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## 2023-2024 Concert Season

#### **Fall Concert**

September 21, 2023, 6:30 PM Lassiter Concert Hall

#### **Winter Concert**

December 5, 2023, 7:00 PM Lassiter Concert Hall

#### **LGPE Preview Concert**

January 30, 2024, 7:00 PM Lassiter Concert Hall

#### **LGPE Performances**

February 7-8, 2024 Walton High School Specific performance times and dates are TBA

## "A Night at the Movies & More" Spring Concert

April 25, 2024, 7:00 PM Lassiter Concert Hall





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www.lassiterorchestra.org











## **About the Lassiter Orchestra Program**

The orchestra program at Lassiter High School has a long standing tradition of excellence. From 1993 until 2022 the Lassiter High School Orchestra program was under the leadership of Ms. Carol Doemel and gained local, state, and national exposure as a leading high school orchestra program.

The Lassiter Orchestra Program was recognized as a Grammy Signature School in 2000 and quickly became recognized as one of the finest high school orchestra programs in the nation. Orchestras have been repeatedly invited to perform at conferences and competitions across the nation. In 2001 and 2008 respectively, the Lassiter Symphony and Lassiter Chamber Orchestra were selected to perform at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. This is the most prestigious honor a band or orchestra can receive. The Lassiter Symphony was also selected to perform for the 2003, 2006, and 2014 Georgia Music Educator's Conference in Savannah. In 2007 the Lassiter Chamber Orchestra and Lassiter String Ensemble competed in New York City at the Lincoln Center's National Orchestra Cup. The Lassiter Chamber Orchestra won Grand Champion of the competition and Best String Section. Both orchestras have been invited back to New York to perform for the 2016 National Orchestra Cup.

Other honors include an invitation to perform for Disney's 25th Anniversary Celebration, a performance at the Lincoln Memorial and a clinic with the United States Army's Strolling Strings (the White House's performing string ensemble), and a 2010 invitation and clinic with the U.S. Air Force Band and Strolling Strings at Bolling AFB. In 2004 the Orchestra competed in the American String Teachers Association National Orchestra Festival in Dallas, Texas placing in the country's top 3 orchestras where they presented an Encore Performance to conclude the ASTA Conference. In 2007 and 2008 the Lassiter Orchestra was invited to perform on stage with the internationally acclaimed, Barrage, to a sold out crowd. In 2015, the Lassiter Orchestra traveled to France, performing at the American Cemetery in Normandy and the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris.

This year the orchestra program expanded and now offers a course for everyone, consisting of four ability-based performing orchestra classes: Concert Orchestra, Philharmonia, Sinfonia, and Chamber Orchestra. Students are placed into the Philharmonia, Sinfonia and Chamber Orchestras based on teacher recommendations and an audition.

- Students form and rehearse their own ensembles to perform at community and school functions
- The Chamber orchestra students combine with members of the LHS band to form a full symphony orchestra
- LHS Music Ensembles are consistently rated superior at festivals, competitions, and GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluations









## **Administration**

Dr. Chris Richie - Principal
Joseph Horton - Assistant Principal
Julie Huffman - Assistant Principal
Scott Kelly - Assistant Principal / Athletic Director
Carol Pizza - Assistant Principal
Dr. Angelo Ruggiero - Assistant Principal
Matt Wisdom - SSA

## Fine Arts Faculty

Katherine Daniels - Visual Arts Teacher
Chelsea Green - Choral Director
Jeff Harper - Assistant Director of Bands
Dr. Charles Laux - Orchestra Director
Kim Snyder - Assistant Director of Bands,
Fine Arts Department Chair
Suzette Spinelli - Visual Arts Teacher
James Thompson - Director of Bands

## **String Unit Directors**



**Nicole Thompson** 



#### **Dana Tindall & Valarie Stoney**

The Lassiter Orchestra program is extremely grateful for the amazing middle school orchestra programs at Mabry Middle School and at Simpson Middle School. We all appreciate your hard work, your dedication, and your support of the Lassiter program. Thank you for all that you do to create such a meaningful and unique experience for your students!

