

MUSIC FOR MINORS II

37141 Second Street, Fremont, CA 94536
www.musicforminors2.org (510) 733-1189
March - April, 2009



Nurturing the love and literacy of music in children's classrooms.

WHAT'S INSIDE FOR YOU:

President's Message	1
Editor's Insert	1
Calendar of Events.....	2
Executive Director's Notes	3 - 5
Community Bulletin Board.....	5
Board and Staff Game.....	6
Photo Gallery	7 - 8

President's Message

Leo Hinkel, Board President

The Music for Minors II docent training is now completed and each person is assigned to a school to bring musical joy to elementary students. Music for Minors II has consistently taught music to children through the docent training program. This is really the heart of what we have always done over the last twenty years and will continue to be in our twenty-first year. It is amazing how docents are found or seem to come forward for the fall training each year and bravely go into a classroom to teach their first lesson. We are grateful for your willingness, time, and devotion.



Cheers for Volunteers!!



EDITOR'S INSERT

Joanne Hong, Newsletter Editor

The following is a portion of an article from *Choral Director* magazine, January 2008

Music Lessons Pay Off in Higher Earnings

Those hours practicing piano scales or singing with a choral group weren't for nothing because people with a background in music tend to have a higher education and earn more, according to a new survey.

The poll by Harris Interactive, an independent research company, showed that 88% of people with a post-graduate education were involved in music while in school, and 83% of people earning \$150,000 or more had a music education.

"Part of it is the discipline itself in learning music, it's a rigorous discipline, and in an ensemble situation, there's a great deal of working with others. Those types of skills stand you well in careers later in life," said John Mahlmann, of the National Association for Music Education in Reston, Virginia, which assisted in the survey.

In addition to the practical skills gained from studying music, people questioned in the online poll said it also gave them a sense of personal fulfillment. ... "That's the beauty of music, that they can bring both hard work and enjoyment together, which doesn't always happen elsewhere," Mahlmann added.

Calendar of Events

March, 2009

2, Monday – Docent Song Sharing
10:15 am, Sandy Shimkus's home, Fremont

3, Tuesday – Greg Mortensen in Person
7:30 pm, Diamond Palace, Fremont
See the author of "3 Cups of Tea" and a performance of the theme song by Carol Zilli and Sandy Shimkus.

8, Sunday – Tri Cities Bluesfest: A Celebration of Music Teachers Past and Present
2:00 pm, Saddle Rack, 42011 Boscell Road, Fremont
MFMI is helping to sponsor the event. Carol Zilli and Joanne Hong will be among the teachers recognized.

11, Tuesday – Board Meeting
7:00 pm, Carol's home, Fremont
Board meetings are open to interested parties. Come see how we make the decisions that affect you.

15, Sunday – Ohlone Wind Orchestra Winter Concert
2:00 pm, Smith Performing Center.
For tickets, please call 510-659-6031.

March through April – New Docent Observations

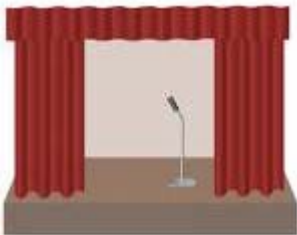
April, 2009

2, Thursday – MFMI Family Music Night
7:00 pm, Music School, 5735 Musick Avenue, Newark

SPRING BREAK
Fremont – April 10-17
Newark – April 13-17
Castro Valley – April 13-17

30, Thursday – Camp Rock Musical performed by the Schilling School Chorus
10:00 am and 7:00 pm, Schilling School, 36901 Spruce Street, Newark
Directed by Carol Zilli.

Spring Performances



Hirsch – June 1, Monday, 10:00 am, front lawn of school
Gomes – April 24, Friday, 7:00 pm: 1st grade multicultural songs
May 29, Friday, 7:00 pm: 6th grade "Dig It"
June 4, Thursday, 7:00 pm: 5th grade "Lewis and Clark"
June 11, Thursday, 7:00 pm: 4th grade "How the West Was Really Won"
Leitch – April 27-May 1, Monday-Friday, 7:00 pm, Warm Springs Elementary Gymnasium

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Carol Zilli, Executive Director

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE (not to mention Happy Valentine's Day, Happy St. Patrick's Day, and Happy Easter)! Time marches on whether we're ready or not. A lot of musical fun has already been experienced by our children, thanks to our wonderful docents with the support of our dedicated Board of Directors and staff.

DIAMOND IN CONCERT

What a great way to start our 21st year of musical magic with CHARLOTTE DIAMOND in Concert! It was Charlotte's music that got MFMII started as it captivated school board members, curriculum councils, PTA's and teachers. And to think she is still as entertaining and inspirational 20 years later!

