

November 2008

PREP STRINGS NEWS

Also for download at www.prep.cwustrings.com

Central Washington University * 963-1498 * prepstrings@cwu.edu



GREETINGS FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dear Students and Families,

It is my sincere belief that music can change and enrich lives in unique ways. Starting violin in 4th grade surely changed mine! I am sure I can speak for all of our staff when I say thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our passion.

Can you believe Fall Quarter is nearly over already? We are right on the edge of 2009! It is our hope that every year in the Preparatory Strings Program is a positive and productive experience filled with musical learning as well as personal growth for every one of our students – and student teachers! Our mission statement outlines three goals:

1) *To provide CWU students, in music education and other majors, with an opportunity to develop teaching skills in a*

supportive learning environment supervised by master teachers.

2) *To serve the youth of Kittitas Valley by providing string instruction in group classes and conducted ensembles, from beginning to advanced.*

3) *To inspire interest in string education among college students and the community, and enrich the musical community at large through performances and other activities.*

With these goals in mind, you are welcome to contact me anytime with questions, concerns, or comments.

Happy holidays!

Sincerely,



Jan Jaffe

jaffeja@cwu.edu

CALENDAR:

Nov 26-28:
No classes!

Dec 6, 2pm:
****KVYO concert****
Support your peers! Get inspired!

Dec 7, 4pm:
CWU Orchestra,
\$5/free for youth

Dec 8, 6:30pm:
****Prep Strings
Fall Concert****
*Invite your friends
and family!*

Dec 9-Jan 6:
Winter break!

Jan 7, 5-6pm:
First day back for
Early Beginners

Jan 8, 6-8pm:
First day back for
Debut & KVYO

**Jan 9, 4-
4:45pm:**
First day back for
Beginning, Silver,
& Gold

See
<http://prep.cwustrings.com>
for more!

DR. SMITH'S UPDATES

It is again a pleasure to welcome students new and old, parents, and staff to another year of the CWU Preparatory Strings Program. As always, it's very exciting to see so many students interested in playing and learning, and to share the joy and passion we have as teachers in spreading the great legacy of string music. I'm looking forward to a great year.

We are continuing to receive grant support through the National String Project Consortium from the NAMM Foundation, one of twenty or so sites at colleges

nationwide supporting string teacher education. This has given us the ability to upgrade instruments and staff the program while keeping tuition down. It has also allowed me to become more involved as "Master Teacher," assisting with weekly classes and planning.

Last year, I traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the national conference of the American String Teachers Association to represent CWU's program and share ideas with other
Continued on the next page...



NATIONAL STRING PROJECT CONSORTIUM



2008 Grant Recipient



PRACTICE TIPS:

Concentrate:

It's not easy sometimes! Make a quiet place with no interruptions.

Practice every day that you eat!

Set a schedule to help you get in the *habit* of practicing daily. If you are too sick to eat, then you may be excused! ☺

Set goals: Have specific goals to reach for each practice session, even if it is just getting that one hard passage!

Organize the time: For example, 5" of warm-ups, 15" of learning your new song(s), 5" of your favorite songs, and 5" to improvise!

Practice difficult material longer, but be optimistic:

If you start to feel frustrated, come back to it later, work slowly, and be patient. Fiddle around a little in the meantime!

Dr. Smith's Updates continued...

String Project directors. And this year, I will be presenting some video of our recruitment project at the Atlanta conference. We're very grateful for this grant support, and honored that our work here is recognized at the national level.

With additional grant funding from the Mockingbird Foundation, every fifth-grader in the Ellensburg School District got the opportunity to play a string instrument in school – three lessons and a concert for the rest of the classes! Michelle Vaughn, recent CWU graduate and former Prep Strings teacher, led the classes with the help of Trey Miller, a current Beginning Strings Instructor. We shared information about Prep Strings, the Ellensburg string program, private instruction, and other community resources. All this is part of our ongoing effort to inspire interest and enthusiasm for string playing in the Valley.

We are delighted to have started a new class this year – the Early Beginners Violin Class led by Master Teacher Barb Riley. Barb is an amazing teacher in the

Suzuki tradition, and we're very fortunate to have her working with us. By starting a stringed instrument young, children are able to achieve incredible things as performers and musicians. We're looking forward to watching the progress of these Early birds for years to come.

Later this Fall or Winter, I will be seeking students who are interested in a Fiddle Club. As an addition to regular Prep classes, the goal will be to learn tunes in a variety of musical styles (beyond classical music – including Bluegrass, Celtic, Jazz, Mariachi, Pop, Western Swing... the list is very long!). This is a great way to extend personal musicianship, learn new skills, and have a lot of fun. Stay tuned, and feel free to let me know if you're interested.

