

SPRING 2018-2019

Northern Highlands A
Cappella Festival

Spring Musical

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♪ Pit Orchestra

Student Teacher: Mr.
Rivera

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A Cappella Groups at Northern Highlands

Lucas Chan

On Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 11th, SoundXplosion and Note-oriety, Cresskill's a cappella groups, participated in the Northern Highlands A Cappella Festival at Northern Highlands High School. Unlike previous years, the festival was split into two days since so many a cappella groups decided to perform and only one night to hold a concert would not suffice. Indeed, the performances of both Friday night and Saturday night amounted to six hours in total. Overall, the energy of both nights was extremely high, and both groups delivered astonishing performances. In addition, the groups brought new tunes to the festival such as SoundXplosion's Stevie Wonder Medley featuring Dan Harel, Amanda Graf, and Jolie Zenna on solos and Note-oriety's "Wings" featuring Monica Jun and Sonali Shah on solos. We even had the debut a cappella performance of the CMS vocal ensemble, singing "Light in the Hallway". Also on both days, the Cresskill a cappella groups gained the opportunity to work in master classes with a cappella professionals, meet other groups who share the love of a cappella and meet Deke Sharon, one of the progenitors of all contemporary a cappella music. All in all, the Northern Highlands A Cappella Festival was not only a way for the a cappella groups to show off their music, but also a fun and educational journey through the world of a cappella.



Fiddler *on the* Roof

SPRING MUSICAL

Cast Perspective

Lucas Chan

The Cresskill Principal Players' 2019 spring musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, took place from March 1st to March 3rd, drawing in attention as high school and middle school students alike displayed their love for theatre. The talented cast of the musical went through two months of grueling rehearsal, including multiple Saturday meetings, but each member worked as hard as they could in order to put on the best show possible. In the end, their hard work paid off, which was evident through the striking performances over the weekend of March 1st. Lead actors Ethan Rokjer, playing Tevye, and Eliana Yoo, playing Golde, ingeniously delivered comedic lines with the emotion and timing of true professionals, yielding

laughter from the audience. Victoria Trinidad, Linnea Corona, and Valerie Roman worked with Zachary Boyd, Matthew Garson, and Dan Harel in order to create an enveloping plot about the breaking of old traditions. However, the play could not be complete without the rest of the Cresskill Principal Players, the pit orchestra, the lighting and audio crews, and, of course, directors Mr. Von Glahn, Mrs. Ofshinsky, and Mr. Verderese. Congratulations to the Cresskill Principal Players and the rest of the groups involved in the musical for an amazing performance. I think it is safe to say that everyone is looking forward to next year.





Pit Perspective

Devon Ulrich

This year's pit orchestra for *Fiddler on the Roof* was a blast! We started off by reading through the music in January—it was challenging at first, but we managed to improve over time through constant repetition and hard practice. Then, we started to rehearse alongside the cast in mid February. The final week was particularly intense: in addition to the daily rehearsals after school, we had several school assemblies to promote our performance. We also performed a full run of the show for the first time for the senior citizen community of Cresskill. It was really rewarding in the end, as we were able to perfect almost every detail of the show, and were able to put on three great performances on March 1st, 2nd, and 3rd!

STUDENT TEACHER MR. RIVERA

Eliana Yoo

Mr. Michael Rivera joined us at Cresskill Middle/High School as a student teacher from early November to mid May. Mr. Rivera recently graduated from Montclair State University with a Master's Degree in the Arts with a concentration in Music Education and has a Bachelor's Degree in English. Mr. Rivera had initially majored in English only to feel unfulfilled in that field. His true passion was for music. "I didn't feel I was good enough to major in music at the time" Rivera answered. "I had been told I was an average piano player, at best, and an average singer and I bought into that." However, after a lot of self reflection, during his junior year in college, he decided to pursue his dream of majoring in music. "At first, I came into this major with the mindset that 'I'm going to prove everyone wrong', but that experience taught me that those people are not a part of my life anymore, and it was more about proving to myself that I could do this." Mr. Rivera has conducted several pieces during his time here at CMS/CHS. One of his favorite pieces to conducted was "Glow" by Eric Whitacre. "I love 'Glow'. I think there is a lot of good technique within the piece, to develop a good choral sound. Eric Whitacre does a very good job, musically, to get the theme across that even though winter can be such a dark time, there is still some light to that season." While working a very hectic schedule, Mr. Rivera is an avid coffee drinker and loves watching Netflix, when he has the time to just relax. Mr. Rivera is very grateful to have worked in Cresskill. It has undoubtedly changed his life in many ways.

