



Berkner Area Orchestra Club



A Message from the President...

Dear Orchestra Students and Parents:

If your calendar looks like mine, you have lots of dates circled and highlighted and it seems like there has been something going on every day in May. The good news is the end is near and summer is coming! For some this means vacation and a time to relax and slow down a little. (You may get so bored that you pull out your instrument a play a few notes.) For others it means graduation and preparation for that next big step in life.

Wherever you go and whatever you do this summer remember the beautiful music we have heard and enjoyed throughout the school year from the orchestras in the BHS cluster. Next year you will have an opportunity to actively support these students by placing ads in concert programs and by volunteering to help in fund raising activities that will benefit BAOC as a whole. Look for more information in the coming months.

As always, "Thank you!" to our wonderful directors and to the parents who encourage these students to do their best. And "Congratulations!" to the graduating seniors. We are proud of your many accomplishments and wish you the best.

Lynn Hoffman
BAOC President, 2009-2010



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Visit the BAOC website at www.berknerorchestra.org

BAOC Information



BAOB board members celebrated Director Craig Needham's STARS award at their recent May board meeting. Members present from left to right, top row: Frank Baek, Ellen Parsonault, Amanda Aiuvalasit, Valerie Siverling, Lynn Hoffman, Stacey Pitney, Mark Davenport, Craig Needham, David Cook and Carl Lorey. Bottom row: Lupita Villarreal, Cheryl Holiwell, and Lynn Thornton. (Pat Fox took the photo. Thank you, Pat.) Members not present : Janet Lattanzi and Jody Cies.

BAOB 2009-2010	
Board of Directors	
President	Lynn Hoffman
VP Fundraising	Frank Baek
VP Newsletter	Amanda Aiuvalasit
Secretary	Carl Lorey
Treasurer	Stacy Pitney
Asst. Treasurer	Ellen Parsonault
Publicity	Pat Fox
Historian	Cheryl Holiwell
Hospitality	Lupita Villarreal & Valerie Siverling



Berkner Ram Orchestra

Director: Craig Needham / 469-593-7028 / e-mail: craig.needham@risd.org
Assistant Director: Mark Davenport / 469-593-7244 / e-mail: mark.davenport@risd.org
Assistant Director: Janet Lattanzi / 469-593-8914 / e-mail: janet.paderewski@risd.org
Berkner Orchestra Office — 469-593-7028



Berkner Ramblings ...

Solo & Ensemble Results

We had 81 participants in this year's RISD Chamber Music Festival (better known as "Solo and Ensemble"). BHS is thrilled to congratulate everyone who participated, especially those who received a "Superior" rating.

"SUPERIOR" SOLOS

VIOLIN: Sandy An, Thomas Baek, John Chang, Bryan Chen, Gina Chou, Jasmine Chowdhury, Jeremiah Dalmacio, Ellen Donaldson, Tiffany Horta, Garrett Jackson, Esther Kang, Karolina Koziol, Tim Issac, Ralph Lee, Jackie Lin, Tiffany Lin, Allison Pitney, Hunter Porter, Veronica Posadas, Precious Raqueno, Benjamin Su, Daisy Su, and Tiffany Wong

VIOLA: James Aiuvalasit, Thomas Baker, Marisa Holiwell, Daphne Hwang, Eric Lam, Virginia Nguyen, Kristen Reichert, Julia Rodriguez, Lisa Sun, and Kyle Wong

CELLO: Alyssa Anderson, Hanna Choi, Paul Hwang, Daniel Machuca, Natalie Sobotka, and Halley Terleski

BASS: Nina Okonkwo

HARP: Lydia Villarreal

"SUPERIOR" ENSEMBLES

VIOLIN DUET: Irfath Khan and Nida Suleman; Haimi Ayalew and Benjamin Su; Karina Fuerte and Tiffany Nguyen

VIOLA DUET: Mijee Park and Cindy Tan

VIOLIN/BASS DUET: Karolina Koziol and Nina Okonkwo

STRING QUARTET: Thomas Baek, Hanna Choi, Benjamin Su, and Lisa Sun; Jeremiah Dalmacio, Ellen Donaldson, Kristen Reichert, and Natalie Sobotka