## A message from our principal...

Dear Lassiter Orchestra Friends and Families,

Welcome back to all of our extremely talented orchestra members. I know I speak for all the staff at Lassiter in saying that we are all looking forward to an exciting year of musical performances! I know how much time, energy, and effort you all put into perfecting your performances and upholding the Lassiter traditions that has made our orchestra program well known throughout the country. You all have a reputation of excellence and a tremendous sense of pride as our program has performed at some of the best venues in the country.

Throughout the year, I know that you all will benefit tremendously from being in Lassiter's orchestra. I love that the program instills beneficial values of constant motivation to practice and improve. It's always great to see our students develop new friendships with students who you share a common interest, and I always appreciate the musical teamwork that orchestra teaches as you sharpen your skills.

I am looking forward to hearing about the experiences that you will have this year and I am always extremely proud of our musicians who give their best efforts at every practice, rehearsal, and performance.

Enjoy the performance!

*Dr. Chris Richie*Principal, Lassiter High School



## **Sponsorship Recognition**

Many thanks to the businesses and individuals that become members of the LHSOA or donated to our "Friends of the Orchestra" campaign via direct monetary donation or advertisement purchase. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! This list is current as of November 18, 2022. Further donors will be listed on our website (QR code below) and concert inserts.

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The Lassiter Orchestra sincerely appreciates your generosity! We could not be the orchestra we are without your incredible support!



## Lassiter HS Orchestra Association

The Lassiter High School Orchestra Association (LHSOA) is a non-profit 501c3 organization. Together with the orchestra director and the student leadership, the mission of the organization is to guide the LHS Orchestra Program in terms of facilitating excellence in student educational experience; provide for opportunity for special performance opportunities, including travel; aiding to administer fundraising opportunities benefiting both the organization and students; attend to financial decisions based on program and budgetary needs, serving as fiduciary guardians.

## **LHSOA Board 2023-2024**

Co-Presidents - Alec and Laura Davidson
Secretary & Communications - Jennifer Cora
Treasurer - Elizabeth Helvin
Fundraising Chairs - Mary George and Stacey Dunphy
Travel Coordinator/Photography - Galina Stoll
Socials & Banquet Chair - Melanie Smith

## With gratitude...

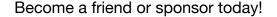
Dr. Laux would like to sincerely thank the LHSOA board for their continued hard work and dedication to the Lassiter Orchestra program. The board's support and guidance are greatly appreciated by everyone. The students of the Lassiter Orchestra are extremely fortunate to have such supportive parents and community members who value the arts and, in particular, a quality education in music.

## Interested in volunteering?

We would like to invite parents to volunteer to chaperone an event, head up a committee, or serve as board member. There are current openings and more open every year. We could not do what we do without your help! Please use the QR code to learn more...

## Did you know?

All donations to the LHSOA can be tax-deductible and many corporations match donations to non-profits such as ours.









## **Concert Etiquette**

The orchestra students of Lassiter High School have practiced long and hard to present a quality musical experience for your enjoyment. The audience plays a significant role in the success of each concert. To show appreciation for students' efforts and consideration for your fellow audience members, here are a few suggestions that will help make the concerts an enjoyable experience for everyone.

#### **Dress**

The conductor and performers are in formal concert attire. It can also be special for the audience to dress up to attend concerts. This creates a feeling that the concert is something special – because it is!

#### **Entering and Staying Seated**

Try to arrive early for concerts. The doors may not always be open as the orchestra is setting up, but you will be rewarded with a good seat for your promptness. Once the music is started, do not get up or try to leave the concert until there is applause. Doing otherwise will disturb the musicians. In addition, the audience may create hazards if the lights are dimmed. The general guideline is to arrive at least 5 or 10 minutes ahead the performance time, get a program, and find a comfortable seat. Conversation with your fellow concertgoers is appropriate at this time, however all discussions should cease as soon as the lights dim and musicians start arriving on stage.

