



Berkner Area Orchestra Club

A Message from the President...



Dear Berkner Area Orchestra family:

For the past 3 years, I have had the privilege to serve as the Orchestra Board President and to work with an outstanding group of parents.

2010-2011 Board of Directors:

Stacy Ashmore, Gwen Austin, Frank Baek, Janell DiCarlo, Pat Fox, Teri Lawrence, Ellen Parsoneault, and Lupita Villarreal.

According to our mission statement:

The BAOC's aim is to support and promote the RISD orchestras in the Berkner area. Our commitment is to:

- Ensure that the financial support is in place to allow the orchestras freedom of choice with regard to concerts, competitions, and new instruments.
- Provide publicity to ensure enhanced community interest in our orchestras.
- Encourage larger audience attendance at the concerts from both within and outside the area schools.
- Support the orchestra directors whenever possible to allow them more time to do what they do best...teach.

We could not make this happen without the support of our board of directors. Tonight we say a big thank you to the following volunteers who are leaving the board at the end of this term:

Stacy Ashmore – Treasurer

Pat Fox – Newsletter and past Publicity

Frank Baek – Fund Raising and past Web-master

As these folks move on, we wish them well and are extremely grateful for their contributions to the BAOC.

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU ON THE BAOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS! We meet for one hour once a month.

Please contact any board member or director if you are interested in serving in the following areas: Fund Raising (Identify, coordinate and oversee fund raising activities that will benefit the overall BAOC program) or Historian (Collect photos, news articles, and other items pertaining to the BAOC students and their activities).

As we share the evening with our orchestra students, please say thank you to our wonderful directors: Craig Needham, Mark Davenport, Janet Lattanzi, Lynne Thornton, Jody Cies and Amanda Su and to all those who serve this organization in so many ways.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hoffman
BAOC President

2011-2012 Board Members

President	Lynn Hoffman
Secretary	Teri Lawrence
Treasurer	Rebecca Woods
Asst. Treasurer	Ellen Parsoneault
Publicity	Janell DiCarlo
Historian	
Hospitality	Lupita Villarreal & Gwen Austin
Newsletter	Francy Collins
Fundraising	

Berkner Ram Orchestra

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



Chamber Music Festival Results

SOLOS

Jessica Alvarado - I
Esther Bae - I
Thomas Baker - II
David Cheung - I
Hanna Choi - I Honors
Jasmine Chowdhury - I
Jesse Dadres - I
Katie Hames - I
Colin Horton - I Honors
Will Hughes - I Honors
Garrett Jackson - I Honors
Hiuching Kam - I
Texas Keeton - I
Mandy Kok - I

Eric Lam - I
Jennifer Lam - I
Kimberly Larson - II
Marie Lawrence - I Honors
James Lee - I
Richard Lee - I
Emily Lin - I Honors
Tiffany Lin - I Honors
Amber Lo - II
Daniel Machuca - I
David Ni - I Honors
Emily Parsoneault - I
Kristen Reichert - I
Daisy Su - I
Halley Terleski - I

Camille Tooley - I Honors
Andrew Tran - I
Tuan Tran - I
Tiffany Wong - I Honors
Emily Wright - I
Ellen Zippi - I

ENSEMBLES

John Chang/David Cheung - I
Hanna Choi/Will Hughes -
I Honors
Hiuching Kam/Richard Lee - I
Eric Lam/Daniel Wright - II

CONGRATULATIONS to all the participants!

Please join us on Tuesday, May 24th, at 6 p.m. in the BHS Auditorium

for the Berkner Grand Finale Concert,



as we bid farewell to our graduating seniors

with a wonderful concert and the annual senior slide show

Berkner Ram Orchestra

Director: Craig Needham / 469-593-7028 / e-mail: craig.needham@risd.org
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Associate Director: Janet Lattanzi / 469-593-8914 / e-mail: janet.paderewski@risd.org

Berkner Ramblings... continued

As this year closes, we say a fond farewell to our beloved Seniors and wish them all the happiness and success in the world.

