



the Amplifier

A trimester newsletter from the Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Alliance

Ensembles Shine at Fall Concert



(Members of GoldenVoice, left; Beginning and Intermediate Chorus, below)



Over 150 Guerin Catholic students participated in 9 different ensembles at the first concert of the 2015-16 school year. The concert was held October 15 at St. Elizabeth Seton.

The newly reenergized band kicked off the evening with a rousing rendition of "Happy." According to Mr. Duray, "the momentum we're gaining on the band side of the music hallway is terrific! The early morning rehearsals are a sacrifice for all involved, but the Godly sense of purpose is all being embraced by our student-musicians, and it's truly evident in their

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Save the Date!

Open Mic Night January 26

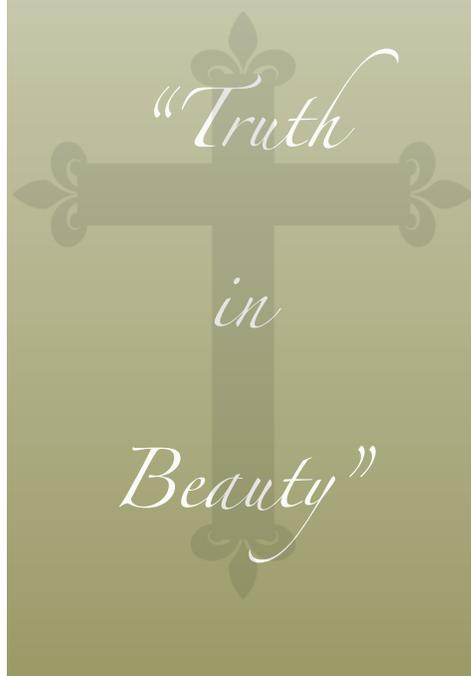
Join us in the Cafetorium for Open Mic Night. Bring your latest poem, comedic sketch or song of choice to share!

Deanery Instrumental Music Festival February 27

Guerin Catholic will host this event from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. for band and orchestra participants.

Spring Musical March 10-13, 17-20

Note the earlier dates for the spring musical this year and watch for more information about auditions coming soon!



Fall Concert, cont.

attitude, their rehearsal and their performance. Just awesome!”

Senior band member Madeline Stanton added, “At first everyone was skeptical



(Above: Mr. Duray leads the band in “The Last Rose of Summer”; Left: Members of string orchestra are directed by Mr. Garcia)



about the early morning practices, but now we don't mind it as much. We have become closer as a band through all the early mornings. The extra practices have definitely paid off and when you listen to us, it is obvious as well!”

Next up was the String Orchestra which performed three pieces under the direction of Mr. Garcia.

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(Left: the guitar ensemble plays “Heart of Gold”)

Fall Concert, cont.

The evening also included performances by the student-led Guerin Catholic Girls Next Door (GCGND) and its male counterpart, the Guerin Catholic Gentlemen's Choral Group (GCGCG), along with the all-women's chorus Cecilia, and the Beginning and Intermediate Chorus.

Sounds of Providence and GoldenVoice offered several pieces as well, including a moving "Ave Maria" from Sounds and a stirring performance of "He's Able" from GoldenVoice. Another highlight was Mr. Duray's surprise harmonica jam during the Guitar Ensemble's "Heart of Gold".

Principal McNeany summed up the evening with his complimentary remarks — especially noting the early morning practice hours of the band and Sounds of Providence. "Mr. Duray and Mr. Garcia are truly the most hard-working people in the building," he said.

And it showed.



(top: GCGCG presents a mash-up of "I'm Yours" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"; left: GCGND members entertain; above right: guests enjoy refreshments at the pre-show reception)

Performing Arts Serves

This fall the performing arts department had several opportunities to get out and serve in the greater Indianapolis community.

During the annual Guerin Catholic day of service in November, members of GoldenVoice and Band traveled to Anderson. There they worked at St. Mary's and St. Ambrose parishes cleaning and spending time with the school students.