#### Quiet please!

There are some musical pieces that are so delicate that even quiet whispering, rustling programs, and opening candy wrappers can ruin the experience for those around you. Please be considerate. In addition:

- Please turn off cellular phones, and be sure to silence all other electronic devices
- Please do not take flash photography. This is not only distracting to the audience, but disruptive to the performers.
- No talking during performances. Your voice can be picked up by the audio recording equipment and is discouraging to fellow audience members.
- Refrain from calling out your student's name. Younger children may be inclined to try to get the attention of older siblings. Again, this is a concert and not a sporting event.

The orchestra welcomes younger children to their concert with the hope they may be inspired to learn, appreciate, and study music. However, at times the music can be startling, the concert program can go long, or the seats may become uncomfortable, causing your child to become restless. Please remove crying, fidgety children from the auditorium as quickly and quietly as possible.

#### **Showing appreciation**

It is appropriate to clap at the entrance of the concertmaster/mistress and then again for the conductor. Sometimes the orchestra will play several movements within a composition, and this will be listed in the program. It is best not to clap between movements in order to sustain the mood and momentum of the piece. If you are unsure of when clapping is appropriate, observe the conductor. Also, note that the conductor may pause slightly at the end. It is his way of savoring the "magic" of the music before the audience breaks into enthusiastic applause.

# The Director Dr. Charles Laux

Dr. Charles Laux, a native of Mentor, Ohio, is in his second year as the Director of Orchestras at Lassiter High School. In addition to public school teaching, he also serves as Essential Elements clinician, consultant, and contributor for the Hal Leonard Corporation. Dr. Laux holds degrees in music education from Ohio University, the University of



Nevada – Las Vegas, and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University with a minor in Educational Technology.

A string educator in his 28th year, Dr. Laux has worked with diverse student populations from elementary school through the collegiate level. He taught at Alpharetta High School in Fulton County, Georgia from 2016-2022 where his duties included directing five levels of orchestra, including the nationally recognized AHS Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Laux served as Assistant Professor of String Music Education at Kennesaw State University from 2012-2016 where he taught string techniques and pedagogy, music education technology integration, supervised student teachers, conducted the KSU Philharmonic and coordinated string outreach activities, including serving as founding director of the KSU String Project. Under his leadership, Kennesaw State University became the largest string education program in Georgia and the KSU String Project grew to serve nearly 110 elementary school students. Previously Dr. Laux directed award-winning school orchestra programs in Nevada, Florida, and Ohio. Under his direction, the Winter Park High School Philharmonic Orchestra was selected to perform at the 60th annual Midwest Clinic in 2006 and the Alpharetta High School Symphony Strings were selected in 2018.

Dr. Laux remains in frequent demand across the nation as an orchestra clinician, conductor, and adjudicator. Endorsed as an artist-educator by D'Addario Orchestral and Eastman Stringed Instruments, Dr. Laux has presented nearly 200 educational sessions for organizations such as the Midwest Clinic, American String Teachers Association, Technology Institute for Music Education, Association for Technology in Music Instruction, and at music conferences spanning 26 states. He regularly presents professional development in-services for school districts across the country and has presented internationally at Colegio Menor San Francisco near Quito, Ecuador. His performing experience includes seasons with the Las Vegas Philharmonic, the Nevada Chamber Symphony, the Columbus String Quartet, and a collaborative solo-performance with several members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Laux is a featured author in *Rehearsing the High School Orchestra*, published by GIA Publishing. His notable conducting appearances include regional and All-State Orchestras in Georgia, South Carolina, West Virginia, Ohio, and New Mexico. For 2023-2024, he will conduct the Alaska All-State Orchestra and will present educational sessions at Georgia Music Educators Association Conference, The Midwest Clinic, and The American String Teachers Association National Conference.

In his spare time, Dr. Laux enjoys giving back to the string and orchestra community through "The Orchestra Teacher" website, podcast, and YouTube channel that can be accessed at www.orchestrateacher.net. His community service includes coaching baseball for Sandy Plains Baseball Association, supporting Sources of Strength, and fundraising for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. In his spare time, Dr. Laux also enjoys running, yoga, cycling, camping, cooking, watching sports, and boating. Most of all, he loves spending time with his wife, Stacy, an interior architect at Georgia Tech, and two sons, Charlie (14), and Andy (12).

