their parents. Most importantly, I would like to express my gratitude to my mother, Gisel Rosario, and my father, Nebo Rosario.

By Julian Rosario



## Alumni Spotlights

### Mary Harrison

#### 1. What are you doing now?

I am currently working full-time as an Assistant Teacher/Substitute Teacher at Dogwood Hills Academy in Canton, GA. I am finishing an AA Degree Online in Liberal Arts at Holy Apostles College and Seminary. In addition, I still play flute (the instrument I played for years in NGHBC) in American Patriot Winds, a Cherokee County Community Wind Ensemble.

#### 2. How did homeschooling prepare you for college (or your career, further studies, etc.)?

Homeschooling definitely helped prepare me for college. One reason is that homeschooling has made me an independent student. I was never spoon fed information during my homeschooling years, but instead was independent from my parents/teachers— following a strict lesson plan. Because my college courses are online now, many people ask if I have problems staying focused and submitting my assignments on time. However, when I was homeschooled, I either had my parents grade my work on a timed schedule or I had to submit my work online to teachers in VA for grades. Due to my homeschool experience, college has really been a breeze.

#### 3. Do you have any advice to share with NGHBC students?

Stick to it! It can be frustrating sometimes (believe me, I know...homeschoolers are in the minority in today's society). However, I can attest that the experience itself is a very rich and rewarding one. Not only will you be a more well-rounded and independent student, but you will continuously challenge yourself daily for the ultimate good of God, your family/friends, and for your country.

### David Elliot

#### 1. What are you doing now?

I work as an apprentice electrician for a local electric company called Patrick Kelly Electric. We get contracted to install, update or re-design industrial electrical components for water plants or pump stations. I plan on continuing to work as an electrician, so that I may get my electrical license; at which point I will either start my own company or get my own crew to work under me.

#### 2. How did homeschooling prepare you for college (or your career, further studies, etc.)?

In my line of work you have to use your hands a lot, and know how to work with basic tools. While homeschooling, we would often work outside or work on finishing our basement. In doing so, I would learn which tools were used for certain jobs and how to use them properly. This has helped me, and will continue to do so, for the rest of my career

#### 3. Do you have any advice to share with NGHBC students?

My advice to anyone at NGHBC would be “pay attention”. I don’t just mean in school. While you should pay attention in school, life happens all around us. You never know when you’re going to learn something new. I learn new things every day, so pay attention. You never know when you might miss something.



## Alumni Spotlight Announcement... Mary and David are Engaged!!!

A BIG NGHBC congratulations to Mary and David on their recent engagement. Read below to learn about how they met and their future plans as told by Mary herself.

David Elliott and I met back in North Georgia Home School Jazz Band seven years ago when it was under the direction of Ms. Anna Ragan. Back then David and I didn't really talk much except civilly at band class or at functions in which the Grays (mutual friends from NGHBC) hosted. After we graduated high school and as we grew older, our friendship kind of drifted apart. The situation persisted until my Mom, Nadine Harrison, moved David's grandmother in with us to help take care of her. About a year of more civility went by and I would then only see David from time-to-time when he would come over to visit his grandmother or at NGHBC concerts and functions. The more I saw David, the more I felt bad that I never really got to know him that much back in jazz band all those years ago. So I began texting him, talking to him over the phone, and then we started hanging out. Eventually, our friendship grew stronger and into something more. We had been dating for a little over a year and four months when he proposed on October 21st, 2017. As of now we haven't really set anything in stone in regards to the wedding. We expect to be engaged for about six months to a year tops before the wedding. In the mean time we are working, saving, planning, and preparing for our future together. Our ultimate goal is to have a small wedding, strictly family and a few close friends, followed by a cruise for our honeymoon. We appreciate all the love, support, and encouragement we have received from many NGHBC families and friends over the years and request that you would continue to pray for David and I; that we will always put God first in everything we do as individuals and as an engaged couple preparing for our future lives together.

## First Ever NGHBC Choir "Sing-In" a Success

On September 8th, our choir held the first ever "Sing-In!" This fun and extensive rehearsal was the equivalent to approximately five classes, and provided a tremendous opportunity to cover a lot of material and hit the ground running for a terrific year of singing and performing. Under the amazing direction and organization of our fantastic leaders, time was spent practicing in sectionals, playing games, enjoying fellowship, and of course....eating snacks. One of the highlights of the day was a rousing game of laser tag, creating a chance for relationship-building along with a bit of friendly competition.



