Music Advocacy Group

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER | ORCAS ISLAND

SCHOOL MUSIC MATTERS!



You are making a difference in school music

School music is in full swing with Costume Pops, Homecoming, and Pep Band music. Several students are preparing for Winter/Spring competitions and honor festivals. Their dedication to practice is truly helpful in honing social-emotional skills such as resilience, collaboration, and self-esteem. Bravo to the music students and teachers for their incredible teamwork!

Mariachi Education—This first-ever program is a zero-hour class (7:30 AM) on Mondays and Wednesdays. Orcas Island Rotary generously stepped in to fund new mariachi instruments and curriculum to enable the inaugural group of eight students to explore this culturally rich pathway to music education. A HUGE thank you to Orcas Island Rotary!

Instrument Accessibility—Orcas Island School District (OISD) music teachers oversee a collection of musical instruments acquired over the years. A nominal rental fee allows EVERY band and strings student access to an instrument of their choice, without having to purchase or rent one privately. The music teachers help maintain instruments until they are beyond repair. This year, several instruments need replacement. Your support will help ensure student musicians always have a reliable instrument.

Students win honors at 2024 competitions!



Orcas Island HS strings
- **Superior rating at the SJMEA Regional Orchestra Contest**
- **Excellent rating at the SJMEA Senior Large Group Festival**

Orcas Island HS band
- **Excellent rating at the SJMEA Senior Large Group Festival**

Orcas Island 7th/8th strings
- *Gold/Superior* rating at the American String Teachers Association & Junior Orchestra Contest

Orcas Island MS band
- *Excellent* rating at the Junior Band Contest

Orcas Island school music by the numbers

- **147** in K-4 general music
- **130** in MS/HS band & strings
- **8** in mariachi band
- **2** incredible teachers!



Strings teacher Pamela Wright repairs a violin

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Students perform as part of the annual Costume Pops Concert

Anonymous donor funds marching band needs



Did you know that donations earmarked for specific needs can be gifted to the OISD music program via MAG? Thanks to an anonymous donor, OISD has secured much-needed marching band equipment. The OIHS marching band led a spirited Homecoming parade that culminated at the Village Green with pep songs and a bonfire.

Europe calling: Orcas student musicians on tour

Six OIHS band students performed throughout Europe this summer as part of the Washington Ambassadors of Music program, with help from an anonymous MAG donor. Additionally, strings student Lamai Hons traveled to London as part of the Honors Performance Series. Lamai previously performed at Carnegie Hall in New York.



Kids' Chorus now at the Funhouse Commons



Kids in grades 1-5 are singing popular and traditional favorites and writing a few songs of their own under the baton of island musician Mary Wachter. This youth program is co-sponsored with Orcas Choral Society and the Funhouse Commons. A chorus for grades 6-12 is planned for January 2025.

Save the date: MAG Benefit Concert March 2

The popular MAG Benefit Concert returned this past spring with an incredible community turnout. Thanks to Orcatrazz, JP and the OK Rhythm Boys, Orcas Choral Society Ensemble, and Orcas Island School District musicians for an event to remember. Mark your calendar for our next school music benefit concert on March 2, 2025!



2024/2025 concerts



Dec. 5	5th-8th Grade Band & Strings Winter Concert
Dec. 12	HS Band & Strings Winter Concert
Dec. 19	Elementary Concert
Mar. 2	Music Advocacy Group Benefit Concert
Apr. 3	MS & HS Band & Strings Festival Concert
May 7	Elementary Concert
May 21	District Band Concert
May 28	District Strings Concert
Jun. 14	High School Graduation



Strings students practice on the ferry en route to a competition

Thank you, sponsors!

Thank you to the local businesses that support our Music Student of the Month feature in *The Islands' Sounder.* We appreciate you!

What donors helped make possible in the 2023/2024 school year

Thanks to the generosity of school music supporters like you, MAG contributed $27,780 for music education on Orcas Island in the 2023/2024 school year. Here's how YOU helped:

MAG General Fund

- Doubled the annual OISD music budget
- Purchased marching band equipment
- Covered travel expenses for the OIHS band to attend the PLU Band Invitational
- Co-sponsored OICMF WindSync concert for K-5 students and a clinic for band students

Joyce Burghardt Excellence in Music Fund

- Funded grants for students traveling to auditioned events like PLU Honor Band and the 2024 Performance Honors Series at Carnegie Hall
- Co-funded the Orcas Youth Chorus and JOY Chorus with the Orcas Choral Society
- Funded annual subscription fees for essential music practice software used by strings and band students