Thanks to Charlotte's wonderful concert, we have become more visible in the community, and more children are now excited about her music. We also thank our great docents who provided their own children to perform with Charlotte during the show. They were wonderful and seemed to have a ball. Hats off to **Sandra Wynne**, Program Coordinator, **Sharon Filippi**, Administrative Assistant, and **Johann Devakumar**, Publicity Director, who helped Carol in planning and implementing this successful community event. MFMII also recognizes the Tri-City Voice for their outstanding headline coverage of the concert and MFMII. We know that greatly contributed to our sell-out performance. And finally, here's to **Mei Mei**, Gomes docent, who sold the most tickets - 60! Now that's a MFMII promoter, first class!

Charlotte never ceases to amaze me with her beautiful voice, spirit and creative genius! There's exciting news about her new website - it features new technology so her songs can be heard and bought online. There are great links, including MFMII, the Hugbug Club, and many more new features making it very easy to navigate. For a delightful visit, bookmark this address: www.charlottediamond.com.

THANKS TO FREMONT BANK!

Music for Minors II thanks Fremont Bank for their generous grant which helped sponsor the Charlotte

Diamond Concert in February. This is not the first time this community-minded local bank has supported non-profits in their missions. Music for Minors II is most grateful for this grant given the increased concert costs.

INFORMAL WORKSHOP

February 2nd marked a second informal gathering of Gomes and Leitch docents and a few others at the home of **Sandy Shimkus**. Songs and activities were shared nonstop as docents came up and demonstrated their favorite patriotic and seasonal songs. Signing, rhythmic movement, instrumentation, etc. offered lots of ideas and energy, and the best part is that **Lelia Ng** recorded it all and is putting it on YouTube. Remember to check out these goodies online regularly as this is a convenient and helpful docent support project. Pictures are included in this newsletter as well.

DOCENT PLACEMENTS

Experienced and new docents have been placed in their classrooms and are happily sharing the joy of music with thousands of children. Teachers are already shouting the praises of these wonderful volunteers who have lifted the children's and classroom teachers' spirits. MFMII welcomes new schools Mission Valley and Fremont Parents' Nursery School in Fremont, Graham School in Newark, and Thornhill Elementary in Oakland, and more teachers in the EDCC (Extended Day Care Center) in Dublin, Pleasanton, and Walnut Creek. Combining both training classes, there were 45 new docents trained this past fall, making this the biggest training class ever, and bringing our current total to 95 docents serving 22 schools in four school districts. Hats off to all of our new volunteers and returning docents. CHEERS TO ALL!

JO-ANN FREAD DANCES IT AGAIN!

Thank you, Jo-Ann Fread, for another wonderful dance workshop, marking her last year of teaching as she retires after 40 years of enriching the lives of thousands of children. A renowned dance mentor for Fremont Unified, and a #1 Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher among many other assignments, Jo-Ann always saw children as they can be, not just as they are. She has painlessly stretched children's imaginations and talents



far beyond their grade level and instilled in them a sense of self-worth and confidence that will last a life time. I will never forget watching her kindergarteners at Warwick without any direction, marching in a variety of formations to "Stars and Stripes Forever", choreographed by Jo-Ann.

Jo-Ann's philosophy of education is grounded in the value and need for the arts, especially music, in the lives of children. "For me, music is an integral part of who I am and cannot be denied. I've made it a crucial part of my teaching, finding that it brings joy and pride to my students. I cannot imagine teaching without the arts and in particular, music." Jo-Ann's impact on children's lives has been great these past 40 years and she attributes her successes to the creative integration of music as a powerful learning tool.

We had many wonderful new docents and veteran docents, classroom teachers, former docents, and prospective docents who attended the great dance workshop with Jo-Ann Fread. Streaming to "Sakura", poppin' with "Popcorn", reelin' that set in the "Virginia Reel", and keeping that rhythmic African drum beat to "High Life" made for a fun-filled and enriching workshop as usual. Everyone came away with a handout and CD of the music of these great age-appropriate dances for children and adults, too. Look for the workshop on YouTube soon, thanks again to the talent of Lelia Ng.

MFMII recognized Jo-Ann Fread that night with a certificate of excellence and appreciation, and a musical bear that plays "I Hope You Dance." Jo-Ann has been a dedicated, ardent supporter of MFMII for these past almost twenty years. We wish you many years of a happy retirement, Jo-Ann, as you continue to share your musical talents with your grandchildren and family. Thankfully we have you on about 20 videos for our continued pleasure. (The good news is that Jo-Ann will return next year to offer our dance workshop, as Tracy is not that far away.) Your contribution to Music for Minors II has been extraordinary and unforgettable. "I hope you dance!"