## A Special Thank you to Dr. Duane Warfield



NGHBC would very much like to thank Dr. Duane Warfield for assisting our program by filling in for Mrs. Reams when needed. Your knowledge and kindness are most appreciated!

A little about Dr. Warfield:

Duane A. Warfield serves as Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Bands in the Edith Lester Harbin Department of Music at Shorter University, where he conducts the Shorter Marching Hawks, Shorter Symphonic Winds, and the Hilltop Jazz Band. He teaches conducting, instrumental music methods, marching band pedagogy, and brass methods for students in the music education program.

## NGHBC Fall Concert

After practicing and preparing for the first half of the 2017-2018 school year, NGHBC faculty and students presented the annual Fall Concert on November 10th at 7:00. The evening began with performances by the intermediate band, brass quintet, and advanced band under the wonderful and talented direction of Mrs. Lisa Reams. The audience was entertained by a variety of music ranging from a Jamaican folk song to a traditional English Christmas carol. Following a brief intermission, the program continued with beautiful and entertaining selections from the treble and concert choirs. Mrs. Fenn energetically and masterfully led these groups in a varying assortment of songs, including a Yiddish song and a Russian Folk tune. The program concluded with an invitation for all to join in singing the final verse of "Night of Silence." It was a special night, and students were able to showcase the many skills they have been working so hard to master.



## Ringling in the Holiday Season

On Friday, December 1st, intermediate and advanced band members had the privilege of marching in the “March of the Toys” parade in downtown Ball Ground. This parade is one of the largest parades in North Georgia, and it benefits Toys for Tots, which is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Toys for Tots distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks and continues that mission still today. Students assembled early to line up and prepare, as well as beat the anticipated crowd of four thousand attendees. Wearing Santa hats and carrying instruments adorned with Christmas lights, they marched and entertained the crowd while playing holiday favorites such as “Joy to the World” and “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.” A good time was had by all, and NGHBC students and families will now enjoy a holiday break before returning to classes in January.



## Upcoming Activities and Events

- ◇ **Specially Nominated Students—Shorter Honor Band Clinic**  
Friday, February 2nd, 2018— Shorter University Campus
- ◇ **Prep Program and Foundations Classes– Field Trip– Beauty and the Beast Ballet**  
Thursday, February 28th, 2018—Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center at 11:00AM
- ◇ **Second Year(+) Band Students—Bandtastic**  
March– More Specifics on Date and TBA
- ◇ **Thursday Foundations Classes Only - Field Trip - Wizard of Oz Musical**  
Wednesday, March 14th, 2018—Center for Puppetry Arts at 10:00AM
- ◇ **All Band and Choir Students—Field Trip— Synergy!**  
Wednesday, March 21st, 2018—Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center at 11:00AM
- ◇ **Concert Choir—Chattanooga Trip**  
April— Details to Come!
- ◇ **Spring Concert**  
Saturday, May 5th, 2018— Cherokee Presbyterian Church at 6:00PM



There just aren't enough ways to say thank you to all of the wonderful people that give their time, love, expertise, talent, and energy to make NGHBC so amazing. We would like to take this opportunity to thank three very specific guys who do fantastic work on the sound boards during our concerts. So.....thank you to Troy Elliott, Bill Burns, and Jeff Gray. You make terrific "sound guys!"

Also, an enormous thanks goes out to our board members for the countless hours spent in devotion to the tasks of NGHBC. You ladies rock!!!

President— Jackie Gray

Secretary— Stephanie Huffman

Treasurer— Jennifer English

Volunteer Coordinator— Joyce Malik

Finally, thank you to Cherokee Presbyterian Church for the use of the facility. Your generosity and kindness give our group a home, and we are so very grateful!

NGHBC

PO Box 1441

Jasper, GA 30143

info@nghbc.org

*Our Mission:*

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

**Visit us on the  
web at  
NGHBC.org.**

*Our Vision:*

*Creating a community of musicians that spans generations.*