



Berkner Area Orchestra Club

A Message from The President

A big congratulations to all the Berkner Area orchestras who competed in UIL. Through snow and ice, you all persevered. What fantastic ratings for all of our orchestras!

I'd also like to say thank you to all of you who continue to support the orchestra program by helping your BAOC in its fundraising activities that support the private lesson program. Car washes and CiCi's Pizza nights are two events that fund the scholarship program. In addition, our wonderful board members in charge of fundraising, Paul and Barb Granados, will be hosting an afterschool Smoothie Sale in April. We'll send out more information as the date gets closer. The scholarship program will also be more than happy to receive any monetary gifts. You can contact an orchestra director to find out how that works. All gifts are tax deductible. Please keep in mind, every little bit helps fund our scholarship program.

Lastly, I'd like to start putting a bug in your ear about joining the Berkner Area Orchestra Club Board. We will have a few positions open next year since some of our board members are graduating. The orchestra board is an easy organization to be a part of because:

- We have about six meetings throughout the school year.
- Our meetings are usually about an hour long.
- The work outside the meetings does not take that much time out of your busy day.
- You'll get the opportunity to travel with the students on their yearly trip.
- You'll get to hang with other people who support music.

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in learning more about, please don't hesitate to contact me at: dicarlojanell@gmail.com, or you can talk to one of the orchestra directors. We'd love to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,
Janell DiCarlo
 BAOC President, 2013-2015

Upcoming Events

- Thur-Sun, Apr 16-19, Corpus Christi
BHS Spring Trip
- Fri, Apr 24, Wakeland HS, Frisco
AJH at PEAK Music Festival
- Sat, Apr 25, Lake Highlands FC
Richardson Chamber Music Festival
- Apr 29 & 30
LJH Elementary Recruiting Tours
- Mon, May 4, 6:45 pm
LJH 6th Grade Sandy Lake Preview Show
- Tue, May 5
LJH 6th Graders at Sandy Lake
- Thur, May 7
LJH 7th & 8th Graders at Sandy Lake
- Fri, May 8, AJH Gym
AJH Symphony: 5th Grade Recruiting Concert
- May 16, 18, 21
LJH 5th Grade Instrument Selection Nights
- Mon, May 18, 7 pm, AJH
AJH Spring Concert
- Tue, May 19, 7 pm, LJH Large Gym
LJH Spring Concert
- May 19 & 27, AJH
AJH 5th Grade Instrument Drives
- Wed, May 20, 6-10 pm, Richardson Civic Center
BHS Orchestra Banquet
- Tue, May 26, 7 pm, BHS Auditorium
BHS Grand Finale Concert

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www.berknerorchestra.org

Visit often for news and calendar updates!



Berkner Orchestra Notes



Director: Craig Needham • 469-593-7028 • craig.needham@risd.org
Associate Director: Lynne Thornton • 469-593-7244 • lynne.thornton@risd.org
Associate Director: Adam Pratt • 469-593-7028 • adam.pratt@risd.org

Berkner Sweeps UIL!

The Berkner Orchestra competed at UIL Contest at Rockwall Heath HS on February 26 and Berkner HS on March 2. All three Berkner Orchestras received 1's on stage and in sight reading and were awarded Sweepstakes Awards!

- Concert Orchestra, Mr. Pratt
- Philharmonic Orchestra, Mrs. Thornton and Mr. Bronson
- Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Needham

Because of the weather, the contest on February 27 was canceled and we ended up hosting the make-up day at Berkner on Monday, March 2 and the Philharmonic and Symphony orchestras both performed! Our staff, students, and parents stepped up in typical Berkner fashion and made all of this happen! We are the only school in our Region to take two full orchestras and to have three separate groups earn sweepstakes awards!

Richardson Chamber Music Festival

RCMF will be at the Lake Highlands Freshmen Center on Saturday, April 25. This is the Richardson ISD version of Solo and Ensemble and we will have many students participating.

Corpus Trip!

On April 16-19, 80 Berkner Orchestra students will hit the beach! We are preparing to perform at the South Coast Music Festival and are looking forward to some sun and sand!

Banquet

Our Orchestra Banquet is on May 20 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Richardson Civic Center. Tickets will go on sale in May and will be \$25.

Grand Finale Concert

Our end of year concert is on Tuesday, May 26 in the Berkner auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

Quartet Performs at Eisemann

On January 31, a string quartet from Berkner performed at the Heart for the Arts Banquet at the Eisemann. The students were Elissa Dabaghi, Kelsey Auldridge, Daniel Choi, and Nicole Radabaugh. They were stunning!



Berkner Alum Performs with College Orchestra!

On Tuesday, March 31, the Northwestern State Louisiana Orchestra performed at Berkner. The principal cellist of this orchestra is Berkner alum, Collin Horton! (See photo on page 5.)





