Celebrating Doc’s 90th Birthday at Midwest Clinic

The “one and only” legendary Trumpet Artist, Doc Severinsen will perform the opening evening concert on Wednesday, December 20th at the Midwest Clinic. The Elmhurst College Jazz Band, under the direction of Doug Beach, has been invited to perform with Doc as he celebrates his 90th birthday with his first performance at this event in many, many years.

QF proudly will join Shires Custom Brass Division of Eastman Music Company to sponsor this special appearance.

Doc performed a special concert in November of 2015 with the QF All-Star Concert Band, under the direction of Charles Staley followed by a set with the Faculty Jazz Band composed of some of Chicago’s finest musician/Jazz Educators. Since then, Doc has been constantly “on the road” performing and most recently, celebrated his 90th birthday on July 7th.

Doc teamed with legendary brass craftsman, Steve Shires a few years ago to develop the Destino III trumpets. He says “I had a hiatus making horns because of a lack of somebody who shared my dreams and ambitions, and then a good friend recommended Steve Shires – someone who shares my ideals about what a really fine trumpet should be and can be. In his factory are about 25 craftsmen who are also professional, working brass players who totally understand what is involved in making great brass instruments. The horns are completely made there – no outsourcing. I have never asked for something to be done and met with an excuse or reason why it couldn’t be done. Instead, complete enthusiasm and a desire to get it right. I truly love this horn and it loves me back. I feel that if I am willing to practice there is no limit to what I can accomplish on this horn.”

Back to School Reading Sessions

Special thanks to Cameron Dall, Constance Lee & Coreen Kees for hosting our annual “Back to School” reading sessions in August at Friendship JHS in Des Plaines. Cameron also was our featured slide whistle soloist for the day!!

Our special guest conductors were sponsored by Hal Leonard and masterfully completed the program providing interesting thoughts and discussion. Our orchestra clinician, Professor David Eccles led an impressive group of orchestra directors from the Chicago area.

David is Director of String Education at VanderCook College of Music.

Hal Leonard also sponsored our noted composer and guest band conductor, Johnnie Vinson, Emeritus Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Auburn University. Johnnie joked with the band that “he hailed from L.A.” in his southern accent. Then he clarified...Lower Alabama!

Local composer, Heather Hoefle, Band director at Parker JHS in Flossmoor, conducted two pieces recently published. At the end of the sessions, a raffle allowed each participant to select a piece from the collection played that day. Everyone left with a prize! More photos on Page Ten.
FB changes “Back to School”
George Quinlan, Jr.

As a B.Fb. (before Facebook) QF road rep veteran, I remember how exciting it was to renew relationships with those you haven’t seen for a few months. We would share stories about travel adventures, continuing education progress, family and friends updates, etc.

In the world of Facebook, some of the excitement of the “Back to School” ritual has been displaced. Now, instead of learning of these exciting life events, the conversation centers around exploring more details about these events, since we already know what has happened. We learn now why and how these things happened. Not better. Not worse. Just different. Part of me longs to return to those earlier exciting conversations and part of me loves learning about these significant life events digitally—almost in real time.

Anyway, as you probably have seen on Facebook, we hosted my favorite horn section in August. The Tower of Power horns performed and held a “meet and greet” session at QF-Arlington Hts. following our Back to School reading session. The result? About 50 excited fans LOVED seeing and hearing the TOP horns perform their “hits” live in a small session. THEN...IT WENT VIRAL!

As QN goes to press, the video of the horns jamming on “Soul Vaccination” has been viewed over 121,000 times around the world. This video has reached over 320,000 people. Fascinating…

************

You may have seen this on FB too, BandSource of Downers Grove, IL merged with QF in June. Former owner, Pete Biedron has joined the QF staff of road reps and will continue to provide outstanding service to former BandSource customers from our Burr Ridge location.

************

Music Trades magazine produces an annual listing of the Top 200 Music Retailers in the US. Our company was ranked in the Top 20 in the USA and as the leading family-owned school music specialist in the US. NAMM honors the Top 100 dealers in the nation at the annual Summer NAMM show in Nashville. QF was again recognized in this outstanding group of retailers. We are humbled.

