

North Georgia Homeschool Band and Choir Newsletter

NGHBC
Spring 2017
Issue #6

Concert Choir Gives Moving Performance at State Capitol to Kick Off Toys for Tots Drive

On November 14th of 2016, the Concert Choir of NGHBC had the privilege of performing for the fourth time at the annual Toys for Tots Kickoff for the state of Georgia. The event was held at the Georgia Capitol building in Atlanta and guests included Georgia's First Lady, Sandra Deal. The choir performed between the speakers of the day, singing songs such as "Night of Silence" and "The Star Spangled Banner."

Toys For Tots was founded in 1947 by Major Bill Hendricks, making this its seventieth year. Its purpose is to collect and distribute Christmas gifts for U.S. children who would not normally get any. Since the time of their founding, Toys for Tots has collected over 500 million toys and looks forward to many more.

Another organization in attendance was Happy Feat, a non-profit whose mission is "To bring happiness, value and love to each and every one of our special needs friends and their communities through friendship, happy events and inclusion." We had the great honor of having some of the organization's members perform with us.

I have personally attended three of the four times NGHBC has been invited to the Toys for Tots Kickoff at the Capitol, but never before has it been so touching as it was in 2016.

By Sarah Huffman



You're Invited!

Please join us for our
spring concert & dinner.

- Saturday, May 20th
- 5:00 P.M.
- Cherokee Presbyterian Church
- 1498 Johnson Brady Road, Canton, GA

Shorter University Band Day

Last November, Shorter University hosted a band day event, where they let high school students come and play with their marching band. We got to play pep music with the band for a football game and went on the field for half-time. Dr. Duane Warfield, the school's band director, even let me borrow a mellophone for the day. It was a wonderful experience. We learned how to conquer the challenge of playing under a different director, with an ensemble who we had never played with before, all the while sharpening our sight-reading skills. We got cool T-shirts and made memories, but more importantly we stretched ourselves in our musical abilities, as we continued to be flexible and attentive. It was an opportunity that we were blessed to have, and a day that I will never forget.

By Emalyn Sharp



Sharp and Thornton Selected to Attend First Annual Shorter University Honor Band Clinic

On February 24th and 25th Emalyn Sharp and I had the opportunity to participate in the 1st Annual Shorter University Honor Band Clinic in Rome, Georgia. The Honor Band Clinic was 2 days of intense band practice that included: sight-reading, preparing, polishing, and rehearsing 4 to 5 pieces of music. Dr. Duane Warfield, the Director of Bands at Shorter University, and Dr. Aarhus, the Director of Bands at Mississippi State University, helped us with these pieces of music throughout the 2 days. At the end of the 2nd day we performed a concert that featured the Shorter University Symphonic Band. They had a great performance and then we switched places and then we played the pieces that we worked so hard to perfect. It was an awesome experience to be able to come together with 50 other students that we never met before and perform a concert! This event was well worth its cost of only \$25 and I recommend it for all Band Students!

By Joel Thornton



Joel Thornton - French Horn



Emalyn Sharp - French Horn

Bandtastic and Amaz'Sing 2017

On March 18th, 2017 musicians and singers of NGHBC attended Bandtastic and Amaz'Sing, organized by Joyful Noise Homeschool Band. It was a terrific, jam-packed day full of fun and learning. Guest conductors provided the opportunity to work on challenging music while playing and singing with students from a variety of different homeschool and private school bands. All the hard work and practice applied to learning music was evident when students put on an exciting concert for family and friends at the end of the day. It was fantastic and amazing to see the results of such focus and dedication...accomplished in such a short time....wow!!!



Concert Choir Featured at 17th Annual Big Pond Gala

On Saturday, April 22nd, the NGHBC Concert Choir, along with a few band students, had the privilege of performing in Rome, Georgia, at The Forum during the much-celebrated event— *Across the Big Pond XVII: Celtic Pride*. It was a Celtic gala featuring NW GA WINDS, bagpipers, Irish dancers, and soloists. The students were led in their singing performance by none other than Director Sam Baltzer, the very musician who arranged our specially commissioned piece— *Be Thou My Vision*. *They performed it beautifully. When Oliver Shaw, fifth year chorus member, was asked to reflect on a memorable part of the day, he said, "The acapella group added an exceptional amount of comedy and talent to the whole festival." Overall, it was an amazing opportunity for our students to be included in a family friendly and exciting musical presentation.*



Commissioned Piece - *Be Thou My Vision*- Arranged in Celebration of NGHBC's Tenth Year

To commemorate NGHBC's tenth year, we had an arrangement commissioned specifically for our band and choir. The piece, *Be Thou My Vision*, reminds us that whether in music or in the rest of our life, we should be asking God for his guidance. We are thankful to one of NGHBC's families for their generous anonymous donation to make this possible.