SPRING 2019 MUSIC BOOSTERS DONATIONS

Julie Park

This year, the Music Boosters have continued to take a tremendous amount of their time and dedication supporting the Cresskill Music Department, here at the Middle and High School. Notably, the Music Boosters have funded the High School band with the equipment for a piece called, "Junk Funk Shuffle". This included a numerous amount of garbage pails, lids, and buckets for the percussionists in the High School concert band to utilize and make music for the song during the 2019 Spring Concert. Not only did the Music Boosters help the band create great music, but they also funded a full set up of livestream equipment for auditorium performances, which would be used as a permanent fixture in the room for students, audience, and staff to view during live performances of the plays, concerts, etc. In addition, just in time for the next season coming up for the High School Marching Band, the Music Boosters have donated several customized bass drum heads ready for the fall. Finally, our wonderful parent program has fully covered the buses for the Middle School Choir students to attend the American Young Voices in June at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ. The Music Department is beyond grateful to have such an encouraging and passionate group of supporters of the students and the department here at Cresskill, and we thank them for their support and the donations aiding us in accomplishing many of our goals this year.

Audrey Cho

SOUNDXPLOSION AT CEF BARK FOR EDUCATION

Gabriela Abreu

On Saturday, May 18th, SoundXplosion performed at Bark for Education for, attendees, staff, and dog lovers alike. SoundXplosion put on a great show singing, a Stevie Wonder Medley, "Attention" by Charlie Puth, "Drag Me Down" by One Direction, and a mash up between "Radioactive" by Imagine Dragons and "My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark" by Fall-out Boy. Soloists include Valerie Roman, Zachary Boyd, Victoria Trinidad, Jolie Zenna, Linnea Corona, Eliana Yoo, Amanda Graf, Lauren Miglietta, Moe Sato, and with Matthew Garson as vocal percussionist and Lucas Chan as bass. The songs each had the crowd humming along and cheering. Spirits were high with all the cute dogs around and good music to enjoy. Even though SoundXplosion was there to perform, after the performance some of the members couldn't help but walk around and see all the adorable dogs. The performance was very successful, adding another great year to the Bark For Education performances, with many more to come.

Beginning in March, the Cresskill concert bands have begun a new daily do-now assignment, involving listening to one new piece of music every day. This addition to the bands' routine has exposed students to a wide variety of different styles of music that they may not have come across otherwise. So far, some artists and musicians that have been included in these listenings are Tower of Power, John Williams, the New York Staff Band, and the cast of the Broadway musical STOMP. Through these listenings, it is hoped that students may find inspiration to fuel their passion for the musical arts.

NEW PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Jamie Roberts

This spring, band director Joseph Verderese created a percussion ensemble with hopes of adding something new and exciting to the music department's repertoire. Those who became involved signed up based on interest; the group is comprised of students from all four high school grades as well as one seventh grader. Most are percussion players within the high school band, however, some of the students play other instruments like the piccolo and the trumpet, and have been using the ensemble as a learning experience to further their musical knowledge. Under the leadership of Mr. Verderese, as well as drumline instructor Mr. Lou Imparato, the group comes together on Mondays after school to rehearse. The songs the ensemble are performing this year include "Smooth" by Santana, "Oye Como Va" by Tito Puente, and "Witch Doctor" from *Alvin and the Chipmunks*. All songs feature a plethora of instruments within the percussion family, such as the vibraphone, xylophone, and marimba, as well as the drum kit, bass drum, and snare drum and many novelty instruments including siren whistle, duck call, and, of course, the cowbell. After an introductory performance at the spring concert, the ensemble will also be performing at Cabaret Night where they will play all three songs.

High School Concert

Nicole Huh

On Thursday, May 9th, the Cresskill High School music department hosted the *Thomas T. Vernaleken* Memorial Scholarship Spring Concert. A night full of high spirits and fun music, each ensemble was able to perform and demonstrate their talents before parents, friends, and other music supporters. This year, the jazz band was the opening act, demonstrating their immense ability in playing a variety of tunes. A new addition to our annual program, the percussion ensemble made their debut, impressing audiences with their rendition of "Smooth". The concert choir was up next, and once again, impressed audiences with their difficult program. The highlight of the first act of the concert was, of course, when we offered our goodbyes to our seniors in the choir. We even sent Mr. Rivera, a beloved student teacher, now a forever part of the Cresskill music department family, a goodbye with the heartwarming tune, "Homeward Bound".

After intermission, the concert continued with a cappella groups SoundXplosion and Note-oriety. Both groups had captivating performances, leaving audience members fascinated. As the finale, the concert band dazzled audiences while also recognizing the last of our seniors in this year's music department. We may be sad to see them go, but the last concert with our seniors was a great testament to their hard work and passion. The band closed with an intense piece, "Lightning Field". The night was filled with wonderful music, and we thank everyone who came to support the music department that night.