************

Congratulations to Kevin Rouch, repair manager at QF-Mishawaka, winner of the “Lewie Award” for exceptional team spirit in our repair division and to Pete Biedron, VP of the Southwest Suburban Location: 6827 High Grove Blvd. Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 630-654-4111 Fax: 630-522-0331

Northwest Suburban Location: 59 W Seegers Road Arlington Heights, IL 60005 847-253-5592 Fax: 847-253-1761

Fox Valley Location: 299 Montgomery Road Montgomery, Illinois 60538 630-906-6595 Fax: 630-897-5256

Michigan Location: 5719 St. Joseph Avenue Stevensville, MI 49127 269-429-6232 Fax: 269-429-6250

Valparaiso, IN Location: 2601 Cumberland Drive Valparaiso, IN 46383 219-462-5086 Fax: 219-462-0060

Mishawaka, IN Location: 130 West Edison Road Mishawaka, IN 46545 574-293-6332

Fort Wayne, IN Location: 3678 Wells Street Fort Wayne, IN 46808 260-482-9669 Fax: 260-482-7698

Lafayette Location: 1301 Sagamore Parkway North Lafayette, IN 47904 765-543-0515

Ken Partyka, winner of the “Dale Award” for outstanding customer service support. These special honors and milestone awards were bestowed at our annual company outing.

************

We are excited to offer “encore” MECAPerforming Education courses from VanderCook College of Music this semester. The same courses were offered last year and were very successful. Please see Page Ten for details. Students in the percussion repair class with Professor Jim Yakas gained valuable “hands-on” experience replacing and tuning drum heads, learned how to tie the cymbal knot correctly, timpani adjustments, etc. The MS Band session with Keith Osvath & Greg Scappilato was simply awesome!!
Celebrating the birth of her second child, **Hudson John Hoff** born on April 26th, was **Meg Hoff** - band director at Gower Dist 62 in Burr Ridge.

**Kristin Vaziri** of Algonquin MS in DesPlaines and her husband, **Barzeen** welcomed a baby girl to their family on May 26th – baby **Samara Hope**.

Former band director and current QF Accounting Asst. Mgr. **Jim Newton** became a proud papa on August 24th. **Augustine Newton** was born at a healthy 9 lbs, 8 oz. - Congratulations!

**Wedding bells...Congratulations to Andrew & Rachel Seidel** wed on June 23rd. Andrew is a band director at Neuqua Valley HS in Naperville.

**Christina Makropoulos McBride** was married on June 16th - congratulations! Christina teaches band in Tinley Park D146.

**Caitlynne Burgess Miller**, Band Director at Fischer MS “tied the knot” with **Michael Miller** on June 24th. Best Wishes to the happy couple!

**Ashley Hofer** had a busy summer. She married **Phil Rudd** and moved to a new teaching position in Columbus, Ohio!

The Bride, The Groom, and the QF Rep...happily posed together on their blissful wedding day on July 17th when band directors **Mat Becker** (Memorial JHS-Lansing) and **Jenna Lake Becker** (Arbor Park MS) were wed...and, of course, their QF rep, **Greg Johnson**.

Over the summer **Zac Clark**, band director at Goethe Elementary in Chicago, got engaged to his lovely fiancé **Alexandria Paige Garrett**!

**New faces, New places...** Congratulations to **Sheila Crotty Kagan**, who was recently named as Fine Arts Coordinator for CUSD 300 - the sixth largest school district in the state of Illinois and home of many fine bands and orchestras. Welcome!

Also, **Jeremy Beyer** joins the music staff in Dist 300 at Hampshire MS as the orchestra director.

**Tiffany Iwinski** returns to the band podium teaching beginning band in North Palos District 117 (Palos Hills) joining **Sue Clemons**.

Hoffman Estates HS announced two new Music Educators - **Jerry Lowrey** was selected as Band Director & Music Department Chair and **Hannah Drake** was named Assistant Band Director. Congratulations!

Joining the staff at Cary School Dist 26 is **Audrey Levengood** teaching 5th & 6th grade band. Congratulations, Audrey!

Joining **Phil Robb & Audrie Burk** at Richland Dist 88 in Crest Hill is **Elizabeth Powers**, recent alum from Wheaton College. Congrats!

