

MEADS MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

# Holiday Harmonies

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 -- 8:00 PM

[NORTHVILLEORCHESTRA.ORG](http://NORTHVILLEORCHESTRA.ORG)





# Concert Program



Ensemble	Title	Composer Arranger
Orchestra 6	Dreidel Good King Wenceslas Ode to Joy Snow Day!	Grossman Neal/Soloists Beethoven Katie O'Hara LaBrie
Orchestra 7	Appalachian Hymn Ukrainian Bell Carol Jolly Old St. Pachelbel Hanukkah Dances	Soon Hee Newbold Leontowich/Sandra Dackow Matthew Putnam Katie O'Hara LaBrie
Orchestra 8	Jubilee Fanfare Snowy Woods Laissez Paître vos Bêtes Kwanzaa Celebration	Soon Hee Newbold James O. Lockett Traditional/Robert Longfield John O'Reilly
Musyka Quartet	Brandenberg No. 3 Eine Kleine Nachtmusik	Bach Mozart
Sinfonia	Silent Night Nutcracker Jam	Gruber/Jeremy S. Martin Tchaikovsky/Michael Hopkins
Grand Finale	Jingle Bells	James Pierpont/Caryn Weigand Neidhold



# Our Musicians

## Sixth Grade

Krishav Bandepalya  
Brooke Buetow  
Whitney Callahan  
Aadhya Chitti \*  
Joshua Cuitair  
Mitashi Dave \*  
Miles Giroux \*  
Claire Kim  
Huiseong Kim  
Irene Liu  
Adelia Price  
Priyanka Ray \*  
Marieme Seck  
Arihant Sharma  
Ethan Suh  
Eric Wu

## Seventh Grade

Ariana Agazzi  
Jad Bsat  
Christina Cobor  
Isabella Crisostomo Medellin  
Gloria Joseph  
Elliot Kim  
Micah Kim  
Joseph Korah  
Sujana Krishnan  
Snigdha Lakkakula  
Edwin Lee  
Aayushi Nashikkar  
Miles Petik  
Sanchi Shiya  
Marko Truschel Orta  
Cameron Yang  
Grace Zhao

## Eight Grade

Yuanxi Chen  
Ethan Han  
Winnie Ho  
Hera Joo  
Huiwon Kim  
Aoi Ono  
Yash Pancholi  
Samridhi Pradeep  
Shreya Sivakumar  
Anvi Vedire  
Riana Welsh  
Richard Zhang

\*6th Grade Soloists



## *Sinfonia*

Katie Anderson  
Dominik Avery  
Grace Bae †  
Tarun Balasubramaniam †  
Sawyer Bell  
Brooke Buetow  
Eric Chen  
Yuanxi Chen  
Bella Choi  
Allen Choi †  
Addie Fisher  
Averie Foster  
Malik Hadjit  
Ethan Han  
Arjun Herek  
Winnie Ho

Pradyu Jamdagni  
Claire Kim  
Elliot Kim  
Amy Krause †  
Sujana Krishnan  
Edwin Lee  
Natali Lindenmeyer †  
Olivia McGrew  
Sana Panchal  
Sam Pradeep  
Anvi Vedire  
Helen Wang †  
Tony Wu  
Cindy Xiong †  
Kevin Xu †

† NHS Student



## *NHS Percussionists*

Elliott Hanish & Veda Ramakrishnan



## *Musyka* (String Quartet)

Katie Anderson  
Malik Hadjit  
Yamini Hosanager  
Sebastian Kash



# Program Notes



## Orchestra 6

*Dreidel* -- a folk song related to the Jewish tradition of Hanukkah. It's a spinning top. The letters form an acronym for the Hebrew saying Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, which can be translated to "a great miracle happened there," referring to the miracle which Hanukkah is centered around. The song is a simple melody in their book, but the advanced students added a harmony a third above.

*Good King Wenceslas* -- This song is about a King who looked out to his people the day after Christmas, and seeing a poor man, asked his page to get him so that he could dine at the kingdom. The weather was terrible, and the page said he couldn't go out in the storm, so the king said, "That's fine -- I'll go out and you can walk in my footsteps." The moral is that we owe a responsibility to those less fortunate than us. The piece in the book is one line, repeated. We are playing it with improvised melodies layered in by students who chose the challenge of learning by ear.