There were also seven Judge's Honor Awards, given for an exemplary performance:

Thomas Baek, "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso" by Saint-Saens

Garrett Jackson, first movement of the violin concerto by Kabalevsky

Esther Kang, first movement of Sonata IV by J.S. Bach

Hunter Porter, "Air Varie #14" by deBeriot

Tiffany Wong, movements 1 & 2 of Sonata #4 by Handel

Kristen Reichert, "La Matelotte" by Marais

Julia Rodriguez, "Marche Militaire" by Schubert

Again, CONGRATULATIONS to all the participants!



Berkner Ram Orchestra

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Berkner Ramblings continued...



The gracious Oakridge Country Club was the site of this spring's Berkner Orchestra Banquet. 100 attendees shared a meal, reminisced over Cindy Tan's exquisite slideshow, and danced the evening away.

As the 2008-09 school year comes to a close, we want to recognize our departing seniors:

Zach Austin, Molly Brown, Kevin Cheung, Krystal English, Hughes Guan, Paul Hwang, Tim Issac (Salutatorian!), Rachel Johnson, Esther Kang, Nowshin Khan, Justin Ma (Top Ten), Matewos Mekonnen, Daniel Menghisteab, Nancy Ngo, Sally Ngo, Giao Nguyen (Top Ten), Mijee Park, Precious Raqueno, Jasmine Slater, Cindy Tan, and Monica Tong (Top Ten). Keep in touch – we'll really miss you!



Apollo Junior High Panthers

Director: Lynne Thornton/469-593-8015/e-mail: lynne.thornton@risd.org

Assistant Director: Jody Cies/469-593-8016/e-mail: jody.cies@risd.org

Apollo Orchestra Notes

Solo and Ensemble Results: The following students made **first division ratings on their events:**

Violin solo: Jonathan Chari, Miz Ivos, Robyn Lam, Marie Lawrence, Emily Lin, Amy Luu, Kayla Needham, Emily Parsonault, Rebecca Salazar, Camille Tooley, Trini Tran, Steven Zhang, Wing Chik.

CONGRATULATIONS

Viola Solo: Zyanya Bolonos, Alex Sobotka, Ginny Thai, Ellen Zippi, Daniel Wright.

APOLLO CLUSTER !!

Cello Solo: Kimmie Robinson

Ensembles: Luwam Nemarium, Robyn Lam, Emily Wright, Maggie Cortez, Daniel Wright, Kenny Hoang, Rebecca Salazar, Emily Lin, Camille Toley, Jasmine Rivera, Claire Armour, Brianna Keeton, Steven Zhang, Emily Parsonault. Sheely Granados, Taylor Stallcup, Katie Hames, Grace Hoffman, Amber Lo, Amy Luu, Ginny Thai.

In addition, the honor award was presented to Emily Parsonault, Mia Ivos, Marie Lawrence, and Daniel Wright for their solos.

PEAK Music Festival

Both the Concert Orchestra and the Full Symphony Orchestra (strings, winds, percussion) performed at the Eisemann Center on May 11 for the PEAK Music Festival. Both orchestras earned superior ratings, and the Full Symphony Orchestra earned the "Best Orchestra of the Day trophy." Orchestra students then enjoyed a fun afternoon at Main Event in Plano. Thank you to the parents who chaperoned and transported cellos and basses on the PEAK Festival day trip: Sabrina Jarman, Diana Tyropanis, Angela Geoffrion, Lauren Tooley, Alex Salazar, Lynn Hoffman, and Ellen Parsonault.

6th Grade Orchestras Go To Sandy Lake FunFest

On Tuesday, May 12, the combined orchestras of Big Springs, Yale, Dartmouth, Mark Twain, Terrace, and Richland Elementary Schools performed at Sandy Lake FunFest in Carrollton. With the student orchestra numbering 100 members, the judges' comments expressed admiration that such a large orchestra could stay together so well. The orchestra earned both a first division rating and the "Best In Class" trophy. In their free time the students rode thrilling rides and consumed candy and soda.

