

Volume 6, Number 4

ON THE UPBEAT

Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council

<http://music.mysdhc.org/elem-music>

HCEMEC Executive Board

Tausha Honey, President

Jeff Henson, President-Elect

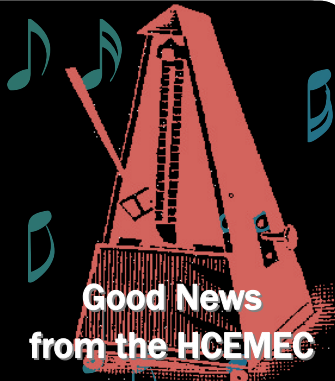
Kimberly Oppermann, Past-President

Jennifer LeBlanc, Treasurer

Natalie Epstein, Secretary

Cliff Fouts, UPBEAT Editor

Melanie Faulkner, Supervisor of Elementary Music



**Good News
from the HCEMEC**

Hillsborough County Public Schools

901 E. Kennedy Blvd.
PO Box 3408
Tampa, FL 33601-3408
School Mail Route #7



When you are asked to be the conductor of the Honors Drum Group you know this is for two years unlike the other conductors. I was very excited to know I would be conducting again this year! As the conductor for the Honor Drum Group you are not only the conductor, but you are also responsible for composing the two pieces that will be played at the festival. In order to prepare I attended the World Drumming level 3 workshop this summer. Over the summer I also began composing the two drum pieces that were performed last night. I must say last year was the first time I have ever composed music for drums. I have arranged music but never written one, let alone two

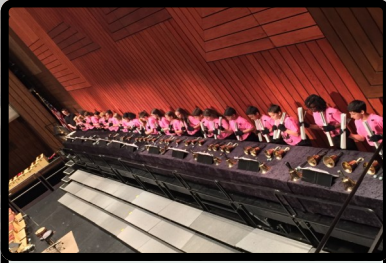


Tracy Messina leads the Honor's World Drumming Ensemble at the 2015 Fine Arts Festival

pieces. This year's pieces were much easier to write. As the time got closer for the first practice I found myself thinking that maybe the pieces are not good enough. "Maybe they are too easy?" I got together with some colleagues and had them play the pieces and record them. I felt so great hearing all four parts played together. Watching the look on their eyes as they were playing and listening to the parts confirmed that, "hey, these are great pieces." My colleagues loved the pieces and said the students would too.

Just to make sure the students will be able to play the music I wrote, I taught the pieces to my own drum group. Yes, my group struggled with some of the patterns but I knew that the honor drum students are the best of the best in our county and they would be able to play the patterns. I was not able to do this last year because I was still busy writing the two pieces during this time.

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL



*Fine Arts Festival
Honors Handbells*



*Fine Arts Festival
Honors Orff Ensemble*

⊕ Continued from page 1 ⊕

Now, for the first practice I am always a bit scared to see if all will go well. During the rehearsals the teachers who have students in the group are there to help make sure the students are playing correctly, but as soon as the students start playing it is just the students and me. The teachers are there to help the students with their playing, not to evaluate me and my performance. I had to learn this last year during the first practice.

I was so thrilled to hear the rhythm patterns played together. Each week the students learned additional patterns, then we put them together to play the entire piece. I got chills when the students were able to play all four patterns at the same time. It sounded great! What a great feeling for me. The students seemed happy as well. I put words to the rhythms and the students learned the words that go with the rhythms. Sometimes the phrases are funny, and it is fun to see how they do with them.

As we got closer to the performance the excitement in the room every Thursday was rising. Once the students learned all the parts I decided which students play which part, and which drum. Now it is time to jam! The last few rehearsals were my favorite. The students know the parts and I push the tempo, add other body percussion and movements to finish the pieces off. Now we were ready!

Our last rehearsal was at Strawberry Crest High School. The students were a bit nervous because they realized this is the big week, but as soon as the students started playing, jamming, and moving, their nerves went away and smiles appeared on their faces! This was the first time the conductor of the finale heard the part I have arranged. She was amazed at how well the students knew their parts, and when to play! She gave me a wink, telling me she liked what I arranged.

It is now festival day. All of the students arrive in a school bus excited and not knowing what to expect. They are happy to see me and know all will be well if they watch me. Finally it is our time to play the two pieces in the grand hall. The students come in just like we have taught them. They look around and the panic sets in, but I have their attention and we are ready to start. My hand goes down and we begin. But wait, the nerves have hit. I say stop! They look at me with scared eyes. I say, "ok, take a deep breath. We have practiced for months for this. Are you ready now?" They say, "yes and we start the piece again." Perfect! We play both pieces and then leave the stage.