Middle School Concert

Julie Park

On Thursday, May 16th, the Cresskill Middle School Band and Choir students performed at their annual Spring Concert. The concert kicked off with the Middle School jazz band, consisting of all three grades six through eight, performing three songs: "Killer Joe", "Sidewinder", and "In A Mellow Tone" with improvising soloists on all three pieces. Following the jazz band was the Middle School vocal ensemble performing two songs, "A Jubilant Song" and "Light in the Hallway". Up next was the concert choir singing four songs: "Elijah Rock!", "Make Them Hear You" from *Ragtime*, "A Million Dreams" from *The Greatest Showman*, and "Can You Hear?". Six soloists from all different grades were featured, which the audience loved. After a short intermission, the Sixth Grade concert band, conducted by Mrs. Ofshinsky, performed four songs, beginning with "The Olympic Spirit", "Adagio for Winds", "Radetzky March", and ended with "The Patriot". As the finale of the concert, the Seventh and Eighth Grade concert band performed "National Emblem", "Highlights from Walt Disney's *Aladdin*", "African Celebration", and "Pilatus: Mountain of Dragons", giving a strong and powerful closing to end the night. The work and time the students in the Middle School Music Department have put in has definitely been portrayed through their outstanding performances that night.

Cresskill High School concert band performing "Junk Funk Shuffle"



Cabaret Night

Eric Song

As the 2019 school year comes to an end, the annual Cabaret Night is upon us. Cabaret Night is an event where a variety of instrumentalists and vocalists perform in the high school courtyard. This year's Cabaret Night artists include Cresskill's a cappella groups (SoundXplosion & Note-oriety), the HS jazz band, the flute, clarinet, saxophone, and string quartets, the brass quintet, and two brand new groups; the percussion ensemble and the barbershop quartet. In addition to the many talented performances, new and returning members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society have been inducted at the event. The Tri-M Music Honor Society is an organization that recognizes the dedicated and talented students in the CHS Music Department. The inductees must maintain a 3.45 overall GPA in addition to a 3.7 music GPA, have been part of the music department for at least 2 years, pass a music audition, and complete 10 hours of music-related volunteering in order to be eligible for induction. This year, Cabaret Night took place on May 31st, at 7PM.

Marching Band Preparation

Dhruvi Patel

As the prospective marching band season is gradually approaching, preparations have begun; both returning members and prospective new students are hard at work. Returning members interested in attaining a leadership position for the 2019-2020 marching band season have been attending leadership training sessions directed by Mr. Verderese. Starting in April and continuing through the end of the year, prospective student leaders have made a sincere commitment to becoming better leaders and in the bigger picture, better marching band members, by acquiring the skills necessary to be a successful leader. From student discussions to mastering foundational skills, as well as practicing individually, the group of prospective student leaders has improved since day one and will continue to practice effective leadership until auditions. Training will continue through the summer for those who attain a position. Students interested in achieving a leadership position beyond that of section leader, particularly drum major, have been attending additional drum major leadership & skills sessions and training weekly in preparation for auditions. These sessions are led by color guard instructor Julie Krygsman. In anticipation of Memorial Day and inducting new members, the color guard has been conducting weekly sectionals; for returning members, these sectionals assist in brushing up skills and practicing routine for Memorial Day whereas, for new members, these sectionals primarily assist in learning basic moves and the "Fight Song" for the auditions in May. Regardless of the section, all marching band members, returning and new, have begun their journey to making the marching band stronger and will continue this journey through the upcoming band camp and the 2019-2020 marching band season; though it may be an arduous passage, it is nothing members can't handle.

Student Achievements

New Jersey All-State Intermediate Orchestra

Yubin Lee (Violin)

Lacey Shin (Viola)

Bori Chung (Viola)

New Jersey All-State High School Orchestra

Joon Lee (Violin)

6th Grade MEBCI Honors Treble Chorus

Caleb Chan

Erin Park

Noam Tzarfati

NJ Governor's Award in Arts Education Recipient

Devon Ulrich

NEWSLETTER

CONTRIBUTORS

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NICOLE HUIH

JULIE PARK

JAMIE ROBERTS

ERIC SONG

DEVON ULRICH

ELIANA YOO

MEBCI Treble Festival Chorus

John VonGlahn

For the first time, Cresskill Music Department sixth grade students had the opportunity to apply and audition for the Music Educators of Bergen County, Inc. (MEBCI) Treble Chorus Festival. Schools within the county are allowed to send up to six fifth or sixth grade students from each school to participate in a one-day festival. Students wishing to participate were asked to submit an audition and were selected from that audition. For our first year, sixth graders Caleb Chan, Erin Park, and Noam Tzarfati-Levy were selected to participate. These students rehearsed six songs prior to the day of the festival. On the day of the festival, they met at Memorial School in Fair Lawn, NJ, rehearsed together for a few hours with the entire festival chorus, and had a wonderful concert with their guest conductor this year, Mr. George Glock. Congratulations to Caleb, Erin and Noam!

American
Young Voices

Eliana Yoo

The American Young Voices is one of the biggest school concerts in the world. It engages students from grades 2-8 to come together and sing songs of different genres ranging from classical to contemporary. This year on June 7th, 2019, the concert took place at Prudential Center in Newark. Our very own CMS choir was able to participate with the American Young Voices choir! Approximately 8,000 students performed that night, which took up half the seats of the arena. The concert was conducted by Francisco J. Núñez, the director/founder of the Young People's Chorus of New York City. The CMS Choir students definitely had a blast that night singing along and enjoying their time with their peers.