**Brian Goodman** was recently selected as the new band director in Dist 127.5 in Chicago Ridge. Congrats!

Brookwood Dist 167 in Glenwood welcomes two new band directors. Recent VanderCook alum, **Brittany Neely** will teach Beginning Band and General Music at Brookwood MS and fellow VCM alum, **Barrett Harmon** is teaching Band at Brookwood JHS.

Congratulations to **Holly Fusco**, the new band director at Lindop Elementary in Broadview. Holly was most recently teaching music in the Waukegan district.

In Wauconda, **Rose Tyler** joins **Brad Rychecky** at Matthews MS and **Andrew Hunter** at Wauconda MS as an associate band director. Best Wishes!

**BD Dynasty...Danny Tedeschi** joins **Joey Bonanotte** in Darien Dist 61 Band Department. Danny is a recent ISU graduate and the son of Lakeview JHS director, **Tom Tedeschi**.

**Vanessa Lostumbo** is the new band director at St. Scholastica School in Woodridge. Congratulations!

**Meghan Fulton** joins **George Andriko-**

(Continued on next page)
Continued from Page 3

**Kus & Gretchen Pearson Nerad** at Hinsdale MS - Best Wishes!

Adam Laird is the new beginning band director in Forest Ridge Dist. 142 (Oak Forest) joining Steve Nendza.

**Ben Clemons** took over the Hale MS Dist. 130 band program and **John Okrzesik** is the new band director at Veterans Memorial MS.

A few years ago, **Mike Fiske** attended Elwood Elementary School outside of Joliet. Following a distinguished career at Morris HS and Joliet Central HS, Mike returns to Elwood to teach band at the school. **George Pierard**, who resurrected the program a few years ago, recently moved to Arizona!

Best wishes to **Mitchell Clark**, the new band and strings teacher at Most Blessed Trinity school in Waukegan having recently moved to the area from Michigan. Welcome to Chicago!

Joining the staff at VanderCook College of Music is VCM alumn, **Brian Logan** who will conduct the band with **Stacey L. Dolan**. Brian has also initiated “One City”, an outreach music program for CPS students in the Bronzeville neighborhood. **Dr. Roseanne Rosenthal** was named President of the college as **Dr. Charles Menghini** moves to President Emeritus status.

Joining Band Director, **Chris Bajek** in Zion Dist 6 is **Megan Urbonas**, who will teach the new beginning orchestra program funded by a VH1 Save the Music Grant. Congrats!

Let’s welcome **Amy Mullard** to Johnsburg JHS as band director!

New Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction (and Music Educator) in Downers Grove Dist 58, **Justin Sisul** welcomes several new Music Educators to the district. **Theresa Steiner** will teach Band at Herrick MS, **Rose Cloud** will teach Beginning Band and **Meghan Damore** will teach General Music and Band at Kingsley School. (She is also a newly-wed married to **Joshua Damore** this summer). Veteran Christine Kaminski takes over as director of Bands at O’Neill MS.

**Andrada Pteane** has accepted an orchestra position at Granger MS in Aurora joining **Jason Dyhouse**, **Dawn Pakkabier** & **Dave Pakkabier**.

After teaching at band and music at Mark Twain School in CPS, **Melisa Rutkelis** has accepted the position of Arts Education Specialist for Chicago Public Schools! Her teaching will now extend to over 400,000 students!

**Carolyn Reardon** is the new band director at Illinois & Sauk Elem Schools in Matteson D162. Congratulations!

**Dan Hubert**, former band director at Spring Wood MS in Keeneville, has moved into a permanent position as the director at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School! Best Wishes.

**Ben Clark** has joined the Music staff at Hickory Creek MS-Dist 157C with **Doug Adams & Shannon Shanahan**.

**2017 Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Awards**

In June, several outstanding educators were honored with the annual presentation of the Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Awards. This tradition began in 1989 with the “Class of ’89 - Greg Bimm, Leo Henning, Ted Lega, David Allie, Milton Mojzis, & Margene Pappas” as a tribute to the wonderful Music Educators in our community who set the standards for excellence in the profession. Twenty-Eight years later, the winners portraits adorn the walls at QF as a tribute to their work and to recognize the importance of Music Education to us and our customers. The “Class of 2017” was nominated by their peers and selected by a panel of previous winners of this prestigious award.