## **Concert Orchestra**



The Concert Orchestra is the orchestra that continues instruction after middle school and meets daily during second period. The content of this course includes instruction in performance techniques with emphasis placed on technical and musical skills through the study of rudimentary exercises and mainly grade 3 string orchestra repertoire. Individual practice outside of class time is necessary for successful mastery of performance standards.

#### **Violin**

Michaela Breh Misa Cogbil **Abbie Creed** Neah Darnell Joseph Delaney Abril Diaz-Sanchez Zach Durgin Sophia Fabian Katelyn Fyler Molly Gamez Olivia Hammack **Bailey Jones** David Kim Mars Lana Faith Lee Luka Mazukna Jack Pace **Gabby Powell** 

**Anwita Singh** 

## Viola

Ja'lah Hall
Cole Hoffmann
Ryley Kelley
Leyna Le
Isabella Rudd
Genecis Wences-Liborio
Charlie Zimmerman

#### Cello

Jude Beaver Noora Farooqui Kourosh Jarrahi Isadora Lima Melika Mohazab Asher Quigg Zoe Ramsey

### **Double Bass**

Elaina Burrock Ada Connolly Ava Hardy



Concert Orchestra showing their school spirit during homecoming week!

## Philharmonia Orchestra



The Philharmonia Orchestra is the intermediate level ensemble and meets daily during third period. The content of this course includes instruction in performance techniques with emphasis placed on technical and musical skills through the study of rudimentary exercises and mainly grade 3 and 4 string orchestra repertoire. Individual practice outside of class time is necessary for successful mastery of performance standards.

#### Violin

Ava Baines
Lydia Callard
Emma Carrier
Phoenix Carroll
Stephanie Cordova
Sally Dawood
Ria Dinavahi
Ksenia Epstein
Gabriella Formato
Nicole Freda
Kanav Ganguly
Alexandra Green
Olivia Howard
Ann Ndege

**Christopher Nier** 

Addison Parker Elizabeth Vo

Lillian Wilson

**Kendall Washington** 

Giovanna Oliveira de Almeida

#### Viola

Davis Barnes
Priyanka Bhandarkar
Sophia Cain
Brianna Hammond
Anna Hoover
Caroline Miller
Rakshitha Sathyanarayanan
Ethan Silver

### Cello

Claire Dunphy
Christina Edwards
Ian Kim
Sonali Limaye
William Lindgren
Christina Magdusian
Isaac Mesarvey
Erin O'Brien
Mary Kate Randall

### **Double Bass**

Cade Chiodi Ian Cooper Amber Culley Grey Zegers



Dancing the night away at the Fall Camp glow after party!

## Sinfonia



The Sinfonia Orchestra is an advanced-level orchestra and meets daily during fourth period. This course includes advanced instruction in performance techniques with emphasis placed on technical and musical skills through the study of mainly grade 4-5 string orchestra repertoire.

#### **Violin**

Alyssa Alvarez Elizabeth Ballenger Luis Barrera Isabella Cain Maite Chipatecua Lucy Conway Shannon Cox Andre Da Silva Sofia Davis Bruno Ferreira Miranda Shayla Intriago Kamille Lateo Ethan Lawson Sophia Martin Sophia Martinez Rocha Ella Nagar Catherine Nichols Ella Norton Hannah Phillips Logan Rudd Hailey Tartaro **Quintus Wang** Mary Yarger

## Viola

London Alvarez Nick Giusto Olivia Hardy Kaylah Hester Lexi Kahle Akshita Parasuram Tyler Thompson Bethany Yarger

## Cello

Jade Boscoe
Dayton Davis
Sophia Joya
Chloe Riser
McKenna Stockwell
Isabelle Stoll
Kayla Sylvain
Elena West
Henry Wines

#### **Double Bass**

Rylee Lum Pepper Peace





Cellos and Basses playing on the Haunted HOCO Float!

## **Chamber Orchestra**



The Chamber Orchestra is the mastery level string performing ensemble at LHS and meets daily during fifth period. The ensemble focuses on level 5 and 6 string orchestra repertoire and will combine with members of the LHS band to form the Lassiter Symphony Orchestra. Members of this ensemble have performed in the GMEA All-State Orchestra, the North Georgia Honor Orchestra, GMEA District 12 Honor Orchestra and local youth orchestras.