Apollo Orchestra Notes



Director: Ashley Johnson • 469-593-8015 • ashley.johnson@risd.org
Associate Director: Jody Cies • 469-593-8016 • jody.cies@risd.org

UIL Concert & Sightreading

Both the Concert Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra performed at UIL Concert and Sightreading on March 4 at Lake Highlands Freshman Center. The students played beautifully and each orchestra earned STRAIGHT ONES from all 6 judges earning them SWEEPSTAKES trophies! Congrats Apollo!



Ram Fest

The Concert Two Orchestra performed at Ram Fest at Berkner High School! They received Superior ratings from the judge and it was an enjoyable performance! Mr. Chase Fickling, our student teacher, had his CONDUCTING DEBUT at this event! We went to Ci-Ci's to celebrate. Congrats Concert Two Orchestra!



Chamber Music Festival

Many Apollo Orchestra students will participate in the Richardson Chamber Music Festival on April 25 at Lake Highlands Freshman Center. Students will play prepared solos and ensembles that they have been practicing in class for three weeks. Good luck, Apollo Orchestra members!

More Upcoming Dates

Symphony performs Recruiting Concert for 5th graders, May 8, Apollo gym.

Spring Concert, Monday, May 18, 7:00 p.m.

Apollo Fine Arts Day at Six Flags, May 22.

Instrument Drive Nights for 5th graders, May 19 and May 27.

PEAK Festival & Main Event Trip

On **Friday, April 24**, Apollo's Combined Concert Orchestra and Full Orchestra will perform in the PEAK Music Festival at Wakeland HS in Frisco. We will all go to Main Event in Plano for an afternoon of fun!





Liberty Orchestra Notes



Director: Kandra Parks • 469-593-7836 • kandra.parks@risd.org

UIL & Ramfest

The LJH Varsity Orchestra performed "Ironclad" by Sean O'Loughlin, "English Folksong" by Terry McQuilkin, and "Sahara Crossing" by Richard Meyer. The judges awarded them **straight ones** on stage, and stated that they were particularly impressed with the orchestra's dynamic phrasing and clean execution.

The LJH NonVarsity (NV) Orchestra performed "Dragonhunter" by Richard Meyer, "Medieval Kings" by Soon He Newbold, and "Sailors' Song" by Mark Williams. Liberty has never taken a NV group to UIL before, so this was their inaugural debut! They really set the bar high for subsequent NV Orchestras by earning a "clean sweep," **straight ones** both on stage and in sightreading. Judges commented that the song selections were just right and allowed the students to show off their excellent tuning, dynamic expression, and technical skills.

The LJH SubNonVarsity Orchestra participated in Ramfest, where they performed "Sailor's Song" by Mark Williams, and "Medieval Kings" by Soon He Newbold. The SNV Orchestra demonstrated much progress and gave a **solid performance**. At this event students received commentary, and Clinician Ms. Latanzi worked with them on stage, giving professional pointers.

Following their contest performances, each group enjoyed pizza and games at CiCi's Pizza!

New Director!

We are pleased to announce that, beginning next year, Liberty Junior High will have **two orchestra directors!** The search for just the right person is under way, but no decision has been made yet.

Upcoming Events

- Wed, April 15 Rhythm Final Assessment
- Thu, April 16 6th grade PTA Performance at Forestridge Elementary
- Sat, April 25 RISD Chamber Music Festival
- Fri, April 29-30 Elementary Recruiting Tours
- Mon, May 4 6th grade Orchestra Sandy Lake preview show, 6:45-7pm
- Tue, May 5 6th graders to Sandy Lake
- Thu, May 7 Liberty Orchestras to Sandy Lake (rescheduled)
- May 14-15 Full Orchestra rehearsal with Band
- May 16, 18, & 21 Instrument Selection night for new Beginners!
- May 19 Liberty Orchestra Concert, 7-8pm in Large Gym
- May 22 Six Flags Trip! Liberty Orchestras, Band & Choir
- May 27-29 8th graders audition for High School Orchestra

See Photos on Page 5



Online Study Aids

Edline- All LJH Orchestra students and parents are encourage to check Mrs. Parks' class each week. There are UIL recordings, links, tonometric eartraining, your calendar, and more. Go into edline, then click on "My Edline" at the top of the page and put in your password. Remember, you must click "My Edline" or you are not actually viewing the details of the class.

StudyBlue- Students, don't forget to login to Mrs. Parks class on StudyBlue to study for your final assessments!





Smile for the Camera!



Mr. Needham with Berkner graduate Colin Horton, principal cellist with the Northwestern State Louisiana Orchestra



Mr. Pratt and the Berkner Concert Orchestra with their UIL Sweepstakes trophy



Mrs. Parks and the Liberty NonVarsity Orchestra celebrate success!



String Fling: That's a lot of strings!

Liberty Varsity Orchestra members enjoy CiCi's!