Be Thou My Vision
Irish Hymn (arranged by Sam Baltzer)

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee, Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

High King of heaven, my victory won.
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all!
Amen.

First Instrument Zoo A Huge Success!!!

Friday, April 24th was a day of honks, squeaks, and various other dying animal noises as young homeschooled children descended upon Cherokee Presbyterian Church. We called it an Instrument Zoo, and it definitely sounded like one! After a brief demonstration by the Advanced Band, a piece named "The Great Locomotive Chase," the children were allowed to move from station to station. At table one, they could try the brass instruments, such as the French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, and Tuba. At table two, the Flute, Saxophone, and Clarinet were available for trying out. The Percussion corner was constantly emitting sounds from the various drums, perhaps the easiest of the instruments. And the last corner was devoted to the original instrument, the human voice. After everyone had made their rounds, some coming back more than once, we proceeded to a demonstration of the human voice with a song called "Ding-a-Ding-a-Ding." We closed the zoo with a last invitation to all the attending families to become a part of the organization in the next semester.

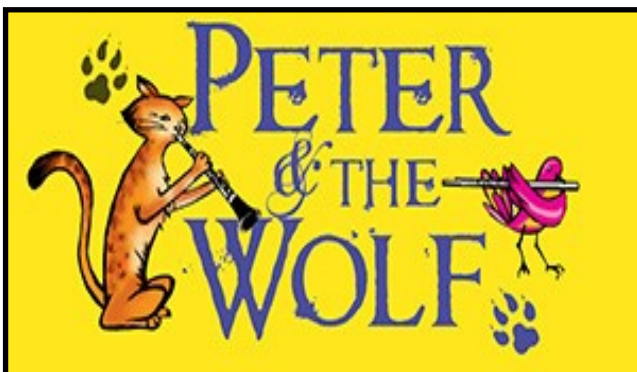
By Alexis Hanenburg



A very special show of appreciation to NovoLogic: Thank you so much for supporting our program and funding our beautiful, new uniforms. They will be used with gratitude for many seasons to come!

NGHBC Students Explore Music Out and About

Not only have our students been hard at work exploring musical concepts during classes this year at NGHBC, but they have also had opportunities to experience the world of music off campus. A field trip to the Fox Theater in Atlanta was taken in December to enjoy an abbreviated version of *The Nutcracker Ballet* performed by the Atlanta Ballet. For many of our students it was their first time visiting the Fabulous Fox—and they were absolutely mesmerized! In February, students took a musical journey through the classic tale of *Peter and the Wolf* as performed by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. They enjoyed listening to these pieces while also learning how composers use elements of music like DYNAMICS, TEMPO, TIMBRE, TONALITY, and TEXTURE to give musical representation to animals and stories. Performances such as these give students an opportunity to become familiar with and appreciate classical music, and to see professional musicians playing various instruments such as the oboe and bassoon. As a finale to the year, the younger students will be learning about a composer named Modest Mussorgsky and will paint while listening to his work - “Pictures at an Exhibition.” Be on the lookout for other great musical opportunities and experiences in and around your community.



Senior Spotlights

Monika Eisenheim

This is my first year participating in the NGHBC Concert Choir. I plan to complete my BFA as a dance major and continue on into my MFA studies. I will audition on Broadway and own my own dance studio with my sister, Nina. I would also like to get a doctorate in physical therapy. My favorite and most funny NGHBC memory is learning using mouth guards. Going to Shorter was also wonderful, and I loved going to the Capitol at Christmas and singing with our new friends from Happy Feet. It is because of that memory and the way that it was handled that I must say the following: I have thoroughly enjoyed watching and learning from Mrs. Fenn and Mrs. Gray. They are both extremely talented and have shown me how I can achieve my dreams and aspirations by getting my education. I can be a wife, a mother, and also a professional. They both work with a smile and joy flowing from their hearts. I hope and pray that I can follow in their footsteps in my future - teaching through a Christ-centered heart.