Our special guest speaker for the evening was **Dr. Charles Menghini**, President Emeritus of VanderCook College of Music whose comments were perfect for the occasion. He is pictured below (right) presenting the John Paynter Lifetime Achievement Award to **Dr. Joseph Manfredo** (center) and QF President, **George Quinlan, Jr.** (left).

**Dr. Manfredo** recently retired from **ISU...but, following his ten day retirement, he has accepted a position at Elmhurst College in Music Education.**

Congrats, Joe on your retirement, this prestigious recognition, AND your new position!

**Donald "Donnie" Glowinski** was recently named as the new band director at St Patrick HS in Chicago. Donnie and his family are settling in from their move from Indianapolis. Welcome!

**Sean McQuinn** joins the Homewood Dist. 153 band and orchestra staff.

Congratulations to the new orchestra directors in Huntley. **Emily Ward** will teach at Marlowe MS. Emily was most recently teaching orchestra in the Elgin school district. **Samuel Perez** was named as the director at Heinemann MS.

In Oswego, **Jessica Shields** is the new Director of Bands at Plank JHS joining **Chris Werve**, **Jessa Runyon** joins **Rachel Maxwell** at Traughber JHS

Also in Huntley Dist 158, **Casey Sukel** will join **Anthony Camarda** at Marlowe MS. Casey grew up in Huntley and is an
2017 Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award Winners

Karen Moffett
Westview Hills MS
Westmont

Phil Robb
Richland School
Crest Hill

Greg Scapillato
Northbrook JHS

Josh Chodoroff
Highland Park HS

Kurt Gros
Warren Twp. HS

Ray Ostwald
York HS
Continued from Page 4

Welcome back -

David Agee formerly of Fenwick High School has been accepted as a percussionist in the US Navy Band, the Sea Chanters. Lucas Gillan has taken the position of percussion instructor at Fenwick HS alongside Laura Pendleton, Andrew Thompson & Rizelle Capito.

DeLaSalle Institute in Chicago recently named Todd Schultz as the new director of bands. All the best!

Joining Jason Thompson at Homer JHS will be Kenton Brace. Kenton moves to the band position following several years teaching General Music. Former BD, Jason Skube moves to an administrative position in the district.

Joining the Instrumental Music staff at Gemini JHS in Niles is Vernon Lawson (band), who joins co-workers Natalie Scharf, Dominique Radtke, and Linea Erickson.

Anna Zaino will be teaching band at Gavin South MS for the maternity leave of Kristin Bajek.

Kelley Gossler is the new Director of Bands at Lincoln Park HS. Kelley has taught at Westinghouse HS, followed by a hiatus to earn her Masters in Conducting from Northwestern University with Mallory Thompson. Welcome back Kelley, we wish you great success at LPHS!

Stephanie Cheers is the new director of bands at Jesse White Learning Academy in Hazelcrest School District 152.5. She has previously taught at Rich South HS. Best Wishes!

Following the retirement of Jim Kassprzyk, Jim Spignier has taken the leadership of the band program assisted by Mike Ackerman at Prairie Crossing Charter School in Grayslake.

Chaney Monge Dist 88 in Crest Hill welcomes Jessie Bieman as the new Music teacher and Band Director. Congrats!

Following the retirement of longtime orchestra director, Carrie Provost at Franklin MS in Wheaton, Jennifer Jim moves from Foothill HS in Sacramento, CA to take over the position. Welcome!

Kevin Zorena will take the reins at Bethany Lutheran Church and School in Naperville teaching Band, Choir, and General Music.

Congratulations to MaryBeth Kurnat recently selected as new band director at Huntley MS in DeKalb Dist 428. Marybeth most recently was at Cambridge Lakes Charter School in Pingree Grove. Olivia Pannell was named the new band director at Cambridge Lakes Charter School. We wish you the best of success as the new school year begins!

Eric Ferguson joins Chris Vanderwall at John F. Kennedy MS and Darcie Condon at Heritage Grove MS in Plainfield as an associate band director.

Best wishes to Ben Sorce, who fills the vacancy at Barrington MS Band following the retirement of Andy Nelson. Ben is joined with fellow newcomers to the district Jenna Owens (band) & Peter Panagakis (orchestra).