*Ode to Joy* -- This is from Beethoven's Ninth (and final) Symphony. It was legendary because it was the first to incorporate a chorus. The Ode is based on a poem, and was written when Beethoven was completely deaf. It is the anthem of the European Union.

*Snow Day!* -- This piece is by Katie O'Hara LaBrie. As a director, I am committed to providing a repertoire that is comprised of diverse composers, including female and minority composers.

Ms. LaBrie writes this in her notes: Imagine waking up on a cold winter day, the smell of newly fallen snow in the air. You hear the gentle "plop" of snow falling from the trees and jump out of bed with excitement as you realize it's a Snow Day! You gather your things and head out to go sledding with friends. There is hot chocolate waiting for you inside. It's going to be a wonderful winter day!

## Orchestra 7

*Appalachian Hymn* -- Composer Soon Hee Newbold writes: Folk Songs from the Appalachian Mountains and Shenandoah Valley inspired this work. Portrayed in this nostalgic melody are the scenic views of nature trails, flowing rivers, and wildflowers that enhance the rich beauty and history of our country. This piece was played at the Mid-Level String Clinic in October that many of our students participated in.

*Jolly Old St. Pachelbel* -- This Matthew Putnam arrangement is a "Christmas musical mashup" featuring Johann Pachelbel's Canon in D and Jolly Old St. Nicholas, which was based on a poem by Emily Huntington Miller in 1865.

*Ukrainian Bell Carol* -- This piece, arranged by Sandra Dackow, a composer of Ukrainian descent has important personal meaning to her. Her Ukrainian mother sang it in a concert at Carnegie Hall in 1936. The piece was written in 1916 based on an old folk song sung at the beginning of the New Year to wish prosperity. It was important for me to include music that represents the things that are happening in the world, and for students to make connections to music as an international language.

# Program Notes (2)

*Hanukkah Dances* -- This medley by Katie O'Hara LaBrie includes four Hebrew folk songs: Hanukkah, Hanukkah; Sivivon; Dreidel; and Maoz Tzur. The melody is passed around and layered, allowing for some extended techniques such as shifting for violins, and extensions for cellos.

## Orchestra 8

*Jubilee Fanfare* -- Another arrangement by film composer Soon Hee Newbold, that was used in the MidLevel String Clinic that several orchestra students participated in. The song was composed in honor of the 80th anniversary of New York Music Education Association's All-County Orchestra. Ms. Newbold writes: All cultures and nations commemorate important milestones, events and traditions. Music of ancient festivals, Celtic dances, and the drones of an ancient string instrument called the hurdy-gurdy inspired this piece.

*Snowy Woods* -- The students really liked this piece! I chose it to explore their lyrical and legato style, as well as watching the conductor. From an instructional standpoint, it employs techniques such as *détaché*, *pizzicato*, and all sections feature the melody at some point. The 8th graders chose this piece to play for Northville School Board member Roland Hwang's retirement on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

*Kwanzaa Celebration* -- This multicultural piece arranged by John O'Reilly offers an opportunity to include NHS percussionists. The piece is an arrangement of two traditional African folk songs. African Noël is based on a Liberian folk song called "Banuwa". The original words mean "Don't cry, little girl, don't cry". Throughout time, a new set of words was introduced to the same melody. Those words are "Sing Noel, Sing Noel, Sing We Noel". Kum Ba Yah ("Come by here") is an African American spiritual song known to be sung in the Gullah culture of the islands off South Carolina and Georgia, with ties to West Africans.

*Laissez Pâtre vos Bêtes* -- Translated as "let your animals graze" is a 16th century French carol. It tells the story of shepherds leading their animals in the field while they depart to find the Baby Jesus. I chose it as an international choice, and to offer a little unique choice in holiday repertoire. It also uses complex rhythms, 6/8 time, and employs the tremolo technique. Melody is also represented by all instruments.

## Grand Finale

*Jingle Bells* -- I like to offer an opportunity for all students to play together at the December and May concerts because it offers a sense of musical community. This arrangement by Caryn Wiegand Neidhold of James Pierpont's popular wintertime song offers something to all ability levels. We hope you enjoy this feature of 6th grade musicians! More advanced 6th graders were given the opportunity to play the more advanced parts as a means of scaffolding, and offering incentives to excel to their highest potential. For the older students, it offers a mentoring opportunity.