We take the drums to the balcony to prepare for the finale. I get the students in position and we are ready. We rehearse the finale with the three choirs, Orchestra, Orff and Handbell ensembles. I fix a few problems and it is time to be dismissed until tonight for the festival. Six p.m. arrives faster than I could have imagined and it is time to greet my honor drum friends. They are all dressed in their daisy yellow shirts and black pants ready for the evening. Once everyone is here we run up the stairs to practice the finale one more time, and then bring the drums downstairs to put them in place for when it is our turn to perform. Next we go to our dressing room and wait...and wait. Try keeping 35 drum students quiet when they are waiting to perform! We go and see the art work in the lobby to get the wiggles out, make one last call for the restroom, and then it is our turn to perform. As we are waiting in line outside the door I tell my drum friends to rock this out. They are ready and it is now time to jam! We go in the hall, sit down, and all eyes are on me. I take a deep breath and here we go! We all finish with a bang in the middle of the drums and there is silence, then the audience goes crazy! They loved what we just played! The students and I are glad that is over and now we can really get our groove on for the second piece.

*Fine Arts Festival
Honors Orchestra*



*Fine Arts Festival
Choral Conductors
(left to right)
Mary Baldwin, East Chorus
Deah McReynolds, Mass Choir
Steve Florio, West Chorus
Laura Mathews, West Chorus
Altamese Simard, Central Chorus*

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

A few students move to their next position and they all look at me. I give them a smile and mouth, "give it all you got!" After the second piece the audience again goes crazy and we even get a standing ovation! I am a proud momma to these fine musicians I now call friends! We did it!

But wait, we are not finished! Now we have to move all the drums up three flights of stairs and get into position for the finale! So up the stairs we go, and the students get in position as we wait silently while the last few ensembles perform! Before you know it the festival is over. It was so fast! After the performance I get my students in a huddle and tell them how proud I am of them and thank them for a memory I will never forget! Several of the students come up to me and give me a hug and tell me thank you for pushing them beyond what they thought they could do, and for the wonderful experience of performing for so many parents! I After the performance I go to find my family who was very proud and excited for me! I realize this was such a wonderful experience and on the way home I have many emotions going through my mind. The Fine Arts Festival was a wonderful experience for me, my students and their families and friends!



♪ Tracy Messina, FAF World Drumming Conductor, Sessums Elementary

TAMPA RIVERFEST

The inaugural Tampa RiverFest, held in conjunction with Mayor Bob Buckhorn's Mac n' Cheese throwdown, took place on May 2nd along the newly opened Tampa River Walk. In addition to the Mac n' Cheese throwdown, the RiverFest included a children's carnival, and multiple musical performances held at various stages throughout the 1.8-mile River Walk, including performances from many Hillsborough County music programs.

Schools participating in the RiverFest included Crestwood, Lanier, Mitchell, Roosevelt, MacFarlane Park, Philip Shore, Mabry, Seffner, Carrollwood, Cannella, B.T. Washington, Lowry, and Kingswood Elementary Schools, as well as several Middle and High Schools too!



MUSIC EDUCATION SPIRIT WEEK

TO BENEFIT LITTLE KIDS ROCK

Spirit Week Participants

This event could not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of these participating schools and teachers:

Cannella Elementary

Juan Rios

Lanier Elementary

Kyla Baily

Lowry Elementary

Jia Leikensohn

Lowry HOST

Lorri Naylor

McKittrick Elementary

Billy Whiting

McDonald Elementary

Phil McReynolds

Roosevelt Elementary

Fiorella Tangherlini and

Ernesta Chicklowski

Kingswood Elementary

Sean Moats

Potter Elementary

Lindsay Blanc

Oak Grove Elementary

David Hendricks

Lewis Elementary

Brian Bickel

Chiles Elementary

Danielle Vega

Lomax Magnet Elementary

Rebecca Stillo

Spoto High School.

Nelson Rodriguez

A HUGE SUCCESS FOR THE 2ND YEAR IN A ROW!

Little Kids Rock Modern Band performing groups from across Hillsborough County rocked Beef O' Brady's restaurants for an entire week! During March 2-6, 2015, Beef O' Brady's hosted fourteen Little Kids Rock (LKR) bands. Little Kids Rock is a national charity organization that supports music education by donating instruments to schools for rock (or "modern") bands. They have donated over 4,000 instruments to Hillsborough County Public Schools students during the past several years and continue to train both new and established LKR teachers.

During the second annual "Spirit Week", fourteen bands - from twelve different elementary schools and one high school - performed at eight different Beef O' Brady's restaurants. The schools took their own gear to set-up for each performance, giving the students a valuable real-life band experience. During their show, they were playing not only for friends and family, but also for patrons in each restaurant who overwhelmingly enjoyed the music and were impressed with the students' skill.

