



Johns Creek Orchestra Newsletter

Getting Back to Normal: The Covid-19 Vaccine and Release Information

By Anushka Sharma

The Covid vaccine aims to decrease the number of deaths and amount of people impacted by this deadly virus. The vaccine is also planned to be used as a way to alleviate the stress and disparity seen in many communities.

Pfizer and BioNTech and Moderna have come out with a Covid-19 vaccine to help fight this pandemic. While both vaccines have proven to be overall effective there are some differences to keep in mind.

Public Health officials are aiming to get vaccines available to anyone by the summer of this year. The distribution of vaccines has been divided into 3 phases as of right now for those who are most vulnerable. The first phase includes healthcare workers and those who stay in long-term facility centers. The second phase consists of frontline essential workers (police officers, grocery store workers, firefighters, teachers, etc.) as well as people who are 75 years and older. The third phase is for 65-74 year olds, people aged 16-64 with underlying medical conditions, and essential workers (public health officials, those who work in transportation, etc)

What Happened Over Winter Break? An Update of Fun Events in the Past Few Weeks

By Keneh Nwizugbo

- On the first official day of winter break, December 17, 2020, it was National Maple Syrup Day!
- December 21, 2020 was the first official day of winter and National Make Music in Winter Day.
- December 31st was Look on the Bright Side and Make Up Your Mind Day
- January 4th 2021 was National Spaghetti Day, National Trivia Day, and National Braille Day. Wow three national days in one, how fun and exciting!
- The festivities don't stop there! On the next day, January 5th, 2021, it was National Bird Day and National Screenwriters Day.

Have Anything You Want Added?

Interesting article? Topic you want covered? Send it in and it could appear in the next issue for the newsletter!

If you have any questions or suggestions, email chief editors, Abby Gan and Radhika Uchil, through their emails: abbygan@gmail.com and radhikauchil8@gmail.com

What are you most excited for coming into 2021?

"New adventures and experiences!"

- Pooja Nagamohan

"Going to college"

-Zoe Gotlin

"College Apps"

- Dubem Nwizugbo

Meet the Teacher: An Interview with Orchestra Director, Mr. Young Kim

By Abby Gan and Radhika Uchil



Orchestra Director, Mr. Young Kim, has been teaching at Johns Creek High School since its opening. However, even before then, he was a well-renowned teacher who had been teaching music since 1988. His orchestras have performed throughout the nation and world, for events like the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, the 2012 National Cherry Blossom Festival, and the 2005, 2012, and 2017 Midwest Conference. Due to unprecedented circumstances, freshmen and new students to Johns Creek were not able to get a proper introduction to the orchestra and Mr. Kim. The newsletter's chief editors, Abby Gan and Radhika Uchil, decided to sit down for a virtual interview with Mr. Kim to learn more about him and his goals for the orchestra, this year and on-wards.

We have seen that music has been a big part of your life as well as many of your siblings. Was music something that your family had always been involved in and how did your love for music start?

"My parents were not professional musicians, but they loved music, especially through participation in church. My father was a self-taught piano player and while he was in the military he even made a song for the battalion. He loved classical music so when I was growing up that was the music that was always playing at home for my two brothers, sister, and I. Music was always around."

How did you get into teaching? Was there a certain moment that inspired you to become a teacher?

"It started when my father started a small church in a new area. There were no teachers and I was asked to teach a Sunday class as a high-schooler. I had to prepare a weekly lesson and one week I forgot, but the children still looked forward to that lesson. In that moment I saw how precious it was for these kids to learn and how important it was for me, as a teacher, to help them achieve that. From there, that connection really started and I got inspired by those kids to teach in a field that, 30 years ago, most Asians weren't into. But I still continued because I was able to pursue the two things I loved the most: music and teaching kids."

In addition to teaching at Johns Creek, you also involve yourself in activities outside of school including the Korean-American Youth Center, GHP, GMEA, and more. In your opinion, how important is it to have a community connection and have involvement outside of school?

"Those were all activities I was involved in when I was younger. Music has been a part of me since then, so even outside of school it is something that I always have with me. I take part in these activities to not only contribute to the community, but also to contribute to music-making at different levels."

We've also seen that idea of involvement outside of the classroom within the orchestra. Although people may see it as only a school orchestra program, you work to make it more by creating that bond with students through activities out of school like potlucks, movie nights, etc. How do you think activities like this strengthen the orchestra?

"First and foremost, I am a teacher and educator at Johns Creek High School. My job is to teach students the skills necessary in orchestra. However, I want to go deeper than that and I want my role to be a teacher that is a mentor and supporter who can have life-long connections with students. In order to have that with students, we have to become a family first and establish a relationship. Through activities like potlucks my students become involved and become supporters of each other. Ten years from now students won't remember each specific piece of information they learned in class, but rather the experience. That is what I want my students to have. To experience the high school life through these great 4 years that can help them succeed and have a wonderful life beyond high school."

How have you adjusted to teaching online/hybrid? What advice do you have for students that are learning remote?