"We cleaned the pews in the church for part of the day, but the best part for me was when we read with the kids," said sophomore AJ Hacker. "They were a little shy at first, but really warmed up to us. When it was time for us to go, you could tell they didn't want us to leave. It felt like it really mattered that we were there."

Mr. Garcia, who attended elementary school at St. Ambrose, was especially moved by the day.

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(top: Sounds of Providence sings for residents of Hoosier Village; middle: GoldenVoice fills the halls of St. Vincent Fishers with Christmas carols; left: music students rake the playground at St. Mary's in Anderson on Guerin Catholic's annual service day)

Performing Arts Serves, con't.

“It’s strange how even the smells of the buildings and rooms you grew up in — the lunch room, the hallways, the classrooms, even the ginkgo tree in the parking lot — all smell the exact same as when they did back then!” Mr. Garcia said. “It was a pleasure to serve the community wholeheartedly that day, as they had served me for many years.”

In November, members of GoldenVoice and Sounds of Providence spent an evening spreading their joyful noise at the Hoosier Village Retirement Community. After the music, students had time to visit with the residents. “Our students benefit from the connections that are made with our new friends and the stories those folks are eager and willing to share with them,” said Mr. Duray.

The music department also shared its talents this fall at the Providence Fund Dinner, St. Vincent Hospital in Fishers, and several other Christmas caroling events.

“Anytime we can take our musicians out of the building for performance or liturgy, I feel we’re doing what God intended for us, given the gift of music He has bestowed on us,” says Mr. Duray. “It’s our responsibility, really.”



“I had a conversation with one of the retirees after our performances. He had especially noticed the first two pieces of music, “Ave Maria” by Anton Bruckner and “Salvation is Created” by Pavel Tschesnokoff, sung by Sounds of Providence. As he talked about how he and his wife used to sing in a choir that performed sacred choral works, I noticed his eyes were glimmering a bit and his voice was starting to break. I had the sense that his wife had passed away. He proceeded to talk to me about how much of a gift it was to hear Guerin Catholic’s choirs, as it reminded him of time he and his wife would spend together; a time that he treasured. Sharing this beautiful art form of music has the power to transport people back to a time they hold dearly in their hearts. This is a small thing, but a huge testament as to why we do what we do!”

—Joey Garcia

Winter Play “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” a Hit!

Even with the challenge of putting together a show in just a month, the cast and crew of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* delivered.

“It was nice to do a show around Christmas,” said Mr. Panasuk, who directed the play. “It’s something we haven’t done in the past, and it worked really well with everything going on.”

The play is based on a children’s book of the same title. In it, the Herdmans are a family of



terrible kids who lie, steal, smoke cigars, swear, and hit little kids. So no one is prepared when this outlaw family invades the church one Sunday and decides to take over the annual Christmas pageant.

Both the theme and the timing of this year’s show was inviting to younger audiences, and the two matinee performance were a huge hit with the many local elementary school students who attended.

“I thought all of our actors did a great job with their characters and working to become 8-12 year-olds!” said Mr. Panasuk. “Usually, we’re asking student actors to play older than they actually are, but this show required many of the actors to play younger, and I think it was a lot of fun for everyone.”