# Program Notes (3)

## Sinfonia

*Silent Night* -- This arrangement offered an opportunity to feature our latest addition to the orchestra program -- a harp!!! (See more information below). I love this piece in general, but the musicianship of the grade 6-12 Sinfonia students is so expressive, I thought it would be a great choice to explore their sensitive sides. We feature Bella Choi on harp, and winning the solo by audition, her older brother Allen.

*Nutcracker Jam* -- This piece, based on Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker ballet, is arranged by Michael Hopkins, the chair of music education at the University of Michigan. It is a fun spin on a classic, adding a jazz feel, drum set, and some very complex rhythmic concepts, such as triplets against sixteenth notes. The students seemed to have a lot of fun with it, because I often heard students practicing it in down time before regular orchestra class started!

It is a true honor to work with these fine musicians every Tuesday, and I look forward to our next concert cycle!



## *New Opportunities!*



Building our program to include harps would bring us to an exciting new level in music education. Very few programs include harps, but districts like Bloomfield Hills and Ann Arbor have been doing it for 20+ years and even have harp ensembles! We hope you enjoy this arrangement, and consider donating at the link below so that we can purchase one for the middle school (about \$5,000) and start building up inspiration for raising the funds for a high school level one in 2-3 years at the cost of about \$15,000. Since this is uncommon for general school programs, it wasn't part of the original budgeting. As most of you know, my musical philosophy is to expand opportunities for ALL musicians, and to never close a door or limit ourselves. I don't believe in "no" -- just "not yet" when it comes to limiting the scope of music education. Please consider contributing to this amazing opportunity to include this beautiful instrument in our orchestra program.



## Donate to the Orchestra!

[https://northvilleschools.revtrak.net/  
middle-schools/middle-school-orchestra/](https://northvilleschools.revtrak.net/middle-schools/middle-school-orchestra/)

## Upcoming Events

Please be sure to check [Orchestra website](#) for most up-to-date information

Dec. 13 Board Meeting performance at NHS 6:30 pm

Dec. 13 Meads Mill Winter Concert at Meads 8:00 pm

Dec. 15 Hillside Winter Concert at Hillside 7:00 pm

Jan. 14 Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival [Schedule](#)

Please fill out this form if you are signed up: [Solo & Ensemble Check-In](#)

Jan. 19-21 Michigan Music Conference and All-State Performance Grand Rapids, MI

Jan. 28 High School Solo & Ensemble Festival (schedule not posted yet)

Feb 3 Gala Fundraiser Performance/Dinner 5 - 8 pm

Feb. 25 Festival Clinic at NHS 3:00 pm

March 2-4 or 9-11 (tba) District Orchestra Festival for Hillside Orch 8, and Meads Orch 7/8

March 13 DSO Honor Days (by director nomination only)

March 14 Hillside Orchestra 6 and 7 Spring Concert 7:00 pm

March 16 Meads Mill Orchestra 6 Spring Concert 7:00 pm

May 26 Grand Finale concert @ NHS 7:00 pm

June 1 Lyra Awards for 8th graders @ NHS 7:00 pm



# Gratitude

Thank you to the many people who  
made this day possible:



- Principal **Brad O'Neill**
- Assistant Principal **Will Lambdin**
- Administrative Assistants **Sharon Wilchowski & Sherri Earle**
- NPS Superintendent **Dr. RJ Webber**
- NPS Assistant Superintendent **Aaron Baughman**
- Administrative Assistant **Teresa Osterhoff**
- NPS Assistant Superintendent **Mike Zopf**
- Administrative Assistant **Deb Converse**
- NPS Director of Instruction **Dr. Sandra Brock**
- **Cristina Muresan**, director of quartet, orchestra parent for her unwavering help and support
- **Lynda Fulgenzi**, for her help with the orchestra, and for teaching private lessons and assisting in rehearsals
- **Robin Taylor, Greg Lanzi, Brian Haverkate, Beth Richert, & Mike Rumbell** for being the best music education staff, and for always being so kind and supportive
- **Tri-M Students** who came to help with staging
- **Chris & Gina Hepp** for helping behind the scenes, technical support with websites and fanouts, being there for me after long hard days ... and weeks. And for "punting" for dinner more often than they should have to.
- **Orchestra families** for instilling the love of music in their children, supporting the program, and allowing me the opportunity to share in their musical journeys!!
- And most of all ... the **young Musicians of Meads Mill and Hillside** who worked so hard to make this concert experience one to share with the community





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