Nissa Anderson has joined the St. Charles Dist 303 Elementary Orchestra staff teaching at Ferson Creek Elementary, Richmond Intermediate, and Wasco Elementary. Best Wishes!

Rebecca Weisenritter was selected as the new band director at Mark Twain School in Chicago. Congratulations!

Emily Drafta joins Joanna Schultz & Rebekah Klein-Simaa on the Orchestra staff in District 44 Lombard.

Heritage MS in Lansing proudly announced the new director of bands for their school is Cory Gallai. Congrats!

Congratulations to Paige Kibbler, who joins the staff at Vernon Hills HS as assistant band & orchestra director.

Coolidge MS Band directed by Mario Moody took a late June trip to Walt Disney World, where the concert bands, and jazz ensemble performed to great accolades! They also got to participate in a music studio session, and they spent the better part of the week in the theme parks. LaToya Crowder was recently named as the new assistant director of bands at South Holland Dist. 151.

Kent Krause and Wheaton North High School will hold the annual Falcon Fest Marching Band competition on Saturday, September 16. This will be the 31st year for the festival.

Honors, Recognition…Congratulations to the entire Class of 2017 with Master of Music Education degrees from VanderCook College of Music including local B&O directors Sarah Brown, Jill Carr, Jake Coon, Sophie Creutz, John Damore, Mark Hodges, Mark Iwinski, John Ley, Chris Niesluchowski, and Morgan Stevenson (daughter of Roxanne Steven- son of Chicago State University Jazz Band). The commencement ceremony included an honorary doctorate bestowed on Irwin Berg of Humes & Berg Mfg., makers of the famous “red and white” brass Stonelined Mutes.

Tim Hatcher, band director at Plainfield North HS, put down the baton for a day to compete and complete 70.3 miles of swimming, biking, and running in this year’s IronMan Triatholon! WOW!!

Nyle Taylor (McKinley JHS-South Holland) participated as a private lesson teacher and as assistant band director
Congratulations to Cameron Bradley of Concord JHS-Elkhart, IN for the winning entry in our Facebook contest. To enter, directors recognized their QF rep by completing this thought… I Like My QF Rep Because…

Cameron was immortalized with his QF Rep, Lloyd Kirkpatrick of Mishawaka as a tandem bobblehead. Cameron & Lloyd each received a bobble-head set and one was installed in the QF Bobble-Head Hall of Fame!

Be sure to check out Cameron’s award winning video on our FB page!

Please join us in thanking the 2017 sponsors of the Maury Rhodes Classic golf outing in July. Together, we were able to raise over $12,000 to benefit the Rhodes Music Library at VanderCook College of Music.


By Mike Edwards

We have certainly had a busy spring and summer! In May, we were fortunate to have Steve Shires visit the store. In addition to training sessions with our staff and repair techs, Steve presented a clinic for the students at Neuqua Valley HS hosted by directors Andy Seidel & Johnathan Lauff. While the students hung on every word from Steve, the real treat was getting to play a selection of trumpets and trombones that we brought along.

Our “Pick a Shires with Shires” event allowed many students (and a few “kids at heart”) to work with Steve to select their own custom Shires instrument.

We also convened our QF Brass Advisory Board to meet with Steve to provide feedback on his various models. One educator/pro, Chuck Parrish liked the Destino III trumpet so much, he became a Shires endorsing artist! All agreed that the new Q-Series instruments, available on our exclusive 1st Chair plan represented the highest quality and affordability for students.
during the summer program at the People’s Music School in Chicago.

For the first time in the school’s history, Huntley HS has been selected to perform at All-State in Peoria in January 2018! **Philip Carter** is in his second year at HHS and doing a great job!!

**Garrett George**, director of bands at Fenton HS, provided the Young Musician’s Mentor Band this summer culminated with a performance on June 29th.

Congratulations to Band Director, **Shauntia Mettlin** of Saratoga Dist 60C in Morris, IL who was recently named Vice President of her school’s teacher’s union.