SPRING CONCERT

The Apollo spring concert will be performed on May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Apollo cafeteria. The concert will include the PEAK festival music and some favorite UIL tunes. There will also be awards and refreshments.

AUDITIONS

Auditions for the 2009-10 Apollo Symphony will be held the last week in May. The audition pieces and scales will be passed out the second week of May. Students will be required to sight read a piece, along with playing the prepared portion of the audition for Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. Cies.

HAWAIIAN FALLS

Apollo students are looking forward to their end of year celebration at Hawaiian Falls in Garland on May 30. Watch for more information coming soon.



Liberty Junior High Patriots

Director: David Cook/ 469-593-7836 /e-mail: david.cook@risd.org



Patriot Notes.....

Contest Ratings Mark A Successful Year!

The various Liberty Orchestras made ALL First Divisions this year. The Advanced Orchestra received unanimous First Divisions in concert and sight-reading at UIL and a First Division at the Sandy Lake Funfest. The Intermediate Orchestra received First Divisions at Sandy Lake and the 6th Grade Orchestra received unanimous First Divisions at Sandy Lake. Our UIL success was featured in the RISD "TUESDAY NOTES". This same story was also featured in "NeighborsGo.com", a Dallas Morning News online newsletter.

Congratulations!!!

Chamber Festival:

Liberty JH and Elementary feeders had 26 students participate in the annual Solo & Ensemble Festival on Saturday, April 25th. Of the 9 sixth grade students from ACE, JHE, OHE and SRE, 8 were awarded a First Division including 1 Honor Award to **Alexandra DiCarlo** from JHE. Of the 17 Junior High students participating, 15 were awarded a First Division rating including 4 Honor Awards to: **Young An, Esther Bae, David Cheung** and **James Lee**.

PTA Concerts:

Forestridge performed at the April PTA meeting on April 23rd. The O.Henry and Springridge orchestras will perform at Family Fun Events at their schools. OHE – Friday, May 8th SRE – May 21st. Richland will perform for the end of the year graduation on June 4th.

Sandy Lake Funfest:

The Intermediate and Advanced orchestras performed on Tuesday, May 12th. Each group received a First Division for their performance. The Sixth Graders from Audelia Creek, Forestridge, Jess Harben, O.Henry and Springridge combined into a 50 piece orchestra. They performed at Sandy Lake on Friday, May 15th. This group was awarded a First Division.

Spring Concert:

The Liberty Cluster Spring Concert will be on Wednesday, May 20th in the Liberty Gymnasium. We will feature our Sandy Lake music plus a couple of other pieces for the JH groups. The Advanced orchestra will be playing Led Zepelin's "Stairway to Heaven", "The Curse of Tutankhamen" including a slide presentation of some of the 1922 photos of the original excavation of Tut's tomb and a piece for violin solo and orchestra, "Danza Latina" featuring **James Lee, eighth grade violinist**.

Six Flags:

The LJH band and orchestra will go to Six Flags on Friday, May 29th. The cost of a ticket and bus transportation is \$30. Money and permission slip is due by Friday, May 22nd. Parents are welcome to join us for the cost of the ticket: \$24.

Senior Thoughts

Upon completion of the Senior year, our seniors have earned a space in this newsletter to share their thoughts. The Orchestra Class of 2009 has 21 seniors. Some of them have shared their thoughts to our top 9 questions:

Senior Questions:

1. What are your plans after graduation?
2. Where are you going to college (if that is your plan)? Or if undecided, where have you applied?
3. What major will you pursue?
4. Why did you join the orchestra?
5. Why have you stayed in as long as you have?
6. What was the most memorable experience you have had?
7. What advice would you give beginners?
8. What are some of your hobbies?
9. List any activities you have participated in at school or in the community since 9th grade.