Ayalew, Haimi

Baek, Thomas

Chang, John

Cheng, Jessica

Choi, Hanna

Chou, Gina

Chowdhury, Jasmine

Fox, Carrie

Franco, Jesse

Fuerte, Karina

Giang, Kimberly

Gomez, Paul

Horta, Tiffany

Kao, Melody

Larson, Kimberly

Machuca, Daniel

McDaniel, Cody

Nguyen, Tammy

Nguyen, Virginia (Gina)

Omstead, Josh

Parcon, Camille

Pitney, Allison

Posadas, Veronica

Siverling, Kathryn

Su, Benjamin

Su, Daisy

Sun, Lisa

Tzou, Winona

Vo, Jennifer

Wong, Kyle



FROM THE BAOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WE WISH EACH OF YOU AND THE ENTIRE 2011 GRADUATING CLASS ALL THE BEST AS YOU GO OUT AND *TAKE ON THE WORLD...*

Apollo Junior High Panthers

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

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



Symphony Orchestra earns Sweepstakes at UIL! Congratulations!

Concert Orchestra earns Sweepstakes at UIL! Congratulations!

Thank you to our parent chaperones for our UIL events!



Solo and Ensemble Results

The following students earned a first division rating:

Violin solo: Ronald Chan, Joshua Chari, Angel Cheng, Ben Damkroger, Kiet Hau, Sendy James, Emma Petty, Kelly Robinson, Emma Swope, Erika Torres, Paul Vu

Viola solo: Jojo Aung, Nicole King, Kiasha Robinson, Jenny Salazar, Matilyn Thomas, Karl Wong

Cello solo: Landon Adcock, Terance Hartidge, Suzie O'Michael, Joe Zippi

Bass solo: Rodney Darare, James Mairs

Ensembles: Alex Buchanan, Saharia Espinoza, Brandy Leising, Heather Lo, Karen Nava, Nancy Vuong, Tressa Watts, Shelby Wood

The following solos and ensembles earned a first division rating plus an Honor Award:

Violin: Kelsey Auldridge, Elissa Dabaghi, Kayla Needham, Victor Granados, Scott Wright, Wen Yu

Viola: Jojo Aung, Daniel Choi

Cello: Graciela Jimenez, Nicole Radabaugh

Ensembles: Kelsey Auldridge, Joshua Chari, Elissa Dabaghi, Ben Damkroger, Jacob Martin, Alex Morrow, Kayla Needham, Emma Petty, Nicole Radabaugh, Kiasha Robinson



Liberty Junior High Patriots

Director: Amanda Su /469-593-7836 / e-mail: amanda.su@risd.org



Congratulations to the Liberty Jr. High Varsity Orchestra on UIL Sweepstakes!!!

The Advanced Orchestra did a fabulous job at **UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest** on March 10th earning a unanimous 1st Division rating by all six judges in both concert and sight-reading!

The Richardson ISD Chamber Music Festival was a huge success! It was held on Thursday, April 21st at Lake Highlands Jr. High School. We had over forty entries and everybody did a great job! Congratulations to the following students on their awards.

1st Division with Honors: HeeChul Shin; HeeJin Shin; HeeChul & HeeJin Shin Duet; Quartet: David Nguyen, Briquette Thompson, Amber Nguyen, Rachel Bae; Alejandro Garcia; Brandon Nguyen; Elsi Robles; Jon-Paul Pereira; Jinny Nguyen; and Lily Luu.

1st Division: Ally DiCarlo; Hawky Nguyen; David Nguyen; Octet: HeeChul Shin, Hawky Nguyen, Monica Rentowski, Eun-zie Choe, Lucy Collins, Lyna Nguyen, HeeJin Shin, and Ally DiCarlo; Trio: Emily Adame, Evelyn Gason, Amanda Owen; Nelly Umana; Trio: Alex Downs, Asher Woodman, Brandon Campos; Sophia Sacco; Rachel Lulseged; Madison Martinez; Angela Edens; Amna Bhatti; Demi Yang; Nelly Umana; Tshion Assefa; Grace Yoon; Tommy Fodor; Nathalie Aguilar; Edwin Ramirez; Ashley Deatherage; Velisa Allen; Quynh-Anh Nguyen; Brianna Gomez; Madison Cocklin; and Vivian Nguyen.

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 2011 has 30 seniors. Some of them have shared their thoughts to our top 5 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? What major will you pursue?
 3. Why did you join the orchestra?
 4. What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen?
 5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra?

Thomas Baek

1. What are your plans after graduation?

Go to college and major in chemistry and physics and minor in music.

3. Why did you join orchestra?

I didn't want to do band and had already started playing the violin since first grade.