**Marques Carroll**, a prominent musician in the Chicagoland jazz scene and dedicated music educator at Chicago Jesuit Academy for the last 11 years, was recently named the permanent 3rd chair trumpet player in the world famous “Count Basie Orchestra”. Marques was on tour with the band during the summer months, most recently performing in front of Basie Fans in Japan, NYC, Rome, and California.

Glenbard North HS Marching Band participated in the Carol Stream 4th of July Parade. **Lauren Whisnant** is the director.

Marian Catholic HS performed at the White Sox “Star Wars Night” game in August led by **Greg Bimm, Scott Oliver & Matt Black**.

Each year the NAMM Foundation honors the Best Communities for Music Education in America. Several Illinois school districts were recognized in 2017 including Indian Prairie School District 204 in the Naperville/Aurora region. Pictured below accepting the award on behalf of the school district is **Kent Duncan** (IPSD Educational Foundation), **Dr. Karen Sullivan** (IPSD Superintendent) and **George Quinlan, Jr.** (QF). Other local school districts recognized included: Aptakisic-Tripp Community Consolidated School District 102, Batavia Public School District #101, Community Unit School District 300 (Algonquin), Northbrook School District 27, and Northbrook School District 28.

In August, **John Mlynczak**, presented a workshop at QF-Burr Ridge entitled “Embracing Technology” for Educators. John is an accomplished musician, former band director, and currently marketing director at Noteflight. John presented a variety of tools and ideas that make it easy for Music Educators to embrace technology tools, particularly recording devices, software, and assessment tools.

This session was sponsored by Hal Leonard.
Andrew Boysen, Jr. will be the 2018 Guest Conductor for the All-Illinois Junior Band in January at the University of Illinois-Champaign. For details about this excellent opportunity for MS band students, visit AIJB website: www.aijb.org

Epiphany Catholic School in Chicago held its first ever summer band camp. Barbara Abarro is the band director. Windy City Winds, a community concert band in Chicago will begin its 3rd season conducted by Mark Mosley & Sarah Good Mosley. Their first concert is scheduled on Nov. 17 at St. Pauls United Church of Christ. Visit www.windy.citywinds.org for details.

Wendell Phillips Academy Band, led by Toni Bell-Elliott and participated in the Bud Billiken Parade in August

Second Generation…Lorelei Junkel will be attending Illinois State University to study music this fall. She is the daughter of Julie Junkel of Mannheim Dist 83 Band Director. Best Wishes!

Looking ahead to Midwest Clinic in December, be sure to attend this session on Wednesday morning. “First Performance: A Beginning Band Demonstration Concert” will feature beginners from District 150-directed by Nyle Taylor and District 151-led by Mario Moody. Following the scripted musical program, a panel discussion including Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser & Dr. Charles Menghini will explore ideas to retain beginning band students. Don’t miss it!!

A selection of new and special instruments is now on display at the Arlington Heights Shokunin location. Yamaha recently celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the introduction of their band instruments in America. To commemorate the occasion, Yamaha has produced a limited number of custom instruments. Currently available in AH is the YAS82ZII Anniversary alto sax and the 50th Anniversary trumpet. Be sure to come by and check out these one-of-a-kind instruments. We are also pleased to announce we have the new YHR671 double horn available as well. This “Geyer” style instrument replaces the earlier YHR667 and has received great reviews.

Jim Fuller
Highlights from our Back-to-School Reading Sessions!

VanderCook College of Music
Continuing Education MECA Courses
“in the burbs” at QF-Burr Ridge

Back by popular demand, QF will host two MECA classes this semester.

OCTOBER 14-15 - Greg Scapillato & Keith Ozsvath

Join your fellow colleagues for an immersive weekend of learning and collaboration focusing on the middle school band. This course is geared toward those new to the profession or seasoned veterans looking for a fresh approach. Topics will focus on some of the most fundamental aspects of teaching middle school band, including repertoire; rehearsal planning and execution; technology integration; communication tools; assessment and rubric design; incorporating student choice and collaboration; and much more! Participants should bring a laptop computer or tablet.

NOVEMBER 18-19 - James Yakas

Get yourself some new skin this fall by learning care and repair basics for all standard percussion instruments, including snares, bass drums, concert toms, timpani and more. Tricks of the trade for changing heads, replacing keyboard strings and repairing timpani pedals are thoroughly covered, as well as proper assembly, cartage and storage of instruments. Bringing as many instruments for repair as possible is highly recommended. New drumheads to be provided by REMO at a discounted price.