Since we all spend time surfing the web (maybe too much time!), I have started a page full of links from our website: <http://prep.cwustrings.com>. Enjoy!

All the best,

Dr. Smith, Faculty Advisor
bpsmith@cwu.edu, 963-1548

EARLY BEGINNERS

Welcome to the new students in the Early Beginners class! We have 9 children, ages 5 ½ to 7, and their respective adult partners, including moms, dads, grandparents and friends! Everyone is learning new skills and making new friends. The kids especially love to watch the adults take their turn, and they are rewarded with applause and hugs! We are working on

beautiful bow holds and tall violin posture, and we can even pluck two songs already. We can't wait to show you what we've learned by our first concert.

Sincerely,

Barb Riley, Master Teacher
barbriley53@yahoo.com, 962-5353

BEGINNING STRINGS

A big welcome to our new Beginning strings players! We have already learned quite a few songs, including Hot Cross Buns, Mary Had a Little Lamb, and Rocket Cruiser. Currently, we are practicing bow holds and proper playing position. Our ambitious group already loves performing, so it is no problem getting volunteers to share solos for the whole class!

Mr. Trey, Miss Marysa, and I hope every parent is as proud of the students as we are! We look forward to seeing each child continue to progress as we prepare for our December concert.

Lynn Thometz, Instructor
thometzl@cwu.edu



SILVER STRINGS

The Silver Strings group has had a promising Fall Quarter! We are learning important musicianship skills such as pitch-matching and rhythmic sight-reading, as well as how to play as an ensemble. All of our students are doing an amazing job with the challenge of reading music. Keep up the hard work, Silver, and remember to drill, drill, drill those flash cards!



Sincerely,
Brandi R. D. Brown, Instructor
bbrown@cwu.edu

WATCH OUT! INSTRUMENT SAFETY:

Do not play swords with your bow – You could break the wood, loosen the hair, or poke an eye out!

Carry it properly – under the arm for violin and viola, two hands for cello and bass. This usually prevents those scratches, dents, and nicks.

Be careful where you store your instrument. Too hot or too cold can cause permanent damage.

Wipe off rosin from strings and body with a soft cloth, and loosen the bow every time before you put it away.

Be wary of who you let play your instrument. This may include storing it away from younger siblings. ☺ It's delicate!

GOLD ORCHESTRA

Hello Gold Strings!!

We are off to a great start this year! We are playing some awesome music (Port Royal, Petite Tango, and Forrest Gump) and it is really coming along already. Looks like we're going to have an amazing concert! This quarter, we are really focusing on playing more than just

the notes on the page – including dynamics, articulations, and such. Expression is what makes beautiful music. I am excited for our concert, and looking forward to the rest of the year!

Samantha Sabrowsky, Director
sabrowskys@cwu.edu

DEBUT ORCHESTRA

The Debut Orchestra is having a wonderful Fall Quarter! We are working on *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, *Humoresque*, and the theme from *Star Wars* this quarter. We were also invited to play the celebratory Jewish song *Hava Nagila* with KVYO! In addition to our students' strong playing, I am impressed with their overall knowledge of key

signatures and time signatures. Way to go! We also jammed to *Take Five* one day, which I thought was a good experience for the students (and me!).

Keep up the good work, Debut!
Rachel Nesvig, Director
nesvigr@cwu.edu

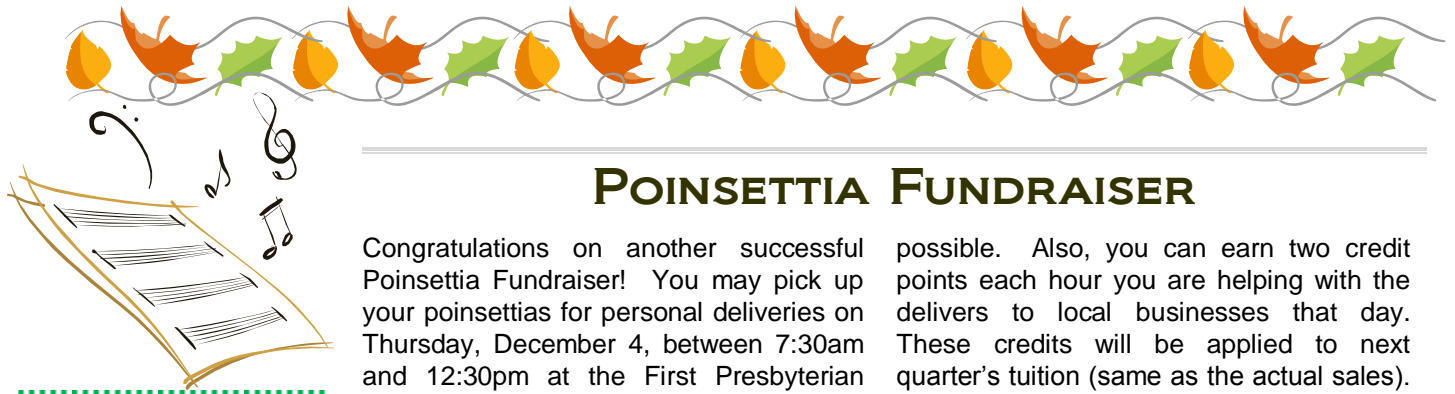
KITTITAS VALLEY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Yet another great season of KVYO! In just a few weeks, we have made a great deal of progress on some very challenging music. The addition of a few new players in the group has been wonderful and I'm so glad they've decided to join.

