

# The Spotlight Westborough Fine Arts

Issue 2 | November 2020

Brought to you by:



## WHY JOIN WFAEA ?

WFAEA represents a unique opportunity to stay involved as your student navigates through the school system and is a perfect way to experience some of the amazing fine arts opportunities Westborough Public Schools provide. If you've been feeling disconnected, WFAEA is a great way to engage with other parents and the fine arts department while we navigate through this year together.

[www.wfaea.org/membership](http://www.wfaea.org/membership)

### Attend a Meeting!

Our next WFAEA meeting will be on Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Email us at [info@wfaea.org](mailto:info@wfaea.org) to be included in the Zoom invite mailing list.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Dear Fine Arts Families, Friends, and Fans,

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us already. I hope you and your family are making plans that adapt to our current situation, while also providing time together to create lasting memories with new Thanksgiving traditions.

As this year progresses, the Fine Arts Department is constantly re-evaluating and refining curriculum to provide the best instruction possible for the students of Westborough. Examples of this include:

- New art electives and content in the remote program
- Creation of a hand chime curriculum in our 7-12 choruses
- Adaptation of art curriculum to be effective on a cart
- Starting Mill Pond Instrumental Ensembles remotely so that students do not miss out on the pivotal beginning stages of development
- Re-imagining our Elementary Ukulele Clubs to be an inclusive "Family Music Night"

Here are some aspects of the programming we are looking to start in the near future:

- Instrumental Ensembles will move indoors! [Please read my memo to Superintendent Amber Bock and the Board of Health regarding what that will look like for students.](#)
- Additional extra-curricular ensembles, such as Jazz Band and the WHS A Capella program will be starting rehearsals.
- A new Visual Arts Teacher will be joining us at Mill Pond to take on some additional classes to accommodate the hybrid schedule.
- Some ensembles at the Middle and High School level will be sharing video recordings and/or live streaming performances throughout the Winter Season.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of Fine Arts Families, WFAEA, a dedicated Central Office Administration, our students, and an inspiring staff that amaze me each day and make me grateful to represent them.

Be safe and Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Christopher Martin, Director of Fine Arts



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Upcoming Events:

#### November 12:

Senior CDMMEA Festival Auditions

#### November TBD:

Contemporary A Capella Program begins

#### November 26-27:

Thanksgiving Break

#### December 8:

Melynda Davis Q&A -7:00pm

#### December 24- January 1:

Winter Break

#### January TBD

Junior CDMMEA Festival Auditions

#### January 23:

All-State Auditions Video submission deadline

50 of the Best Thanksgiving Songs That Will Make You Feel Instantly Grateful (And Probably Hungry!)



## Featured Ensembles

Click the links below to see videos of WHS hand chime rehearsals

*Let It Be*  
**Concert Choir  
on Hand Chimes**

*Danny Boy*  
**Mixed Chorus  
on Hand Chimes**

**Join us for an Informal Conversation with  
Soprano, Melynda Davis, WHS Class of 1995  
December 8th at 7:00pm**

**Email us at [info@wfaea.org](mailto:info@wfaea.org) to be added to the invite list**

## DID YOU KNOW?

### *JUNIOR AND SENIOR CDMMEA DISTRICT AUDITIONS*

Each November and January, students in grades 7-12 learn an age-appropriate vocal or instrumental solo and travel to the Central District Massachusetts Music Educators' Association's Festival Auditions. The Senior Festival, open to students in grades 9-12, affords students the opportunity to prepare and perform a piece for authentic feedback from a professional other than their ensemble director or private instructor. It also helps some students overcome performance anxiety, gives them a concrete goal for their practice habits, and the allows for the ability to extend their learning in music. Not only is getting accepted into the Festival an honor, but it also serves as the baseline criteria for All State and All National Festivals, as well as admission into the high school's Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Like everything else this year, auditions will happen, but they will look rather different than in years past. For the 2020-2021 Festival, students will be uploading videos of their auditions for their teachers, and then the teachers will submit them to CDMMEA for review. Although nothing replaces live performances, a recorded audition allows students to hear their own audition ahead of time, reflect, and refine before submitting the final product. The recorded audition also requires students to take initiative in their own product: making and submitting the video is completely dependent upon each individual student. All videos are then reviewed by an adjudicator who will provide the same type of feedback they would have given at the physical auditions: a standards-based rubric with written comments. As in the past, Senior Auditions will be used for All State recommendations, as well as Tri-M acceptances.