MOLLY BROWN

1. I will be going off to college to become an elementary school teacher.
2. McMurry University in Abilene
3. Early Childhood Education
4. Because I liked the way orchestra sounded and the instruments didn't have spit that you had to clean out.
5. Because of my friends.
6. Umm...I'm not sure.
7. To stick with it because it's a lot of fun! :)
8. Playing instruments and colorguard.
9. I'm in the colorguard at Berkner and I play the guitar and the violin. Also I'm very active in my church.



KRYSTAL ENGLISH

1. Main goal is to become a pediatric Pulmonologist or Cardiologist. Obtain a PhD in Immunology.
2. Amherst College in Massachusetts
3. Major in Biology or Microbiology/Pre-med, Minor in History or English
4. I joined the orchestra because I did not want my life to be full of science. I love biology and chemistry but I felt as if my mind would stay narrow. Music broadens my imagination from concrete to abstract because music does not require a chemical equation, only emotions, imagination and soul. I knew that Orchestra would help me broaden my mind.
5. Orchestra not only broadened my mind and enriched my soul, but it also became sort of like a "get away" class. Once I entered the Orchestra room, calculus worries, English papers and the problems in my life seemed to disappear. My worries were replaced by creating music and when played right, interpreting what the author wanted the music to represent; what did he want future generations to see.

KEVIN CHEUNG

1. Go to college
2. Richland College
3. undecided
4. Because band took too much effort.
5. Because orchestra is fun.
6. Playing the electric bass during a concert.
7. Don't quit otherwise you're going to miss out.
8. Ping Pong, basketball, and biking.
9. FBCR Youth Group, Berkner Symphony Orchestra 07-09, BAMS

Senior Thoughts

6. My most memorable experience was in Corpus Christi (both trips). Descending upon the HEB store, catching sea shells in the gulf, burying people in sand castles, eating BBQ, accidentally hitting sea gulls with footballs, everything about Corpus Christi was just fantastic. It felt as the orchestra was just one big happy family.
7. I have been playing double bass for 2 years, and even though I have had no prior experience with music, I have still excelled in the instrument. I would have to say work hard and don't lose hope if your music doesn't sound like a masterpiece at first; just keep practicing. If you do feel discouraged, find your favorite song (has the same instrument you play) and listen to that piece to give you some motivation.
8. Surfing the internet, reading, listening to music, playing music on my double bass, watching tv and planning for world domination with my fellow bassist.
9. Chess club, Science Olympiad, Science Fair, Berkner association of medical students. Berkner world affairs club, JROTC, Marsalis youth usher ministry, Marsalis youth ministry, People to People student ambassador alumnus, Lead-America Alumnus, Berkner Girls service society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, the Dog and Kitty city animal shelter, Professional internship program

HUGHES GUAN

1. My plan after I graduate is to go to college
2. At the moment, I am attending Richland College, and I'm going to transfer to Eastfield College during the summer.
3. The major I am going to try and pursue is Biomedical Engineering.
4. The reason why I joined Orchestra was because I thought the Violin was something I would enjoy playing because it sounded very nice.
5. No answer
6. My most memorable experience was when we went on the trips, each year I looked forward to going on the trips.
7. Go with your instincts. Don't back out.
8. Some of my hobbies are going out, playing guitar, Paintballing, mostly going anywhere that's fun.
9. Everything

PAUL HWANG

1. Attend college at a 4 year university.
2. Baylor University
3. Pharmacy or bioengineering
4. I've always loved playing the cello and knew that joining an orchestra would help me grow.
5. Joining an orchestra is like joining a family. Once you're accepted, you no longer have any desires of leaving.
6. Winning first place in the TMEA competition.
7. Play hard. Practice harder. Get involved within the orchestra family. Trust me, school life will be SO much better if you're actively involved with your orchestra.
8. Cello, tennis, taekwondo, golf, soccer, paintball, fun stuff :)
9. Co-founder of Berkner Association of Medical Students, Berkner Tennis Team, church praise band, church youth group officer, nationals taekwondo competitor, and best of all, Symphony orchestra since 2006.