IN OUR HEARTS

MFMII has received some sad news about Red Grammer's wife, Cathy who recently passed away. She was such a wonderful person and worked closely with Red on his song creations and musical activities. MFMII extends our heartfelt sympathies to Red and his beautiful family; may they be comforted with many happy memories.



On another very sad note, MFMII would like to also extend our condolences to Ardith Concannon, on the passing of her brother, **Tommy Andrew**, in November. It is such a loss to MFMII as Tommy

was an excellent docent for two years and had just begun serving us as our Docent Manager/Mentor. The shocking news saddened all of us, especially the kindergarteners and first graders at Musick and Snow Schools in Newark whom he inspired and delighted with the love of music and performance. Tommy will be greatly missed as his kind, gentle nature, creative genius, and absolute love of MFMII was a continual inspiration to us all.

Our thanks to all the wonderful docents who attended his memorial service and sang and signed Charlotte Diamond's tender and inspirational song, "You Can Make a Miracle!" Our thanks also to the donors to MFMII in Tommy's memory. We will continue to accept donations in his honor for the purchase of instruments and other music materials for the resource center or whatever the donor designates.

DOCENT SHARING MODEL

Hip Hip Hooray to Gomes and Leitch docents who have been getting together for docent song sharing monthly. Connecting with each other regularly like this is a source of great support and inspiration. It is our hope that this becomes contagious in all of our other schools, as such events where people open their homes and gather docents in close proximity is probably the easiest way to gather and share informally. Look for these get-together communications in our Yahoo!Group e-mails and newsletters, as all are always welcome to attend. Better yet, start one in your area. There's nothing like fellow docents coming together, making music, and sharing lesson plans and needs. The results are always fun, FUN, FUN!

PTA RECOGNITION

Everyone loves a drum or a tambourine or some rhythm sticks as we are all kids at heart. A fun-filled musical event happened on Thursday, February 26th, at the Fremont Council PTA Founders Luncheon Celebration at the Golden Peacock (3681 Peralta Boulevard) in Fremont. PTA presidents, teachers, principals, FUSD school board members and superintendent Dr. Milt Werver attended, along with our MFMII docent honorees. Carol led the almost-200 guests in a Melody Midgets version of "When PTA Goes



Marching In”, keeping with the Mardi Gras theme of the event. Huge thanks goes to **Sandy Shimkus**, whose help in the set-up and clean-up of those 200 instruments was invaluable, especially since she was also an honoree at the event. MFMI congratulates the following docents who received Service Awards at the luncheon. Hats off to you dedicated and hardworking ladies: **Lelia Ng, Sandy Shimkus, and Christina Broadwin** (Gomes School), **Wendy Clark** (Hirsch School), and **Barbara Rodriguez** (Parkmont School). **Christina Broadwin** received a special tribute, the Golden Oak Service Award. Well done, Christina! MFMI is blessed to have such giving volunteers who always go above and beyond what is expected with a smile.

showcase. After some narration and songs, their finale was an a cappella version of “We Are the Children”, which was powerful. Seeing and hearing the fruits of their docenting was wonderful. Keep up the good work ladies.

FINAL NOTES

Now more than ever, music is needed in our lives and especially in our schools, given the current economic situation and our stress-filled world. It is music that lifts the spirit and keeps us hopeful and joyful. Humans need to sing, as it is natural and gives us the means of expression and communication like none other, not to mention the unity it creates. So, don't let a day go by without a song either sung, played, or danced.

So it's MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC as 2009 marches along! Let's make it a memorable year filled with good health and happiness through the powerful and uplifting joy of music!



PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITY TAKEN

Hats off to our EDCC new docents in in Dublin: **Daisy Beckwith, and Carole Liu**. Their students shined at their winter

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Tri-Cities Bluesfest

Sponsored by Soroptomist International of the Tri-Cities and the Newark Chamber of Commerce

Join us Sunday, March 8, 2009, at the Saddle Rack in Fremont, for a fantastic lineup of performers as we raise money for education and music in the schools. Featured performers will be (in order of appearance) The Snooky Flowers Flashback Band, Pamela Rose, Ron Thompson & The Resistors, Lydia Pense & Cold Blood, and Tommy Castro. Doors open at 1:30pm, show starts at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$25.