"Back in March I really started thinking about what we could do because our hands were tied. The main focus that I want everyone to have is that we can't live in fear. History has always shown that people have always done something in adverse situations. Although we have to be mindful of what is going on, we all still need to strive towards the goal of making this situation better. We need to look at the glass half full. Despite the situation, we have to recognize our accomplishments. This first semester, we played more music than any other semester. Anything is possible and we should not allow the circumstances to bring us down and use it as an excuse to not excel. We have to keep the excellence and strive for the best we can do."

What keeps you motivated when teaching? Where do you draw inspiration from for teaching style, music for the orchestra, conducting style, etc.?

"I get fueled and energized by my students. When my students learn a trend or figure out something new, that inspires me and I am able to create projects that I love. I don't know everything but I learn what is possible when I see the work of my own students. I look at all situations as hopeful because of this."

What do you think is the most important quality of an orchestra? What makes an orchestra great?

"There is a outside perspective of what makes a good orchestra and there is a perspective in Johns Creek high school of what makes a good orchestra. There is more than just performing. There is a quality that I seek, which is how can orchestra translate into other areas. This can be skills like hard work, concentrating on fundamentals, preparing, or learning how to work together as a team. Once those things can click without having to constantly be told, then that means that the program is very strong. You can see those results in our sound and in our performance. I want my students to be proud of being a part of an organization like this where we can achieve and master those types of skills."

I think it can be said for the entire orchestra that being in your class is about more than just playing music. What do you hope students learn or gain in their four years of orchestra?

"I think the experience can be portrayed through the Johns Creek Model: Integrity, Service, and Excellence. With so much pressure everyone has in life to succeed, we have to realize what it important. Integrity: stepping up in life and being an honest person. Service: the talents and expertise you have should also be used to help others. Excellence: you also want to try your best in all that you do. You can't have good results if you don't give your best. "

Student Spotlight

Jessica Tang

by Kelly Feng

How many weeks/months did you prepare for the competition?

I prepared for about 3 months.

What song did you choose or did you have to pick from a list?

I competed in the Prelude and Fugue category, so I chose to play the Back Prelude and Fugue No. 2 in C minor BWV 847.

Did you practice daily? If so, how many hours did you practice?

I practice daily for about 1 to 2 hours a day.

Do you plan to compete in college as well?

I will definitely continue playing both piano and cello in college, but I am not sure if I will still compete depending how busy I am.

Which is your favorite Bach piece to play?

I enjoy playing the Prelude and Fugue pieces, but I want to learn Chaconne in D minor soon.

Who or what encourages you to compete in piano competitions?

I think I'm pretty self-motivated, so I've been competing since I was really young. My parents and teacher don't pressure me to participate in competitions, so it's largely my own decision. I also know that competing is a way I can continue to improve, and it makes playing the instrument more fun.



Winter Concert

12/3/2020

by Naya Patel

What's your New Years Resolution?

To not get COVID - Adhya Singh

Practice more - Zoe Gotlin

Read a book a month - Ethan Loy



Our annual holiday concert, like most things in 2020, looked a little different this year. Instead of a tightly packed auditorium with poinsettias lining the stage, we celebrated the holidays out in the winter wind with twinkling lights. This year's concert was held under the bus canopy in the school courtyard in order to safely social distance and have open air. Bright string lights lined the fence behind the orchestra as we played classic christmas tunes such as 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', 'Jingle Bells', 'Away in a Manger', and 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen'. The chamber orchestra featured several soloists including Ethan Loy, Amie Wang, Isabella Lin, Katie Chong, Abbi Kim, and Cal Walrath. From Philharmonia, Joshua Wen, Pooja Nagamohan, Christine Park, Alyssa Baban, Xander Yoon, Izzy Nolton, Jeffrey Wu, William Vo, and Dubem Nwizugbo performed solos in Pachelbel Canon. Despite not being in our usual setting, the Winter Concert was a huge success and created memories for years to come.

How Activities are Adjusting Due to COVID

by Clara Kim

"Adjusting to the New Normal"

Due to COVID, there is a rise in online activities. Coming up in the next month, GMEA All State is conducting a virtual audition for musicians who made the first round. Unlike any other year, 2021 will be focused on social distancing and the required use of masks. In orchestra, in person students sit farther apart and there is an emphasis on the foundations of playing and chamber music. Online students often play individually along with the Teams meeting or create Upbeat videos with their fellow classmates.

Like orchestra, the other performing art subjects at Johns Creek High School have had to make adjustments. In band, students sit 6 feet apart, have a special device to cover the end of their instrument to reduce the air coming out, and only take their masks off while playing. In chorus, students are spaced over 6 feet apart, sing with masks on, and there is an increased focus on exposure to different styles and genres. Meanwhile, the Drama department has recently performed their masked one act the Vaudevillians - later in the year than usual to accommodate covid - and have recently started socially distanced, masked rehearsals for their upcoming musical Theory of Relativity.

It is most likely that school related outdoor activities, such as prom, will be canceled. Looking at statistics, a large number of students are spending time on home activities, like cooking, streaming, and spending time on social media.