2016 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Ensemble
January 26th	Open Mic Night @ Cafetorium – 7p.m.	
January 30th	ISSMA District Wind/ Percussion/String Solo & Ensemble Festival @ Westfield H.S.	
February 6th	ISSMA District Vocal/Piano Solo & Ensemble Festival @ Westfield H.S.	
February 20th	ISSMA State Vocal/Piano Solo & Ensemble Festival	
February 27th	ISSMA State Wind/ Percussion/String Solo & Ensemble Festival	
February 27th	Deanery Instrumental Music Festival @ G.C.H.S. 8 am-4 pm	Band & Orchestra
March 10th-13th, 17th-20th	Spring Musical & Art Show@ G.C.H.S. 7:30 pm	
March 12th-13th	Holy Family Catholic Conference @St. Patrick's in Kokomo	
March 31st	Guerin's Got Talent! Gymnasium-Convocation	
April 20th-24th	Music Dept. NYC Trip	GoldenVoice
April 26th	Open Mic Night @ Cafetorium – 7 p.m.	All ensembles
April 30th	ISSMA State Qualification	GoldenVoice
May 19th	Spring Concert	GoldenVoice, Band; Orchestra
June 2nd	Baccalaureate Mass (TBA)	
June 5th	2016 Commencement	

Become a Member!

The Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Alliance (GCFAA) strives to assist the Director of Fine Arts, Mark Duray, and other faculty of the department of Fine Arts in any way needed. GCFAA serves our young artists by providing the time, talent and treasure necessary to support their efforts. The GCFAA also helps to increase awareness of our fine arts program and the powerful value it brings to our community. Whether through prayer, financial support or direct involvement — WE NEED YOU!



Interested in becoming a member of the GCFAA? See below for a complete list of opportunities for involvement. Or contact our Co-Presidents with any questions or for more information.

Barb Gallina & Caroline Van Atter

gcfaapresidents@gmail.com

(317) 509-2250 or (765) 894-1270

Be an Archangel! (\$1000)

Includes: 2 GCFAA car decals, 2 GCFAA travel coffee mugs, and donor recognition in event programs.

Be an Angel! (\$500)

Includes: 2 GCFAA car decals, 2 GCFAA travel coffee mugs, and donor recognition in event programs.

Be a Saint! (\$200)

Includes: GCFAA car decal, a GCFAA travel coffee mug, and donor recognition in event programs.

Be a Friend! (\$50)

Includes: GCFAA car decal and donor recognition in event programs.

Volunteer!

- Assist with Art Shows
- Ticket Sales/Concessions
- Newsletter/Communications
- Chaperoning Trips/Events
- Making Costumes
- Theatre Set Construction
- Coordinating Volunteers
- Meals/Receptions/Hospitality
- Administrative/Clerical
- Assist with Outreach

Pray for Us!

Bless the creators, O God of Creation, who by their gifts make the world a more joyful and beautiful realm.

Through their labors they teach us to see more clearly the truth around us.

In their inspiration they call forth wonder and awe in their own living.

In their hope and vision they remind us that life is holy.

Bless all who create in your image, O God of Creation. Pour Your Spirit upon them that their hearts may sing and their works be fulfilling. Amen.

Where Are They Now? Checking in with our Fine Arts Alumni. . . Lauren and Tim Van Atter

Brother and sister alumnae Lauren (class of 2013) and Tim (class of 2014) Van Atter both attend Central Michigan University (where their mom also attended!), which has given them the special opportunity to perform together after high school.

Lauren, a junior at CMU, is studying vocal performance and pre PA. She has been in private voice studio, along with the concert choir and chamber singers, since day one of her freshman year.

Sophomore Tim joined Lauren at CMU and is also studying vocal performance — as well as obtaining a liberal arts major concentrating on global relations and philosophy. Just like his sister, Tim has been in private voice studio and concert choir. This year he also joined Lauren in the chamber singers where he now sings alongside his sister — just like they did for their three overlapping years at Guerin Catholic.

This past summer Tim participated in Orfeo, an international vocal music festival in northern Italy, with four other students from his voice studio. Lauren and Tim have performed together singing "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better" during one of the CMU student recitals.

Thanks to

the great preparation and IB credits Lauren received at Guerin Catholic, she will graduate a semester early next December, and Tim isn't far behind. He's on track to graduate a year early next spring! Both Tim and Lauren continue to serve as music ministers at their student parish, where they are actively involved members. Their Guerin Catholic experience was a blessing they both treasure.

