

February 2021

The Fine Arts Bulletin

Newsletter of the Fine Arts Boosters
of Bishop O'Connell High School



Checking in with Mr. Isaacson, Director of Bands



Mr. Isaacson has been teaching at DJO since 2014, but most people only know him as the Director of Bands. In addition to conducting, you may have seen him in performances playing one of his three main instruments- trombone, euphonium or tuba. One wouldn't suspect that he actually began his music career as a middle school percussionist!

But low brass is not his only instrument. It turns out he is also a singer at heart, and had even considered majoring in voice at various times.

His passion and talent have led him to some amazing places. As a freshman in college, he performed at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY! He sang bass in the Opening and Closing ceremonies, and played trombone during the medal ceremonies.

Passionate about music in all its forms, he has also taught general and choral music, and Advanced Placement Music Theory.

One can't forget that he is a man of faith. He belongs to the Congregation Or Chadash, a Reform Jewish Temple in Damascus, MD. He happens to also be a Hebrew tutor!

Mr. Isaacson appreciates that music is a strong presence in both Catholicism and Judaism, and enjoys bringing out everyone's spiritual sense of self through music. Did you know that the standard musical notation system – clefs, accidentals, notes/rests – was developed by Italian monks in the 15th and 16th centuries?

When his AP Music Theory students complain about it, he just tells them, "Hey, don't blame ME..."



February is famous for Valentine's Day

While there is no shortage of artwork depicting love and romance, many would argue that Gustav Klimt's masterpiece *The Kiss* is the most romantic of all.

It shows a couple swathed in richly embellished robes embracing in a meadow of flowers on the brink of a precipice. The painting dates from 1907/08 at the height of Klimt's "Golden Period," when the artist developed a new technique of combining gold leaf with oils and bronze paint.

<https://www.belvedere.at/en/kiss-gustav-klimt>

Standing Ovation!



O'Connellhs Congratulations to Ilsa Erickson '22 for her outstanding photography work which was recognized by the Marymount Fine Arts Visions Juried Virtual High School Exhibition!

Virginia Music Educators Association
Senior Honors Choir Honorees



O'CONNELL CHOIR
BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL



O'Connellhs Congratulations to all 42 O'Connell choral students who auditioned for and were accepted into the prestigious District XII Honors Choir! Also congratulations to three seniors—Sade Jackson, Katie Stansel and John Tuason—who were named to the VMEA Senior Honors Choir!

Special Congrats to the students who auditioned for VMEA District XII All-District Band:

Sofia Anderson, flute
Haley Gates, flute
Gemma McCreight, flute
Elizabeth Ogletree, flute
Miles Davenport, tenor sax

Virginia Music Educators Association



Coming Up

February 3: FAB general meeting 7pm

February 5: District Choir 5pm- 7pm

February 6: District Choir 10am-12pm

February 20: Annual Gala & Auction

March 3: FAB general meeting 7pm

And be on the lookout for the Knights of Hope Cabaret and two virtual choir videos to be released in the spring.

Did You Know?

Mr. Crittenberger loves the arts, and played the trombone in high school. During his junior and senior years at Langley High School he was a member of the award-winning Langley Jazz Lab under the direction of Mr. George Horan.

During the early years of his teaching career, Mr. Crittenberger played in the pit orchestra for school musicals. His favorite? The Music Man.

Opportunities

Winter Creativity Contest- Alexandria Library

RULES & GUIDELINES

- 1) All entries must be by students in middle or high school (grades 6-12).
- 2) All work submitted must be original work.
- 3) One entry per student is permitted in each category.
- 4) Entrants must be a resident of Virginia, Maryland or the District of Columbia.
- 5) Writing: submit one copy of your written work online by 11:59PM on February 15, 2021, using the form below. Written work can not exceed 25 pages.
- 6) Visual 2D art and photography: submit one copy of your work (or digital image of your work if not originally in digital format) using the form below by 11:59PM on February 15, 2021. All work must be submitted online. Only 2D (two-dimensional) digital work or a digital image of the work is accepted. We cannot accept digital images of 3D art, or physical items.
- 7) **All entries must be received by Alexandria Library by 11:59PM on Monday, February 15, 2021.** All entrants will be notified of the contest results by March 10, 2021.
- 8) For questions, please email sbishop@alexlibraryva.org or kpayne@alexlibraryva.org

Categories for middle and high school:

- Writing - Middle School (grades 6-8)
- Writing - High School (grades 9-12)
- 2D visual art - Middle School (grades 6-8)
- 2D visual art - High School (grades 9-12)
- Photography - Middle School (grades 6-8)
- Photography - High School (grades 9-12)

Alexandria Library will distribute prizes in each category.

- 1st Prize - \$100
- 2nd Prize - \$50
- 3rd Prize - \$25

<https://alexlibraryva.org/winter-creativity-contest>

Signature Theatre offerings

Stage One is a two-week musical theater workshop for high school students. Auditions take place on March 6, 2021 on Zoom from 10am-1pm.

Or take a *Master Class*- Thursday nights at 7pm on Zoom (\$10)

Feb. 4: Personalizing the Song with Nova Y. Payton

Feb. 11: World of Wigs

Feb. 25: Dance- Musical Theatre

<https://www.sigtheatre.org>

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE FINE ARTS BOOSTERS!



*Executive Board Officers, DJO
Fine Arts Boosters 2020-2021*

Diane Lent-Tucker, President
Taryn Salinas, Vice President
Allison Bliley, Treasurer
Laurie Hart, Secretary
Rene Jeffress, Fundraising Officer

Join our mailing list:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PXVPYZJ>

Attend our meetings:

First Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

for info email: fineartsboosters@bishopoconnell.org

Buy a membership:

<https://www.bishopoconnell.org/the-arts/fine-arts-boosters/dues>