

Northern Michigan Initiatives Report: January, 2015

String Pedagogy Association

Bothwell Middle School hosted the Big String Concert in October. This halloween themed concert included orchestras from Escanaba, Marquette, Negaunee, Northern Michigan University, and West Iron County and had a great turnout!

The Upper Peninsula Chamber Festival will be held on February 13th at Marquette Senior High School. Some activities included this year will include cell phone music apps, massage for musicians, reading sessions, and chamber music coaching.

Last April, jazz violinist Regina Carter had to cancel visiting Marquette for the Northern Michigan University's Jazz Festival due to a death in the family. This spring Regina Carter will be spending 3 days in the Upper Peninsula to provide workshops to local string students.

Marquette Area Public Schools

Some Marquette Area Public Schools Orchestra Students have now started a student chapter of ASTA called the "Fine Tuners". They are meeting regularly, assisting with string classes, ushering orchestra concerts, helping with student string concerts, have developed a facebook page and logo, and are planning to play some string events.

"The Marquette Area Public Schools (MAPS) now have strings clubs available to all fifth graders in the district. This year, 50 students enrolled and played their first concert on December 18th, 2014. The clubs are directed by Harry South (music education graduate from NMU) and Alexis Mahler (music education graduate from Lawrence University), and assisted by Andrea Savord and Sonja Prychitko.

Strings Club students are learning fundamental skills in music and string playing, including posture, bow hold, note reading, and rhythm. They get individual instruction from middle school and high school members of "The Fine Tuners," a club of Marquette orchestra students looking for teaching experience. The elementary orchestra is looking forward to two more notable events this year: bowlympics and their spring concert. This club, which has enjoyed continuous growth over the last few years, is a good opportunity for elementary students to get a head start in the Marquette orchestra program."

- Harold South

Marquette Symphony Orchestra

The Marquette Symphony Orchestra held three successful fall concerts this year. On September 20th the Marquette Symphony Orchestra performed Mahler's 5th Symphony and Rossini's Bassoon Concerto, with soloist Kaylee Whitfield. On Saturday, November 22nd the

Marquette Symphony performed a variety of popular movie scores including accompanying the silent film "A Trip to the Moon." The final concert of 2014 was the "Sounds of the Holidays" concert conducted by Janis Peterson and Dr. Stephen Grugin on December 13th.

The Marquette Symphony will have two more concerts. The first on February 21st where the Marquette Symphony will perform Beethoven's 7th Symphony and accompany MSO Youth Strings Concerto Winner Eun Kyung Noh. The May 2nd concert will feature guest cellist Allison Eldredge performing Shostakovich's Cello Concerto and a performance of Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5.

Superior Strings Alliance

The Superior Strings Alliance had another successful summer, growing to full capacity for the Middle School Camp. The SSA chamber players also had a successful mini-tour of the Upper Peninsula this summer. The Pavo Quartet has just finished up their tour the first week of January traveling to Hancock, Munising, Michigamme, and Marquette.

Superior Strings is excited to announce they will be moving to a new campus at Presbytery Point in Michigamme Township. This move to a larger campus will allow the camp to continue to grow and better serve more students. Camp dates are set to run between June 21st through July 11th.

Upper Peninsula Youth Orchestra

"Under the new direction of Alexis Mahler and Sonja Prychitko, the UPYO has been expanded to a year-round program. Conducted by Matthew Mitchell, the orchestra is made up of string players in grades 8-12 from Marquette, Negaunee, Ishpeming, Escanaba public school and home school communities. The two-day camp will be continued as a full orchestra in June 2015.

Auditions were held in September and the 2014 Fall Concert Cycle began on October 5th, with two-hour rehearsals every Sunday on NMU's campus. During each ten-week concert cycle, students work with professional sectional coaches, guest soloists and guest conductors, and prepare for a final performance held at Reynolds Recital Hall at NMU. Students have the opportunity to study challenging repertoire, collaborate with professional musicians, explore the music facility and resources Northern Michigan University has to offer, and most importantly, make music with their friends from all over the U.P.! The Upper Peninsula Youth Orchestra's first concert was held on Sunday, November 23rd 2014. The Spring Concert Cycle will close with a performance on Sunday, May 3rd."

- Alexis Mahler

Ishpeming After School Strings

The Ishpeming After School Strings Program has now grown to 65 members. Elementary students meet once a week for group instruction while the middle and high school students are meeting twice a week. They had successful school holiday programs and also performed at local hospitals. Anne Asplund and her students are excited to perform at the annual Children's Fair in Marquette this spring.

North Star Academy

North Star Academy in Marquette's after school program includes Percussion, Garage Band, Beginning and Advanced Strings and Ukulele Class. The program serves North Star Academy students grades K-12 and has grown to include over 45 students! There will be a strings recital held on February 12th at North Star Academy's multi-purpose room and the classes will be collaborating for a final performance in May. Both strings classes are planning on also performing at the North Star Academy's spring concert.

Respectfully submitted,

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