Some Quarantine Activities/COVID Activities to help you through the day are family bonfires, watching sunrise/sunset, netflix parties, biking, online fitness classes.

Who's an artist you've started listening to?

Louis Armstrong - Adhya Singh	BTS - Alisha Rizvi	Tate Mcrae - Clara Kim	Olivia Rodrigo - Clara Kim	Radiohead - Ethan Loy
-------------------------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

Congratulations to the following students!

The following students are moving to the second round of All-State. Wish them luck!

- JJ Choi (11th)
- Katherine Chong (10th)
- Maralgu Davaadalai (9th)
- Abigail Gan (12th)
- Zoe Gotlin (12th)
- Irene Ha (10th)
- Seugmin Han (9th)
- Dayoung Han (9th)
- Annie Hong (10th)
- Aidan Hong (11th)
- Sunglin Hsieh (12th)
- Nyneishia Janarthanan (9th)
- Yeoneui Jeong (9th)
- Lee Kim (10th)
- Abigail Kim (10th)
- Charles Kim (10th)
- Ellen Kim (9th)
- Geuri Kim (10th)
- Theodore Kim (9th)
- Jeniffer Kim (11th)
- Clara Kim (12th)
- Ethan Ko (10th)
- Sachith Koduri (10th)
- Noah Koh (11th)
- Venecia Lai (10th)
- Kai Lee (10th)
- Laura Lee (11th)
- Isabella Lin (10th)
- Meghana Malempati (10th)
- Aarya Matharu (11th)
- Amy Mo (10th)
- Vihaan Narvekar (9th)
- Emma Newton (10th)
- Alina Niu (10th)
- Jason Seo (10th)
- Adhya Singh (11th)
- Madeline Summers (12th)
- Jessica Tang (12th)
- Amie Wang (12th)
- Brian Woo (10th)
- Jeffrey Xu (9th)
- Nicholas Xu (9th)
- Raymond Xue (9th)
- Ava Yoder (9th)
- Xander Yoon (11th)
- Chelsea Young (12th)
- Youyou Zhu (9th)

What's your favorite kind of cereal?

"Honey Nut Cheerios"- Brian Woo

"Honeycomb"- Laura Lee

"Cinnamon Toast Crunch"- Ethan Loy

"Froot Loops"- Radhika Uchil

"Kroger Brand Reduced Fat Kix"- Izzy Nolton

"Rice Krispies"- Abby Gan

"Fruity Pebbles"- Kelly Feng



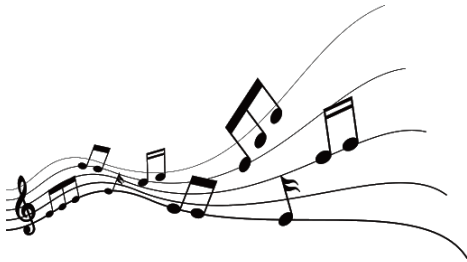
Congratulations to Dubem Nwizugbo!

Dubem received the W.O.W (Worker of the Week) award from the Johns Creek High School football team. He exemplified hard work through his efforts in the weight room, track, and classroom. Dubem, a junior, has been playing football since the end of freshman year as the cornerback. He is also involved in orchestra, playing the violin. Please congratulate Dubem for all his hard work!

Orchestra Polls

Students were asked poll questions on the orchestra Instagram, here are the results:

- Chick-fil-a or Sara's Donuts?
 - ▶ 40 (75%)– 13 (25%)
- Chocolate or Candy?
 - ▶ 29 (73%)– 11 (27%)
- Marvel or DC?
 - ▶ 35 (92%)– 3 (8%)
- January or February?
 - ▶ 14 (58%)– 10 (42%)



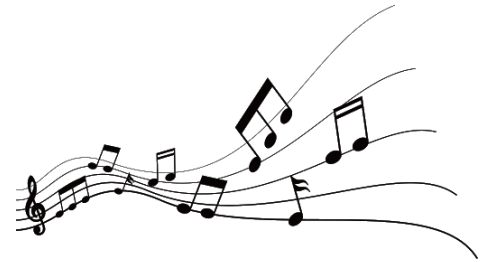
Upcoming Birthdays

Be sure to wish your fellow students!

- Philip Yoon and Zoe Boddie- January 31st
- Lexie Gardner- February 9th
- Amogh Tostitos- February 24th
- Yeseo Cho- February 29th
- Laura Lee- March 8th
- George Chen and Grace Havard- March 10th
- Oscar Chen- March 19th
- Sofie Ouyang- March 25th
- Keneh Nwizugbo- March 27th

Newsletter Staff

- Chief Editors
 - Abby Gan (12th)
 - Radhika Uchil (12th)
- Kelly Feng (12th)
- Clara Kim (12th)
- Keneh Nwizugbo (10th)
- Naya Patel (11th)
- Anushka Sharma (12th)



Follow Us!

Stay updated through social media!

Instagram- @jchsorchestra

Twitter- @jchsorchestra

Facebook- Johns Creek High School Orchestra

Youtube- JCHSOrchestra

Website- www.johnscreekorchestra.com