High school students in grades 10-12 submitted their recordings on November 12th and students in grades 7-9 will submit their recordings in January. We wish all students the best of luck!

## NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MR. DUFRESNE-5TH GRADE BAND

by Lobby-O / K.Stoker



Doug Dufresne is the new 5th grade band director at Mill Pond; he also teaches classroom music to grades 4-6. He shares, "I really enjoy teaching elementary students because the students have so much wonder and excitement around starting a new instrument or learning a new musical concept."

Mr. Dufresne learned to play all of the brass and woodwind instruments as well as certain percussion instruments while he was in high school and college. He attended the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and then completed his Master's Degree in Music Education at the American Band College at Central Washington University.

After Mr. Dufresne graduated from college, he got a job with Holland America Cruise Lines. For the next two years, he played music every night and traveled the world. Mr. Dufresne says, "I consider myself very lucky because it really helped me open my eyes to new cultures and experiences. I was

able to see how other people in the world lived as well as visit incredible historical sites such as the Great Wall of China, the Pyramids of Egypt, Chichen Itza, and La Sagrada Familia."

Mr. Dufresne is excited to teach in Westborough. "They [his students] are very inquisitive and many of them are at a stage where they are fearless and don't mind making mistakes in order to improve on what we are learning in class." **Welcome to Mr. Dufresne! We are excited to have you as a new member of the Fine Arts Department!**



## CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: WHS REMOTE ART

by Caroline White

With many students using the fully remote model for school this year, teachers in every department have had to improvise and change their courses to suit virtual learning. Carolyn McGrath, a Westborough High School art teacher, is teaching several remote art classes for the high school and middle school, including a new course, "Foundations of Art". This course is geared towards Freshmen and students who have not taken art at WHS before and is a unique way to allow remote students to explore many different medias. The course will fulfill the prerequisites for future 2D & 3D Art classes. Those students who have previously taken an Art class or completed Foundations of Art during semester 1, can be enrolled in a flexible model elective to meet the student's needs and interests.

Per Chris Martin, Director of Fine Arts, "These electives will be asynchronous to allow for student and teacher flexibility. For example, if you have an opening in your schedule during Period 2, you will be able to use that period of time to access art lessons and work on the current art assignment." You can expect to see Ms. McGrath for one full class meeting per week (schedule determined as a group), and then 1-2 additional times per week during office hours and scheduled demos/critiques."

"For me, I prefer having the live classes and the interaction. Students are able to complete their work on their own time, as long as it's finished by the due date. It's nice because it allows the students to have flexibility. - Carolyn McGrath

The remote students operate on the same bell schedule as the hybrid students, but these art classes give them the opportunity to complete work on their own time. "Every day I give them until midnight and I either have them take a picture of what they did that day and submit it for their class attendance or just do a little write-up," she explains.

McGrath is especially excited about the Foundations course. "The Art Foundations class is good because normally I teach photography and graphic design, so it's nice for me with Art Foundations because it's a little bit of everything. It's been fun for me to get away from the digital for a minute and do some more traditional art," McGrath says. The Foundations students are currently working on sketching. They'll be assigned projects that call for supplies they'll mostly be able to find at home, and will be able to pick up additional art supplies as WHS later in the year.







A very special "Thank you" to  
**Ed Turner** from **Art and Frame Emporium** for teaching the Free Minecraft character drawing class on November 11th! We had students ranging from 2nd through 6th grades participating and it was a huge hit!



**The Lobby Observer recently conducted an interview with Fine Arts Director, Chris Martin, and reported on the WHS Music Program during COVID-19**



by Kaitlyn Tarzia, Kiley Vallee, Karol Arevalo-Erazo, Emily Coffey and Shannon Clark



### LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?

- **Soldiers' Angels - West Roxbury** - MANY virtual opportunities. Adopt a military family for the holiday season, send letters, cards, baked goods or care packages to deployed service members and so much more. *Check out their site over the holiday season!*  
<https://soldiersangels.org/location/west-roxbury-ma/>
- **Lasagnalove.org** - Cook & deliver a lasagna to a family.
- **Be My Eyes** - Assist people with vision disabilities through an app
- **DoReMi Project** - Online music tutoring
- **DoSomething.org** - Social change
- **Operation Gratitude** - Write letters to troops, first responders, and emergency medical personnel
- **Teensgive.org** - Online tutoring
- **Zooniverse** - People powered research
- **Letters Against Depression** - write Letters of Hope and Support to people all over the world
- **Volunteer Match** - find the perfect match for you and your family

**Wondering where to watch Broadway shows online? Check out the Theatre Lover's Guide to Streaming!**





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### MELYNDA DAVIS -WHS CLASS OF 1995



Melynda Davis graduated from WHS in 1995 and went on to study vocal performance and music education at UMASS Dartmouth. She then obtained her master's degree in Opera Performance from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. She lived in New York City for almost 10 years and sang with various professional opera companies there, as well as doing cantor work with area churches. She currently sings with professional opera companies in the Boston area and is actively involved with Boston-based opera organizations, including Opera on Tap Boston. Melynda also has a full-time job as the Director of Housing Operations at Capstone on Campus Management, LLC, where she addresses the need for and manages the privately owned on campus housing facilities for UMass Boston students.

We recently had a chance to catch up with Melynda and talk about WHS and her experiences since high school.

#### How did the fine arts teachers support you?

"Mr. Jost", who was the Coordinator of Fine Arts in Westborough at the time, "and Mr. Pappazisis, who was the choral teacher, were both extremely supportive of me. I was very, very shy and they both encouraged me and supported me in auditioning for concert choir, Districts and All-States. The support of the choral teacher in middle school was the whole reason I continued singing in high school. Music was definitely the highlight of my high school time. I wouldn't be doing music today if it were not for these experiences and support."

#### What does the fine arts community mean to you?

Although there wasn't a "D-Wing" when Melynda graduated in 1995, she describes the same sense of community and camaraderie that the fine arts department exhibits today. She participated in both band and chorus in middle school and in band, chorus, concert choir, marching band and theatre at WHS. "Those were my people, my home," Melynda commented. "The commonality of music brought us together. We were all there because we loved it and had fun." She continued, "I remember hot cocoa and hand-warmers provided to the marching band during football games. We felt like a family. The entire high school consisted of about 600 students and over 100 of them were in marching band" she said. "Back then I didn't realize what an effect it had. Looking back, I didn't have the horror stories from high school that many people have, because of my "little home". I wasn't treated like a band geek. I have nothing but fond memories of Westborough High School".

#### What was next for you after WHS?

"When I left Westborough, I thought I was going to go into music education. When I began to learn about the different options at UMASS Dartmouth, I was told that only 2% of our class would end up having a performance career in music. This was soul-crushing to me." But, over the years, Melynda found that it was possible to pursue her love of music in many different forms while also having a "side hustle" or day job. She said "For years, I thought I had failed in the arts, but now I teach, I perform, I do a lot." Melynda has amassed an impressive resume of performances and musical accomplishments. Her full bio can be found on her website, [www.melyndadavis.com](http://www.melyndadavis.com).

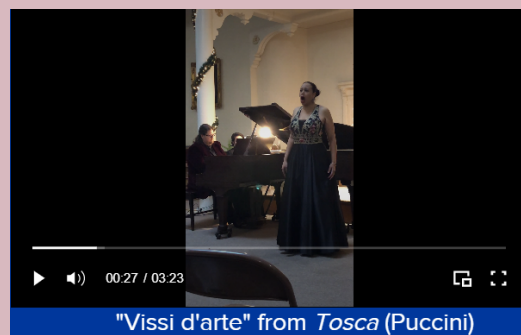
#### Let's learn a little about your current career.

Over the past few months, Melynda has continued her work with Opera on Tap Boston (OOT). The organization has started many virtual programs to help keep singers employed, as vocal performance has been especially hard to continue during the pandemic. For example, OOT performs "Operagrams", where professional opera singers perform live, by phone or online, for special occasions. They have created many unique and innovative online events such as "Drunk Opera History", "This Woman's Work", "Opera On Tap Celebrates: The Notorious RBG" and "OOT Celebrates Trans Voices", all aimed at continuing the organization's mission to expose new audiences to opera, make opera accessible to all in new and progressive ways and keep the art form alive. You can learn more about Opera on Tap Boston by visiting their website at [www.operaontapboston.com](http://www.operaontapboston.com).