## **Violin**

Diana Byington Kevy Chen Holden Cook Elizabeth George **Emily Mroz** Bryne Phaengsook Olivia Reed **Demian Rosales** Jaydon Waid Jailyn Williams Mia Motley Carla Ardelean Piper Bowling Kimberly Clabaugh Isabella Cora-Nobles Jackson Forsyth Raliyah Joseph Margaret Mihill Katie Murray **Emalie Paulin** Anya Phelan Vidhu Shrivastava Lauren Trevathan

### Viola

Aaron Cuppels Zoe Dragon Jonas Evans Sarah Hester Veronica Levy

## Cello

Amity Chen
Nico Davidson
Caleb Galoppe
Andrea Joya
Tanay Kulkarni
Benjamin Morgan
Julia Randall
Ridley Simmons

## **Double Bass**

Jillian Dunphy William Smith Juan Zuniga-Orduz



Chamber students learn to have some "fiddle fun" at Fall Camp!

## **Senior Class of 2024**



Congratulations to the orchestra's senior class of 2024! You all have been through so much over the years and I want congratulate you on making it through with bravery, integrity, and excellence. Each of you bring something special to the orchestra program and everyone appreciates the time, energy, and service you gave to the Lassiter Orchestra program. You will be greatly missed next year! Dr. Laux and the rest of the orchestras wish you nothing but the very best in your future endeavors!

London Alvarez
Carla Ardelean
Diana Byington
Amity Chen
Holden Cook
Aaron Cuppels
Caleb Galoppe
Sarah Hester



Kamille Lateo Maggie Mihill Mia Motley Ella Nagar Ella Norton
Emalie Paulin
Anya Phelan
Julia Randall
Olivia Reed
Logan Rudd
Lauren Trevathan
Jailyn Williams

## Student Leadership Team



The LHS Orchestra program has a unique and active student leadership team that helps manage some of the day-to-day operations of the orchestra program and assist with special events like camps, socials, holiday gift exchanges, and other orchestra activities. The orchestra also has a variety of additional student-led committees and teams to assist with various duties.

#### **Presidents**

Olivia Reed Lauren Trevathan

#### **Secretaries**

Diana Byington Mia Motley

## **Music Librarians**

Carla Ardelean Ria Dinavahi Ridley Simmons Elena West

## **Student Services Team**

Holden Cook \* Lucy Conway Aaron Cuppels Anya Phelan

#### **Inventory Specialists**

Caleb Galoppe \*
Jaydon Waid

#### **Social Media Team**

Raliyah Joseph Sophia Martinez Rocha Julia Randall

#### **Logistics Team**

Maggie Mihill \* Ethan Lawson Emily Mroz Lilly Wilson

\* team captain









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Emalie, we are so proud of you. Keep creating beauty through your art and music!
Love, Mom, Dad, Kaela, and Brooklyn



Congratulations Lauren and to the class of 2024! Love, Mom and Dad

#### Olivia Grace Reed

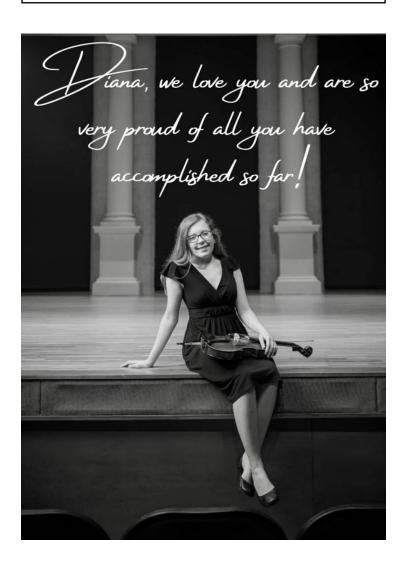


We have loved watching your love of music grow along with you. We are so incredibly proud of you and all your hard work. Never quit learning and making music, it will keep you calm in the storm.

Psalm 150:4

With much love.

Mom, Kevin, Dad, NS, AB and Nina





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