

GARDEN CITY FRIENDS OF MUSIC

“Music . . . can name the unnameable and communicate the unknowable.” — Leonard Bernstein

STUDENT AWARDS

Friends of Music Senior Awards

The Senior Awards ceremony took place on May 31, 2018. Matt Wakeham, Co-President, presented the Garden City Friends of Music Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to Alexis Grace Spera for her achievements in Alto II vocal music. In addition, the following Friends of Music senior awards were presented:

Vocal: Thomas Flanagan

Orchestra: Catherine Wallace

Band: Brandon Gong

Middle School Awards

Vocal: Molly Dougherty, MaryKate Logler

Orchestra: Aidan Wu

Band: Corinne Lafont, Jenny Zheng

Electronic Music: Guanzhong Liu

Stewart School Awards

Vocal: Samantha Fiore

Orchestra: Samuel Chan

Band: Julia Wang



FOM Co-President Matt Wakeham and scholarship winner Alexis Grace Spera

Stratford School Awards

Vocal: Luciana Ciccone

Orchestra: Emma Reis

Band: Abigail Jesberger

FRIENDS OF MUSIC GRANT DONATIONS

The Garden City Friends of Music made the following donations to address musical instrument and equipment needs at Stewart School, Stratford School, and Garden City High School. Thank you to all of our members - your support makes this happen!

A grant of \$2,250 was given to fund the purchase of two new high quality Leonardo DiVicenza cellos, one for Stewart School and one for Stratford School. These cellos are known for their tone quality and will enrich the music education of the students.

A grant of \$2,000 was given for the GCHS Marching Band to purchase items that include: a bass drum harness, a Fender Bassman replacement, an Akai Professional Advance 61 MIDI Keyboard Controller, and drum line cases.

OUR MISSION

Promote music education at all levels by raising revenues to provide state-of-the-art music programs

Purchase musical instruments and other equipment for student use

Promote opportunities for the Garden City community to share the benefits of our students' musical talents

Provide financial assistance for musical events and field trips

Provide monetary scholarship to a graduating senior who plans to pursue music studies

Award deserving students at both Elementary Schools, the Middle School and the High School in vocal, string, band and electronic music categories.

Not a member yet? Join Friends of Music today!
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**GARDEN CITY
FRIENDS OF
MUSIC**

HS CONCERT CHOIR PERFORMS IN LI MUSIC FESTIVAL

On Friday, June 1, 2018, the GCHS Concert Choir performed in the Long Island Music Festival at Suffolk Community College (Brentwood campus). The day started with an adjudication session. In this session, the students performed two pieces for judges, during which the panel assessed the group and recorded their comments. One of the adjudicators then conducted a clinic with the ensemble, focusing and expanding on a musical aspect of their performance. The adjudicators awarded each ensemble with a ranking: Very Good, Excellent, or Superior. The Concert Choir received a "Superior" rating, which is the highest rating possible at the festival! After the adjudication component, the group spent the afternoon at Long Island Adventure Park in Melville.



Photo Credit: GC School District



Photo Credit: GC School District

HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND WINS 1ST PLACE

On Saturday, April 28, 2018, students from the tri-state area competed at the annual Music In The Parks, an adjudication festival for school bands, orchestras and choirs grades 6-12. The event awards ceremony at Six Flags in New Jersey, is a part of the Educational Programs Network, which includes ensembles from all over the United States and Canada.

Garden City High School Marching Band kicked off its new 2018-19 season winning first place in its Division, first place overall, and a superior rating from the nationally renowned judges. This is a remarkable achievement for the band, having never competed in a parade competition before, never performed at Music in the Parks, and having many new members perform and compete for the first time. For more information, check out the article in the GC News - thanks to Tricia Lynch for the write-up!

<https://www.gcnews.com/articles/gchs-marching-band-wins-first-place-at-music-in-the-parks-competition/>



Photo Credit: Tricia Lynch



Photo Credit: Tricia Lynch

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPETES AT MUSIC IN THE PARKS

On Saturday, May 5th, 2018, the Garden City Middle School Eighth Grade Band and Late Night Jazz Ensemble, once again competed at the “Music in the Parks” festival in Fleetwood, PA.

Each group performed for two adjudicators and played a warm up piece and two adjudicated compositions.

The Eighth Grade Band and Late Night Jazz Ensemble received the highest scores of the day with average scores of 96.5 and 93.75 respectively, earning 1st place Superior Ratings.

The Eighth Grade Band won the “Best Overall Concert Band” award for the eighth time in the past ten years. The Late Night Jazz Ensemble won the “Best Overall Jazz Ensemble” award for the tenth year in a row.

Each year, the adjudicators select the “Best Overall Jazz Soloist” at the festival. This year there was a tie and both students were from Garden City Middle School. Eighth-grade trombone player, Daniel Vazquez, earned this distinction for the third straight year, along with seventh-grade tuba player, Jack Lutz.



After their morning performances, the bands spent the rest of the day at Dorney Park in Allentown, PA. The festivities culminated with an awards ceremony held inside the park. Both bands are under the direction of MS teacher Ms. J. Iovino.

Congratulations to all!

ELEMENTARY STRING ENSEMBLE RECEIVES GOLD RATING

Garden City’s Elementary String Ensemble received a Gold rating at this year’s New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Majors Festival held at Hofstra University on May 22nd, 2018. This is the second consecutive year the group has been awarded the top rating.

Elementary music teacher, Andrew Albani directs the 25 fifth grade string players from Stewart and Stratford schools who make up the Elementary String Ensemble. These students arrived to school early twice a week to work on challenging and demanding music since the beginning of the school year.



NYSSMA Majors Festivals are held each year throughout the state, and schools ranging from elementary to high school perform for specially trained music adjudicators. These adjudicators listen to each performance group, make comments and then give an overall score.

Congratulations to these hard working dedicated musicians!

POPS CONCERT TRIBUTE TO BOBBY MENGES

At the annual Pops concert held at the GCHS, performances by the high school's choral and band ensembles entertained all and featured the world premiere of a very special piece. "***In the Mourning, Shouts of Joy***", by award-winning and world-renowned composer Stephen Melillo, was commissioned by the Garden City High School Band Program, with the support of the school district. The work was written in honor and memory of band alumnus and beloved community member Bobby Menges, Class of 2015. The music so poignantly captures the emotions of Bobby's struggles, the pain of his loss, and ultimately, the joy and triumph of his life. One of Bobby's greatest loves was sharing music with others. The band, combined with alumni of the band program, joined together in this special premiere performance. It was a heartfelt musical tribute. Dr. James P. McCrann spoke from his heart in introducing this piece and inviting the Menges family to the stage.



Photo Credit: GC School District

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!
HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!*

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