ESTHER KANG

1. GOLF
2. UTA, Baylor, or Bethany College
3. Interior Design
4. Because it's more fun than Band.
5. Because of friends,—music is fun when we can actually play it well.
6. Colorado '07
7. I'll be a hypocrite and say "PRACTICE"
8. Golf, Basketball, Soccer, Ping Pong
9. Varsity Basketball, Varsity Golf, National Honor Society, Japanese Club, Symphony Orchestra / Philharmonic, Key Club, BAMS (Berkner Association o Medical Students)



Senior Thoughts

NOWSHIN KHAN

1. To become a pediatrician
2. Applied to The University of Texas at Dallas
3. Pre-med
4. I've always wanted to play an instrument, particularly the violin.
5. Every year has been fun and exciting, and I wanted to stay close to the friends I had made, because they'd be with me throughout high school. The students and teachers also had a strong bond, like one big happy family!
6. Going on our annual spring trip, it was a great way to see a different "outside school" side to everyone, especially the directors!
7. Orchestra is great fun!! You'll create memories and friendships that'll last a lifetime. It required a lot of dedication and hard work, but the results are completely worth it.
8. Dance, creative writing, and the violin
9. National Honor Society, Berkner Girls Service Society, Berkner Association of Medical Students, Elementary Teaching Intern, Key Club, and Orchestra!

JUSTIN MA

1. Find a job, have fun, and go to college.
2. UT-Austin
3. Biology, but planning to try to double major
4. Is orchestra not good enough for me to need a reason to?
5. You need to finish what you start.
6. My memorable box is small and I lost the key.
7. If at first you don't succeed, try again and again.
8. Watch Anime, games, interesting things.
9. Mu Alpha Theta, NHS, etc.



NANCY NGO

1. A group of my friends plan on going on a senior camping trip. Then after that I plan to work during the summer as an upcoming pharmacy technician. I'm excited for a fun filled summer.
2. I will be attending The University of Texas at Austin
3. Right now I'm majoring in biology, but I plan to change that to pre-pharmacy.
4. Honestly, I wanted to play the clarinet but my mom said it was too expensive, so I chose the violin instead. With that said, I'm glad clarinets cost too much.
5. Orchestra is like a family to me. I've learned and grown from all the experiences I've encountered and also I've gained so many memories and friendships through orchestra.
6. I've loved all Spring trips. Each year has its own special memory.
7. Don't give up. Learning something new takes time, you can't expect to be brilliant the first time you pick up an instrument.
8. I love hanging out with friends, watching my T.V. shows, and just having fun.
9. Berkner Girls Service Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Key Club, Berkner Association of Medical Students.

SALLY NGO

1. College
2. UT at Austin
3. Biology
4. It seemed less obnoxious than band back in 6th grade and it sounded a great deal more "pretty" if you could call 6th grade orchestra that.
5. It's always been fun since the very beginning and somehow I managed to enjoy playing.
6. Every year's orchestra trip, although, freshman orchestra was an awesomely fun experience. Those were the good old days when we were so naïve and we didn't even know it.
7. Concentrate on the conductor! And be best friends with your stand partner!
8. Chilling and sleeping, yeah!
9. NHS, JNHS, Mu Alpha Theta, BAMS, Japanese Club

Senior Thoughts

GIAO NGUYEN

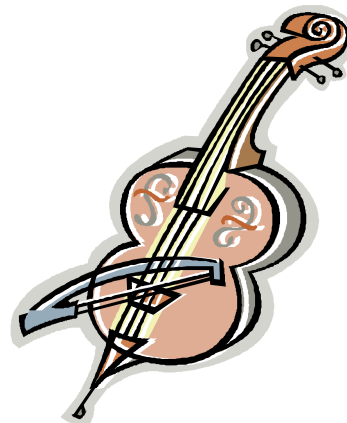
1. I plan to work to save up for college while enjoying my summer and making lots of memories.
2. The University of Texas at Austin
3. Business at Red McComb's School of Business
4. I loved the sound of the violin and I wanted to find a place where I belonged.
5. Orchestra has taught me a lot and it was nice to meet such friendly, unique, and nice people.
6. 2007 Colorado trip.
7. Be open to meeting new people and making friends before you're a senior and you realize, "Wow, I don't know anyone."
8. I love meeting new people and exploring new activities.
9. Berkner Association of Medical Students, National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Key Club, Berkner Girls Service Society, Japanese Club, Art Club, 30 Hour Famie, Carter BloodCare Drive