4. What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen?

Look up at the conductor ALL THE TIME!!!!

5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra?

Winning all the trophies last year at Winter Park and chanting "NEEDHAM!!!"

John Chang

1. What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I'm going to try to find a summer job possibly at Starbucks, relax my mind away from school, rest up my mind physically and men-

tally, work out so that I'll be "eye candy" even MORE so, get a new hair style, and then get ready for another four more years at college!

2. Where are you going to college (if that is your plan)? Or if undecided, where have you applied? What major will you pursue?

I'm going to attend the University of Texas at Dallas and as of right now I believe that I'm going to be "undecided." I AM an eighteen year old kid and I really have no idea what I'll possibly become. My teachers all advised me to stick with "undecided" and enroll in some classes that I'm interested in so that I'll possibly find what type of major I WILL like. Then from those experiences, I'll narrow it down and decide my major.

3. Why did you join orchestra?

I joined orchestra because playing the violin isn't just a talent that I have nor a skill, it's a passion. I love creating real music during class and outside of class. It'll be a waste for 10 years of private lessons if I DIDN'T join orchestra in the first place. Playing the violin, in my perspective, is also a good stress reliever! The orchestra room and the class



itself is like a my "family." I don't know where I'll be in high school if I wasn't in orchestra.

4. What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen?

Advice that I would possibly give to the beginners or underclassmen would be for you guys to follow what your heart tells you to do! Orchestra really will enrich your high school experience so you guys should TOTALLY do that! Also? Aside from the fine arts, I would just say as an 18-year-old for you guys to live your life while in high school. Despite one finding out herself or himself, trying to fit in throughout the different social strata, stress from school, family problems, and everything else, try and be positive! What's the worst that can happen from being POSITIVE? Learn from the past, Live for the present, and Hope for tomorrow.

5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra?

Honestly, every memory that I have ever had with the Berkner orchestra was memorable. The spring trips, the concerts, the friends made, the experience, the fun, the memories, the pot luck dinners, the orchestra banquets, the picnics, the car washes, the girls, the boys, the UIL contests, the solo and ensemble contests, and even the playing tests! But from ALL of these memories....I would definitely say that the Corpus Christi Trips are THE BEST! Once at Corpus, students are finally able to befriend new strangers and start new friendships.

It's also a nice break and stress reliever from school work and AP classes.

Friendships are able to grow even further and even some romantic flings may spring up from nowhere. So what's my favorite and most memorable experience I've had with the Berkner Orchestra? I got one place, two words, and one memory.

CORPUS CHRISTI!

Jessica Cheng

What are your plans after graduation? Go to college, become an engineer in the near future

Where are you going to college (if that is your plan)? Or if undecided, where have you applied? What major will you pursue?

I will be attending The University of Texas at Dallas and major in software engineering.

Why did you join the orchestra? Because all my friends are in it

What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen? Work hard, practice, make friends, and enjoy being a part of orchestra

What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra? Corpus Christi Trip!

Hanna Choi

1. What are your Plans after graduation?

Chilling.

2. Where are you going to College? What major will you pursue?

SMU- Business

3. Why did you join the orchestra?

I didn't want to be in the marching band and because I liked the cello sound.

4. What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen? Quality practice over long after of non concentrated practice.

5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra? Orchestra trips and playing great music with the people I love.



Jasmine Chowdhury

1. What are your Plans after graduation?

My plans after i graduate is to go to college.

2. Where are you going to College? What major will you pursue?

I plan to go to the University of Texas at Dallas, I plan to major in Mechanical engineering.

3. Why did you join the orchestra?

I joined orchestra because I enjoyed the sound of the violin and the different styles of music the orchestra gets to perform.

4. What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen?

I would tell them to enjoy their time in the Berkner Orchestra because before you know it, it's all over and time for you to leave all the friends you have made from playing music.

5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner Orchestra?

The most memorable part of orchestra were all of our spring trips, competitions, and spending those times with my friends.

Carrie Fox

1. What are your plans after graduation?

Try to take over the world. Failing that I'm going to UT Dallas and study Animation and Engineering.

3. Why did you join the orchestra?

I played violin in 3rd grade and had to stop, so it was to continue something I really enjoyed when I started again in sixth grade.

4. What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen?

If you don't have a sense of humor yet, I suggest you get one. Life is so much better when you can laugh at yourself.

5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra?