Monika Eisenheim



Nina Eisenheim

Nina Eisenheim

This is my first year participating in the NGHBC Concert Choir. I plan to attend Kennesaw State University as a dance major. When I graduate from college, I want to audition for the Rockettes in New York and own a dance studio with my sister, Monika. I will use my musical talents and education when auditioning. When thinking of my favorite memories with NGHBC, I feel it would have to be getting the total experience - working with Mrs. Fenn and Mrs. Gray, meeting new friends, and going to Shorter University. Being a part of NGHBC has been life changing.

Senior Spotlights Continued...

Alexis Hanenburg

I have been a part of NGHBC for seven years - participating in Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Jazz and Marching Bands, as well as Concert Choir for two of those years. Upon graduation I plan to attend the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega, GA, and major in Elementary Education. I hope to teach 3rd-5th grade after graduating. My favorite NGHBC memory happened last semester, when Mrs. Fenn brought mouth guards to choir and had us do a various assortment of speaking activities with them in our mouths. Watching everyone smile with their gums exposed brought many laughs and a whole lot of drool. :) The blowing of bubbles with them in was particularly difficult, yet, also the most memorable. Attending the various clinics at Shorter University and participating in Capitol Day are some of my favorite group memories, but my favorite memory of all is last year's choir retreat. We toured the Shorter campus and put on a fabulous concert after only a few hours of rehearsal. It was a crazy day, but fun regardless.

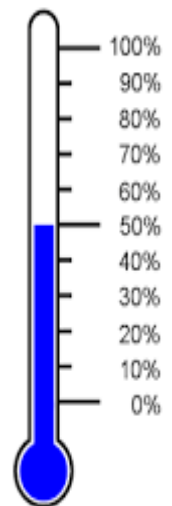


"Friends of NGHBC" Campaign Update

We would like to thank everyone that chose to partner with us this year and become official "FRIENDS of NGHBC." 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. This year our biggest need is a used 6x12 trailer to use as a storage unit. Thanks to all of YOUR generous donations, we are halfway to achieving this goal! If you have not yet become a "FRIEND of NGHBC...it is NOT too late!!! 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.

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

Thank you!



Friends of NGHBC Donors

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Messages to Our Members

To Scarlet Dean: Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Michael and Barbara Mendonca

To Jacob, Jack, and Annalise English: Keep music in your heart always.
 Grandmom and PopPop

To Jacob, Jack, and Annalisa English: Keep the music flowing for all to enjoy – love u all!
 Aunt Linda

To Jacob, Jack, and Annalise English: God bless my great-grandchildren and their musical talents.
 Babo

To Jake, Jack, and Anna English: Happy playing and singing! Good Job!
 Rachel Jones-Sybor and James Sybor

To Monika and Nina Eisenheim: Keep praying and reading the Holy Bible.
 Joe Helm

To Landon and Riley Evans: We are so proud of you! We love you!
 Aunt Karen, Caleb, Lydia, and Chase & Priscilla

To Davis, Kate, and Kyla Fenn: You are the beat in the rhythm of our lives! We love you!
 Gramps and Gramma

To Davis, Kate, and Kyla Fenn: You all are special to us. Keep on with your music education.
 Love to all,
 Great Grandma Sue and Great Grandpa Bob Mason

Messages to Members Continued on Page 8

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Messages to Our Members Continued...

To Alexis, Seth, Danielle, and Mackenzie Hanenburg: Keep up the good musical output that you do! We love you!
Jim and Eileen Rozeboom

To Anna and Amy Henderson: So excited you have a place for your musical talents.
Papa and Nanny

To Garrett Huffman: We are proud that you are so musically talented.
Love,
Nana and Granddaddy

To Sarah Huffman: We are proud that you have chosen to use your voice and dance for God's glory.
Love,
Nana and Granddaddy

To Sarah and Garrett Huffman: Keep up the good work.
Love,
Great-grandmother

To Owen and Gracie Summers: Music is a wonderful language!
Love,
Omi and Pop Pop

To Alaina Watson: We are so happy for you, Alaina. Have fun as you learn about music and enjoy singing. Music makes us all happy.
Jim and Nana Gable

NGHBC
PO Box 1441
Jasper, GA 30143

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

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.