KVYO members – remember to prepare thoroughly for rehearsals and keep practicing regular attendance and punctuality! The KVYO concert is scheduled for Saturday, Dec 6, at 2pm, and please note that the dress rehearsal is the same day at 10am.

The repertoire for our concert will include Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* (a holiday favorite!) as well as *Hungarian Dances* by Brahms. I hope ALL Prep Strings students, families, and friends come to our concert this year, and bring everyone they know. It will be a good show!

Thank you, and I look forward to continue working with all of the fine KVYO-ers.
Kim Roy, Director
royk@cwu.edu



POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

Congratulations on another successful Poinsettia Fundraiser! You may pick up your poinsettias for personal deliveries on Thursday, December 4, between 7:30am and 12:30pm at the First Presbyterian Church (1307 E 3rd Ave). Make sure you get those to your customers as soon as

possible. Also, you can earn two credit points each hour you are helping with the deliveries to local businesses that day. These credits will be applied to next quarter's tuition (same as the actual sales). Any questions, please contact Kristie Smith at 933-4782 or ksmith99_99@yahoo.com.

CONCERT POINTERS FOR PERFORMERS:

Dress up! You have been working toward this important night for months, so show off by not only sounding good, but looking good!

Mentally prepare yourself before you arrive.

Some performers need personal time – others need to dance around and release some energy!

Take note of the call time and be prompt. Being late can be very stressful for everyone!

Be supportive of other performers and show them you respect their hard work by being a polite audience member.

Last, but not least, *have fun!*

WINTER QUARTER REGISTRATION

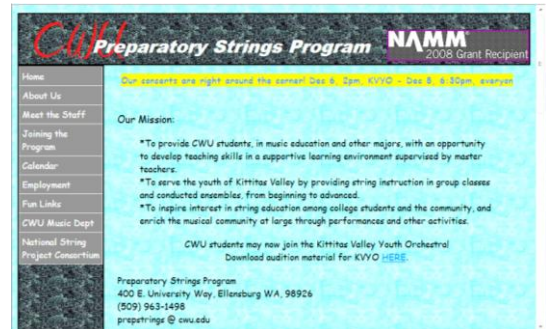
Good news! We have changed the registration system so you do NOT need to re-register each quarter of the school year. The packet you completed for Fall included a Student/Parent Information Form, Billing and Instrument Rental Form, Medical Release Form, and CWU Media Release Form. As long as these stay current, you may simply *show up* and sign a little form on the first day of Winter to renew your enrollment! If you do not attend in that first week and we do not

hear from you, we will assume you will not be participating (but please remember to return borrowed instruments!). To update any of your information, or for new students, there are extra form packets available on our bulletin board in the student lounge that may be returned to any staff member or to the Music Department main office.

Have a fantastic break, and we look forward to having you back! Remember, classes start on January 7-9.

OUR WEBSITE: PREP.CWUSTRINGS.COM

If you haven't been there lately, check it out! We recently added a new page of links, updated the calendar, and will soon be adding some new photos. If you would like to send a link or Prep photo to post on our site, email Jan: jaffeja@cwu.edu.



A GAME FOR YOU!

Unscramble the words below and insert the boxed letters into the puzzle to reveal a secret message!

- ACORTRESH = _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- NOVILI = _ _ _ _ _
- IVAOL = _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- TNGIRSS = _ _ _ _ _ _
- SABS = _ _ _ _
- NAPIO = _ _ _ _ _

1 3 6 6 Y T 1 3 N K 5 4 2 V 2 N 4!