Even if it was fairly recent, the burning of the cello on the beach is so vivid to me. I thought a Viking burial at sea would have been fun, but not very good for the ocean. So that or when we played *Nessun Dorma* a few years ago, and the crescendo resonated through the hall was a favorite of mine.

Kimberly Giang

1. What are your plans after graduation?

I will spend my summer in the Academic Bridge Program at UTD, and then starting college in the fall.

2. Where are you going to college (if that is your plan)? Or if undecided, where have you applied? What major will you pursue?

I will be attending the University of Texas at Dallas in the fall.

3. Why did you join the orchestra?

At first, I just joined orchestra because I didn't like



the band, and I didn't want to NOT be in any extracurricular activities. But as the years passed, I stayed in orchestra because it is like my second home, and the people in it are like my second family.

4. What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen?

Even though playing the violin, or whatever instrument you've chosen, may seem hard and impossible at first, just keep on practicing. It really does make a difference.

5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra?

The most memorable experience that I've had with the Berkner orchestra was the times we went to our trips. Being able to spend four days with everyone was really the best part of the whole entire year and it was extremely fun.

Kimberly Larson

1. What are your plans after graduation? - I plan to start college this fall.

2. Where are you going to college (if that is your plan)? Or if undecided, where have you applied? What major will you pursue? - I'm going to the University of Oklahoma and I'm studying Theater.

3. Why did you join the orchestra? - Because I thought that the violin was a beautiful instrument, and because I didn't want to join band.

4. What advice would you give beginners or the

underclassmen? - PRACTICE, and If you stop having an interest in your instrument, stop playing. Don't let other people force you to continue with something you have no passion for.

5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra? - Last year on the Colorado trip, the last night we were there, at the award ceremony. I remember the announcer kept calling Berkner's name for award after award, and then it got to the final award, the best orchestra of the entire competition. Everyone held their breath as the announcer paused and then called out "The Berkner Symphony Orchestra!". We exploded! Everyone started screaming at the top of their lungs, and jumping up and down, and then we all started chanting "Berkner, Berkner, Berkner!". I'd never been so proud and excited to be apart of the orchestra. Best moment ever.

Daniel Machuca

1. Go to Brazil to work at a school for the summer.
2. Going to UNT. Still undecided about major.
3. I joined Orchestra because my brother played Viola.
4. If you love music, don't ever stop playing.
5. The trips to Corpus Christi were an absolute blast.



Tammy Nguyen

- 1. My plan after graduation is to have one final summer together with all my close friends before we all go off to college.
- 2. University of Texas at Dallas; Neuroscience
- 3. I joined orchestra because of the wonderful music that could be generated. It was my goal to stick with a musical instrument and the opportunity popped up at the end of my fifth grade year. Little did I know, that what kept me coming back year after year was the people in orchestra and the directors.
- 4. My advice to beginners or underclassmen would be to continue staying in orchestra. There may be moments of frustrations, but I can truly guarantee to everyone that there will be many more moments of joy. Also to challenge themselves. Audition for the higher level orchestra, try out for the solos, trust me that it won't be the end of the world if you don't make it. At least you tried.
- 5. My most memorable experience with the Berkner orchestra was the Corpus trip during senior year. From rooming with the craziest dancers in the world to losing to the real seniors of the Berkner orchestra to just about everything else in between. I have grown closer with so many of the seniors and it's a bittersweet thing to know that we all will be graduating in a matter of days.

Virginia Nguyen

- 1. Due to our graduation ceremony scheduled to start at 8:30pm, my plan after graduation is to go straight to bed.
- 2. I will be attending the University of Texas at

Austin, majoring in Pre-pharmacy.

- 3. Fiddle looked fun.
- 4. Be on time to every event. Your life will have less rants from your directors about your lack of responsibility.
- 5. There are too many to choose from. Every moment I spent with the orchestra I cherished. However, the 7am rehearsals weren't my favorite.

Camille Parcon

- 1. What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to see all of my four years of high school's hard work being paid off and enjoy my summer break before University!

- 2. Where are you going to college (if that is your plan)? Or if undecided, where have you applied? What major will you pursue?

I am attending Texas Woman's University and majoring in Nursing.

- 3. Why did you join the orchestra?

One of my best friends convinced me to join orchestra my sophomore year, and the yearly orchestra trips also had something to do with my decision to join orchestra.

- 4. What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen?