Enrollment is limited.

To register, visit http://www.vandercook.edu/programs/fall-2017-continuing-education-courses/
Thoughts on a summer journey

Whilst driving through the Pennsylvania countryside this summer, I was preparing myself for the Chicago Lyric Opera season by listening to Die Walküre. There is nothing like the moment when all the sisters gather for a good ole Hojotoho! I thought what an individual had to do back in the day when 78 rpm records were the latest. Given the four plus hours of that opera, I'm not so sure I'd be that driven to change records often enough to catch the entire opera in one sitting. It was tough enough going to the record library at the music school to listen to 33rpm records preparing for a “drop the needle” test. iPhones! Do kids today understand how good they got it? And, now about auto tune!!!

Ready, Set, Go!

What a great summer. Not too hot and lots of sunshine. While we were all enjoying it, a plethora of beautiful new violins, violas, cellos, and basses found their way through our string techs hands (great work QF techs! You all are the BEST!) and into our showrooms. The selection is strong and deep. Sales having been strong all summer and even stronger as we now go into school season. Maybe someone in your group stepped-up this summer and now improves the tonal quality of their section in your orchestra! Yeah!

Schedule your Opus 24 Event!

School step up events are popular! Each year more and more schools are scheduling one of our Opus 24 Step-up nights.

On one evening for a few hours, we bring dozens of instruments to your school and set up a display ready for parents to arrive with their student to find their new step-up instrument. With the student, teacher, and parents all in one location with a large selection of instruments and bows, the parent is comforted with all the help present. Check with your QF Rep soon to schedule a date. Maybe it’s more convenient to simply schedule a night to meet at one of our stores? Increasingly popular, a store Opus 24 step up event might fit your needs. Easy, fun, exciting, rewarding!

Violas need our help! No joke!

I review the stats. Together, I know we can do better. Parents need to be educated. Help to keep the info flowing to them. Too many viola students rent too long. Because kids grow, viola parents are wary of purchasing a step-up viola until the child is ready for a large size of viola. What happens is that they get in the habit of waiting and “all of a sudden” the child is a senior in high school playing their graduation concert on a rental viola. It makes me want to cry – for the kids’ sake. After renting for a couple years, there is enough rental credit available to purchase a Pietro Germino Violin and Coda NX bow. As they grow, our purchase program allows full trade-in value toward a larger size instrument with no loss. There is simply no good reason for a senior in high school to be playing a rental when, for LESS MONEY, they could have purchased a better viola years ago. No joke!

Johnny one note….

While on the topic, we rent too many full sized violins too. Keep this formula in mind, after about two years of renting, there is enough rental credit to purchase a Pietro Germino Violin and Coda NX bow. They will end up paying less than if they rent through senior year of high school.

String recycling program

D’Addario Company has begun a string-recycling program to which QF will be a partner. Stay tuned to the news as we work out the logistics with D’Addario. I do not yet know how they are going to separate the different materials and metals but I want to learn. Though this isn’t what anyone expects will happen, can you imagine how much fun your elementary string kids would have pulling the winding off the inner core of strings? Do not do it! There are not enough Band-Aids.

At the summer new music reading sessions in Indiana and in Illinois, I get a feeling from you all about the trends for the new year. This year I am particular encouraged as I learned of many plans and new events on the horizon. Collectively, we are among one of the strongest group of string teachers in the United States. You do great work and it is a pleasure to serve you.
Thank you Yamaha for supporting our Annual B&O Recruiting Poster Contest. Kaitlyn Z. and Sofia S. each won Yamaha HPH-M82 Professional Headphones (compliments of Yamaha). Our contest entries numbered over 50 and hundreds of votes were placed to determine the winners.

Be sure to get some FREE Recruiting Posters from your friendly QF Rep now!!

Pictured (left photo) is our Orchestra Poster winner, Kaitlyn Z of Gregory MS (Naperville, IL with QF-Montgomery store manager, Mike Edwards. Band Poster winner, Sofia S. of Concord JHS (Elkhart, IN) with QF-Mishawaka store manager, Kristi Noble.