We will be honoring music teachers from today and from years past, with awards presentations by Ron Thompson, a well known Blues musician and Newark School alumnus.

www.tricityblues.com.

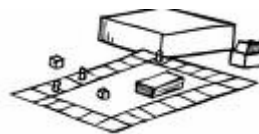
Starstruck Theatre

Starstruck Theatre is a wonderful local opportunity for your children and your students to experience professional performance. The director, Lori Stokes, is a gifted director and musician who actually was a Music for Minors II docent at Mission San Jose Elementary School in Fremont many years ago. She has a wonderful rapport with children and knows how to bring out the best in them, having raised three of her own who have all been actively involved in her shows.

I hope your children can participate in one of her shows, as the results will absolutely amaze you. If not, then please do not miss seeing one of them and supporting this solid theater group.

www.starstrucktheatre.org.

BOARD (and STAFF) GAME



Welcome to our new Board members: **Pratyush Bhatia** (Funding Director), **Betty Cole** (Vice President), and **Farnaz Parhami** (Historian). They were voted on to the Board at the February meeting.

We don't know their favorites yet, but here are the answers to last month's game:

#1 Elena Scharnhorst – Treasurer, Docent Training Coordinator (Castro Valley)

Singer: John Mayer

Musical: embarrassed to admit, I've only been to one...forget the name, but it featured all of Billy Joel's hit songs...pretty good....not for the kids though :)

Food: SUSHI - the raw-er the better!

#2 Carol Zilli – Executive Director

Singer: Andrea Boccelli and Celine Dion

Group: Lots - can't pick

Musical: Phantom of the Opera, Mamma Mia, Cats, Crazy for You, Les Miserables - too many to choose one.

Food: Salmon, pasta, steak, - I'm Italian, come on!

#3 Sandy Shimkus – Liaison Coordinator, Docent Training Coordinator (Fremont)

Singer: Julie Andrews

Musical: *The Sound of Music*

Food: Shrimp

#4 Leo Hinkel – Board President

Food: Even before visiting Italy recently, I have always loved pasta dishes. My favorite: Penne Pasta with tomato sauce mixed with mushrooms, onions and small bits of meat.

Musical: Going way back to my high school years during the era of the big band, it was Lionel Hampton and his "Flying Home" and "Beulah's Boogie" and others. Duke Ellington was very creative with a variety of music like

"Take the 'A' Train". Later in the '60's, there were the Beatles and Herb Alpert and The Tijuana Brass; I continue to enjoy many of their songs. Also, I enjoy many classical works such as *Concerto for Guitar and String Orchestra* by Vivaldi. I could always listen to "59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy)" by Harpers Bizarre, and Neil Diamond's "Song Sung Blue" and "Sweet Caroline."

#5 Sharon Filippi – Administrative Assistant

Singer: Alright, this really dates me but the last album that I learned all the words to and still sing along with is Carole King's Tapestry. Maybe it's that "Natural Woman" thing.

Food: Chocolate Chip Cookies

#6 Sandra Wynne – Program Coordinator

Singer: My favor singer is Luciano Pavarotti

Musical: I really enjoy opera/classical music.

Food: And to go along with that my favorite food to eat and cook is Italian ==)

#7 Johann Devakumar - Publicity

Singer or Group: I'd have to say U2.

Musical: Can't say I have been to many :) Does *The Sound of Music* count? I know, very typical, but I can't think of any.

Food: That one is easy: chocolate :)

#8 Joanne Hong - Secretary

Artist: Barbra Streisand, Barry Manilow (you can stop laughing now)

Musical: *Funny Girl*, classic Rodgers & Hammerstein

Food: Chocolate, potato chips, Japanese, Mexican, pasta

#9 Veera Kazak – Resource Center Director

Singer: Cliff Richard

Musical: *The Sound of Music*

Food: Biryani

MEMII & "IN HARMONY" CONTACTS

Executive Director - Carol Zilli: czilli@aol.com

Administrative Assistant - Sharon Filippi: 510-796-8578 sharon.filippi@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor - Joanne Hong: jmhong@pacbell.net

PHOTO GALLERY

Charlotte Diamond Concert



Docents make puppetry fun with Charlotte.



Docents' children become stars on stage celebrating with "La Bamba."



Nothing like a Charlotte Diamond autograph.



What a team! Usherette Kathy Garfinkle, Board President Leo Hinkel, Ticketmaster par excellence, Sharon Filippi, Program Coordinator, Sandy Wynne, and Carol.

Docent Sharing Model



Ann Miner catches on as Lizzy and Mette "sell a song."



Lelia, play that comb!



You go girls! It's "Viva Valentine" time!