#### Want to hear more?

Melynda has graciously offered to join us for an informal chat / Q&A session on December 8th at 7:00pm. Please join us! Sign up by emailing us at [info@wfaea.org](mailto:info@wfaea.org) to be added to our Zoom invite email list.

You can find out more about Melynda by visiting her website! [www.melyndadavis.com](http://www.melyndadavis.com)



Click above to view some of Melynda's performances.

# Are you interested in learning how to edit videos, pictures and create music?

## Free Software!

Click on the logos below to go to the download page

Coming Soon

**DaVinci Resolve Tutorial!**

***How to Make Virtual Ensembles***

Email [info@wfaea.org](mailto:info@wfaea.org) to be put on the mailing list

## Digital Audio Workshops:



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Reaper is a complete digital audio production application for computers, offering a full multi-track audio and MIDI recording, editing, processing, mixing and mastering tool set.



A free, open source, cross-platform audio software. Audacity is an easy-to-use, multi-track audio editor and recorder.

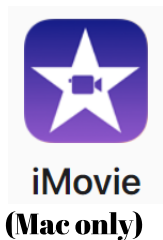
## Photo Editing Software:



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GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) is a cross-platform image editor. Whether you are a graphic designer, photographer, illustrator or scientist, GIMP provides the tools to get the job done.

## Video Editing Software:



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With iMovie for iOS and macOS, you can browse your clips and create Hollywood-style trailers and 4K-resolution movies. You can start editing on iPhone or iPad, then finish on your Mac.



DaVinci Resolve combines editing, color correction, visual effects, motion graphics and audio post production into one software tool.





## The JLCO with Wynton Marsalis Perform "Rubber Duckie"



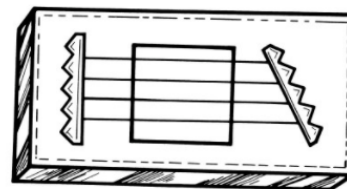
Watch as the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra transforms Ernie's bath time classic "Rubber Duckie" into a big band bash. [Listen](#) to this tune and others on *A Swingin' Sesame Street Celebration*



**We couldn't agree more... even during a pandemic!**



## Music Crafts



Rubber band zither



Caribbean bongo drum

## IT'S ALWAYS THE RIGHT TIME TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT

### IN THIS ARTICLE:

- [It's Always the Right Time to Play an Instrument](#)
- [Watch and Share the Video](#)

0 Shares



## 7 habits of Highly Effective Musicians:

1. Practice
2. Practice
3. More Practice
4. Practice
5. Practice
6. Even More Practice
7. Practice

- a practicing musician



### **\*CASH BACK FOR YOU\***

While helping Raise Funds for the Fine Arts

*What is Scrip?*

Shop instant eGift cards and physical gift cards from 750+ retailers where you already shop. Buy at face value and earn a rebate on every card purchased.

For more information, go to [WFAEA.org/wfaea-fundraisers](http://WFAEA.org/wfaea-fundraisers) or contact our scrip coordinator at: [scrip@wfaea.org](mailto:scrip@wfaea.org).

## SEAT OF RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Recognize someone special with a brass plate on the arm of a Westborough High School auditorium seat! A perfect way to honor your graduating senior, thank a favorite teacher or leave your favorite quote behind.

Donate \$40 for a 4" x 1 ½" plate with a message of your choice, up to 3 lines of 18 characters (including spaces).

Your donation will help support arts education and fund our scholarship program.

\$33 of the donation is tax-deductible.

Please note, donation of a plate does not reserve seating at auditorium events.

To order, go to [www.WFAEA.org](http://www.WFAEA.org) and complete the form on our fundraiser page.

## SUGGESTIONS?

Email us at [info@wfaea.org](mailto:info@wfaea.org) with your ideas on how to improve our newsletter.

## WFAEA 2020-21 OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Kelly White Elisabeth Kinsky
Vice President	Alyssa Dver
Treasurer	Chris O'Keefe
Co-Secretaries	Katrina Banks-Binici Jennifer Niece



Sometimes music  
is the only thing  
that gets  
your mind off  
of everything  
else.