MIJEE PARK

1. College
2. The University of Texas at Austin
3. Pre-Nursing
4. Inspired by Yanni :)
5. Music is my passion. (and friends, of course)
6. First trip to Corpus Christi
7. Don't give up now. It only gets better from here!
8. Piano, guitar, writing songs.
9. Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Dallas Church of Light Choir, DEPC Choir, DEPC Orchestra, DEPC Youth Group, Japanese Club, Key Club, BGSS (Berkner Girls Service Society), BAMS.

PRECIOUS RAQUENO

1. Going to college
2. UT Austin
3. As of now, Biology. Then I'll probably be going into Medicine.
4. A number of my family members are musically talented. I guess orchestra was my opportunity to become one of the "musically talented" members of my family.
5. Orchestra has always been something different since day one, but different in a good way. From the amazing program and great teachers to extraordinary kids and ridiculously fun times. It's kinda hard to explain what made me stay. There are a lot of reasons worth mentioning, but too much to actually list out.
6. There are a lot of crazy things that happen in orchestra that are memorable. But what sticks out the most? Probably the time when Mijee and I WHOOPED Mr. Needham's butt in badminton. I hope he's still not crying about it...just kidding! :)
7. Stick with orchestra. It's life-changing. No joke. And practice even if it doesn't make perfect, it'll make you better. Better is always good.
8. I enjoy sports. I play the acoustic guitar now and then. Sometimes I attempt to sing. My friends are always fun to hang out with.
9. Orchestra, of course. NHS, BAMS (that's all I can really remember.)



Senior Thoughts

CINDY TAN

1. I plan on having one unforgettable summer before pursuing my dreams in college.
2. University of Texas at Austin. Hook 'em Horns! :)
3. Biology
4. I've always had my eyes on the violin because my sister played it when she was younger. Additionally, I wanted to be involved in something more than just academic work.
5. Being in orchestra never was a negative experience for me. I met many new people, formed strong friendships, went to many new places, and discovered a talent that I would love to keep. Missing school is always a plus.
6. There is not one memory from my seven years of orchestra that I could distinguish as better than all of the others. If I were to choose the first one that comes to mind, I would say that one amazing, unforgettable experience from being in orchestra was going to San Antonio for winning Texas String Honor Orchestra the 2006-2007 school year.
7. Strive to be the best and don't give up. Be patient with learning and, who knows? You could end up in the top group at Berkner and be a part of an amazing group of gifted, smart, and talented students that will become your life-long friends.
8. Reading, whatever happens to float my boat—shopping, hanging out with friends, studying, staying in, sleeping.
9. Winter guard '06, Berkner Association of Medical Students, Key Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Junior Honor Society, National Honor Society, French Club, French Honor Society, TXML, TEAMS, Berkner Girls' Service Society, volunteering at multiple animal shelters.



MONICA TONG

1. Go to Taiwan in the summer, then go to college in the fall.
2. Carnegie Mellon University
3. Architecture
4. In elementary school I wanted to play an instrument but wasn't sure of which one. In the end, I picked violin because all my friends at the time joined orchestra.
5. Orchestra has always been a favorite class of mine these four years. It's a daily reprieve from all the monotonous school work we have every day. On top of that, orchestra is also a fun class I can enjoy with all my friends.
6. The most memorable experience I ever had in orchestra was the Colorado trip where I skied for the first time and instead of soaring safely, I ended up crashing into a tree.
7. Just relax and have fun.
8. Taekwondo, hanging out with my friends, computer games
9. NHS, Academic Decathlon, BLIA Young Adult Division, Mu Alpha Theta, JNHS, Japanese Club



FROM THE BAOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WE WISH EACH OF YOU AND THE ENTIRE 2009 GRADUATING CLASS ALL THE BEST AS YOU GO OUT AND *TAKE ON THE WORLD...*