Practice makes perfect; it is simply nothing but the truth!

- 5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra?

My very last Corpus Christi 2011 Trip is the most memorable experience I have had with the Berkner Orchestra. I finally learned how to make cake balls!!



Allison Pitney

1. After I graduate I'm going to have a great summer with my friends, go to New York, get ready for college, and maybe enter into some barrel races.
2. I'm going to Texas A&M College Station where I am going to major in mathematics.
3. I joined orchestra back in 6th grade because I didn't want to join band and I had to join something. I stuck with it because it was fun and an easy 100!
4. Live everyday to the fullest because yesterday already happened and tomorrow may never come. Regret nothing!
5. This last orchestra trip I had was just memorable in general and the best trip ever! The best thing that happened was probably when Tiffany, Camille, Winona, and I turned the big lights in the tennis courts off when everyone was playing ultimate frisbee. Sorry you guys but it was HYSTERICAL!!!!!!

Daisy Su - Symphony Orchestra

1. I plan to attend college and then continue to graduate school to become a physical therapist.
2. I will be attending the University of Texas at Austin next year with a kinesiology major to help me take prerequisite courses for PT school.
3. Students should join orchestra because it is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Berkner orchestra has been such a great experience where I've made many friends and unforgettable memories.
4. I would advise beginners and underclassman to enjoy orchestra and playing their instruments because it's really a privilege to get to play with such a great orchestra program here at Berkner.

5. Orchestra itself was a very memorable experience, but if I were to choose one it would have to be the spring trips to Corpus Christi and Colorado. I loved being able to go on mini vacations with my closest friends and the memories we made are unforgettable from learning how to ski to winning the contests and of course to burning a cello on the beach.

LISA SUN

1. What are your plans after graduation?

Pursuing my dreams to become a nurse and to traveling to other countries.

2. Where are you going to college (if that is your plan)? Or if undecided, where have you applied? What major will you pursue?

UNT pre-med then transferring to either Baylor or UT Southwestern Medical School

3. Why did you join the orchestra?

My passion for music and I will continue to carry on this passion throughout my life.

4. What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen?

If you can dream it, you can do it. Don't ever give up no matter what people tell you.

5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra?

Going on our Colorado trip all together and competing against other groups. I just love coming to an environment where students all love what I love to do. Which is to make amazing music out of our instruments all together. It's an experience where we all work together. I LOVE THAT FEELING. UNITY. You don't get that in other classes.



Winona Tzou

What are your plans after graduation?

Attending college and wanting to pursue a career in pediatrics

Where are you going to college (if that is your plan)? Or if undecided, where have you applied?

What major will you pursue?

University of Texas at Austin; Biology

Why did you join the orchestra?

I joined orchestra because my friend persuaded me to join with her, but I stayed in orchestra because it was fun getting to meet more people and I enjoy playing the viola.

What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen?

Bring a pencil with you everyday and make marks on the spots you are having trouble with and have fun!

What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra?

The most memorable experience I have had with the Berkner orchestra is this year when we went to Corpus Christi.

Jennifer Vo

- 1. My plan is to go to college.
- 2. University of Texas at Dallas. I am still unsure of what I'm majoring in but it will be either Biology or Business.
- 3. I joined Orchestra because it seemed like a fun class to take and I have always wanted to play the violin.
- 4. My advice for beginner "Orch Dorks" would be to practice, have fun, and enjoy the time you have

in Orchestra!

5. My most memorable experience would be the Corpus trips. They were so much fun!

Kyle Wong

1. What are your plans after graduation?

I'll probably spend time with my senior classmates and enjoy the rest of summer before going to college.

2. Where are you going to college (if that is your plan)? Or if undecided, where have you applied?

I'm attending the University of Texas at Dallas and I've been accepted

2a. What major will you pursue?

Kinesiology, basically Physical Therapy

3. Why did you join the orchestra?

Most of closest friends joined orchestra before me, and I knew that it was a great environment. The relationship with the students and especially the teachers was great.

4. What advice would you give beginners or the underclassmen?

Join orchestra, it'll definitely be your second family. Since joining orchestra in 6th grade, I've made plenty of friends and we've gotten very close. We're family.

5. What was the most memorable experience you have had with the Berkner orchestra?

All the great times we had during our spring trips, and all the orchestra events we had. I'll definitely miss everyone in orchestra; from the students