Bands presented a variety of styles and music genres from hip-hop, indie, current pop and rock, oldies, and original tunes composed by teachers and students. In addition to learning new instruments and songs, the bands had to work on their stage presence. Some bands even included dance moves!

In addition to hosting the bands, participating Beef O' Brady's donated ten percent of the food sales during each performance to Little Kids Rock. Last year over \$800 was donated. This year, Dave Wish, the founder of Little Kids Rock, requested that all of the Beef O' Brady's donations stay in Hillsborough County for the refurbishment of existing LKR programs!

Because of their generous donations, commitment to our families, and support of music education in Hillsborough County, Beef O' Brady's was awarded the Encore Award by the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educator's Council. Kim Hawks, from the Palma Ceia Beef O' Brady's restaurant, and her husband Jeff represented Beef O' Brady's at the 2015 HCEMEC Fine Arts Banquet. Mrs. Hawks accepted this award during the banquet, which was held at the Straz Center's Ferguson Hall.

♪ Lorri Naylor, Lowry Elementary & Rebecca Stillo, Lomax Elementary,

Advocacy Co-chairs

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

The 7th Annual Hillsborough County Schools' Multicultural Festival, presented by the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council, was held on March 27th at Philip Shore Elementary Magnet School of the Arts. Despite wet weather, an enthusiastic and supportive audience was present to enjoy multicultural performances from 9 different schools, followed by a Drum Circle led by Nate Strawbridge.

As a first time performer, much credit and appreciation is due to Carol Baccolli, Nicki Schmucker, and the Musical Heritage committee for putting together the Festival and giving my students the opportunity to participate in such a great event. From the communication and preparations before the Festival, right up to the day of, ensuring a smooth running event (even during the rain!), the Multicultural Festival is a great event in which to have your students perform!

While we may perform for our parents and school community often, the opportunity to perform for a "real" audience made of people other than our usual crowd, really gave new focus and attention to precision for our ensemble. That extra focus, along with a well-run event, helped us to have an awesome experience at the 2015 Multicultural Festival!

Cliff Fouts, Deer Park Elementary

Multicultural Participants

Philip Shore Italian Chorus

Angela Amenta

Clair-Mel & Ippolito Instruments of Change

Sid Fortner

Lowry Orff Ensemble

Jia Leikensohn

Lanier Orff Ensemble & World Drummers

Kyla Bailey

Claywell Cougars Orff Ensemble

Ibi Edit Simon

B.T. Washington

Acoustic Fusion

Sonia Miller & Jabril Williams

Deer Park Percussion

Cliff Fouts & Lynn Cammareri

Potter Elementary

Eagle Drummers

Lindsay Blanc

Roland Park

Dragons with Mallets

Jen Edelblute



*Clockwise from top left:
B.T. Washington, Deer Park, Lowry,
and Potter Elementary Schools
participate in the 2015 Multicultural Festival.*

*Below, Nate Strawbridge leads the
ever popular Community Drum
Circle at the Multicultural Festival*



FINE ARTS BANQUET

The 2015 Fine Arts Banquet was held on April 24th on the stage of Ferguson Hall at the David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts. There were 113 music specialists, administrators, and friends in attendance including Acting Superintendent Jeff Eakins, Danny Oest, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Barbara Hancock, Instructional Leadership Director for Elementary Education, and Carol Vick, Arts Council of Hillsborough County Director of Education, as well as School Board members Susan Valdes, Doretha Edgecomb, Sally Harris, and Melissa Snively.

The evening included performances by Betty Trascritti, Laura Mathews, Kim Roberts, James McElroy, Nathaniel Strawbridge, Kyla Bailey, and Juan Rios. And in true awards show fashion, Lounge Nouveau, comprised of Todd Jefferis, Andrew Guarine, Jeff Henson, and Ed Kennedy, provided additional entertainment and played to welcome awardees to the stage.

During the evening awards were presented for Principal of the Year, Rising Star, Music Educator of the Year, and the Encore Award. The evening concluded with a closing number by Lounge Nouveau, and audience participation on the kazoo!

HCEMEC RISING STAR AWARD

The Rising Star Award was presented to Chelsea Given from Wilson Elementary School. Chelsea was nominated by her administrator, Gina Becker, who said:

Chelsea has a contagious energy and love of teaching music. Her passion for helping young minds grasp new musical knowledge is evidenced by her high quality instruction and the respect given to her by her peers. She has worked with our school's HOST program for the past four years teaching small group piano, which culminates in a recital twice each year and she is an active life-long learner, seeking out professional development opportunities throughout the school year and each summer. Chelsea Givens is, without a doubt, Wilson Elementary School's Rising Star, and is now the 2014-2015 HCEMEC Rising Star too!

HCEMEC ENCORE AWARD

The HCEMEC Encore Award is a way to thank those in our community that have shown support for music education in our district. This year The HCEMEC recognized Beef O Brady's as our Encore Award recipient! Their support of our Little Kids Rock Music Education Spirit Week for the past two years has been remarkable. Participating locations donated a percentage of their food sales during this week back to Little Kids Rock, which has a focus of putting instruments in the hands of children throughout the country! Even more remarkable is the fact that they allowed 12 of our local Little Kids Rock bands to invade their space and turn up the volume for their patrons during this fun filled week to celebrate music education!

HCEMEC PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

The 2014-2015 Principal of the Year award was presented to Karen Bass from Mary Bryant Elementary School. Mrs. Bass was nominated by her music specialists, Betty Trascritti and Jodie Donahoo, who said of her:

Mrs. Bass has a gift for making her teachers feel appreciated and supported, and takes the extra time to make sure that you are recognized for work well done! Whether it's a musical performance, a social event or a theme night for our school...she is there, inspiring a sense of family among us all. Quite importantly, Mrs. Bass works hard to make sure that the needs of specials area teachers are included in school-wide fundraising efforts to ensure the very best equipment and materials are available for the students at Mary Bryant, and due to her quick approval and support Mary Bryant's students are benefiting from some of the latest technology available to elementary music educators.

Furthermore, she continuously supports and encourages our endeavors for professional growth - most recently in the areas of National Board certification and running for a position as District Chairperson with the FEMEA board. Mrs. Bass believes in her teachers and in the value of music education, and she does whatever it takes to make sure our students have the best opportunity for musical growth. Working for her is truly a pleasure!



HCEMEC Music Educator of the Year Nate Strawbridge, right, performs with Kyla Bailey and Juan Rios at the 2015 Fine Arts Banquet.



Karen Bass, center, HCEMEC Principal of the Year with Music Specialists Betty Trascritti and Jodie Donahoo

HCEMEC MUSIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The 2014-2015 Music Educator of the Year Award was presented to Nate Strawbridge from Crestwood Elementary School! Nate was nominated by his administrator, Nicole Zamora, who said:

Nate Strawbridge is an educator who is dedicated to his students 110%! He believes in providing students the opportunity to thrive educationally, socially and behaviorally through the integration of music. At Crestwood music is not just a class...it's a rite of passage, and his program helps students develop important character traits such as responsibility, discipline and perseverance, along with an amazing sense of self-worth. Mr. Strawbridge holds our children accountable for their actions in and out of the classroom and, through his music program, has mentored many of Crestwood's students that may have gone down the wrong path.

HCEMEC GRANTS

In addition to the other awards presented at the Fine Arts Banquet, the HCEMEC also awarded a total of \$4,000 in grants.

Grants were awarded to:

Professional Development

Rosalie Lathers, Pizzo

Jonathan Hunt, Hunter's Green

Musical Equipment & Materials

Juan Rios, Cannella

Rebecca Traenkner, Philip Shore Magnet Arts

Kim Kearney, Northwest

Tracy Messina, Sessums

Victoria Walsh, Tampa Palms

Anita Travaglino, Maniscalco



Canella Elementary, left, and Lewis Elementary participate in the Beef O' Brady's Spirit Week to benefit Little Kids Rock

Lanier, above, and McDonald Elementary participate in the Beef O' Brady's Music Education Spirit Week



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Excellence in Education
School Board

Susan L. Valdes, Chair

Doretha W. Edgecomb, Vice Chair

April Griffin

Sally A. Harris

Carol W. Kurdell

Melissa Snively

Cindy Stuart

Superintendent of Schools

MaryEllen Elia

Acting Superintendent

Jeff Eakins

Instructional Leadership

Director, Elementary

Barbara Hancock

Supervisor of

Elementary Music

Melanie Faulkner

2014-2015 HCEMEC Leadership Team

Executive Board

Tausha Honey, President

Jeff Henson, President-Elect

Kim Oppermann, Past President

Jennifer LeBlanc, Treasurer

Natalie Epstein, Secretary

Melanie Faulkner,

Elementary Music Supervisor

Committee Chairs

Advocacy

Lorri Naylor & Rebecca Stillo

Musical Heritage

Carol Baccoli

& Nikki Schmucker

Technology in Music Education

Tracy Lisi

Coordinators

Professional Development

Kathryn Jurado

Social Media

Betty Trascritti

FAF T-shirts

Laura Mathews

Young Songwriters' Symposium

Sean Moats & Joey Willoughby

Convention

Juan Rios

Social

Tracy Messina &

Rebecca Traenkner

On The Upbeat!

Cliff Fouts

Member at Large

Steven Florio

Mentoring

Jennifer LeBlanc

PLC Coordinators

Kyla Bailey & Justin Daniels