

# SHIRETOWN SOUNDS

## Houlton Community Arts Center: Phase One

It has been an intense construction season since the end of June when school got out. After the students of the music program helped remove seats, equipment, stage items, and lots of music and costumes, crews moved in to change the face of HHS forever.

When school began in August, students were amazed at the transformations that took place in just a few short months. The once-cramped entry area from the parking lot is now a bright and sleek vestibule that flows directly into a wide open, brightly painted cafeteria. A school cafeteria with new lighting, improved ventilation, changes to color and a new acoustic ceiling has given the school a greatly improved eating and meeting area.

The main hallway from the cafeteria to the auditorium is going through its final changes. After harvest vacation, it will have new ceramic tile, a multiple use ticket and concession kiosk, trophy case, bench, water fountain and also highlighted entry areas to the gym and auditorium. All these changes will transform the busiest hallway in the school into a grand entry to major athletic and arts events.

One of the biggest changes was the construction of the mezzanine (balcony) where 100 seats will overlook the expanded stage. Framing for the new vestibules, drywalling, construction of a new sound booth and new stairs are all part of the current construction. Meanwhile, thousands of feet of wiring were installed for theater lights, house lighting, an upgraded sound system and a



communication system. Although many people will see the immediate structural changes, the technology upgrades will make the HHS auditorium a premier performance space.

With a month and a half to go before the auditorium's gala opening for the performance of Houlton High School's *Damn Yankees*, there is still more to come. The following is a list of upcoming projects:

- Complete steel installation for lighting catwalks and light trees in the balcony
- Add a rail system and panels to the balcony and box seat area
- Install seating platforms in the balcony
- Complete entry vestibules including stairs, control booth, lighting
- Finish all overhead installations such as sound clouds, theater lighting wiring, and install speakers
- Paint walls, underside of balcony, stage
- Install cabinets on side of stage
- Pour concrete for the sloped seating slab from the back of the auditorium to the front section
- Expand front of stage with seven storage compartments underneath

- After major construction and painting is complete: install carpets, chairs, and auditorium curtains
- Test all systems and begin final musical rehearsals on stage

Many aspects of the project were built so that there would be flexibility in usage of the auditorium, from a large production, to a small play. There are still some challenges left before we can welcome everyone into the new space for the HHS musical. It is a tight construction timeline and every day much progress is made. Donations are still needed to complete this fabulous space and opportunities are available to buy a chair or name a portion of the auditorium. Support has been coming in from alumni, friends and even students. To see more updates or find out how to donate, visit [www.houltonarts.org](http://www.houltonarts.org). Your help is needed to finish this magnificent project.

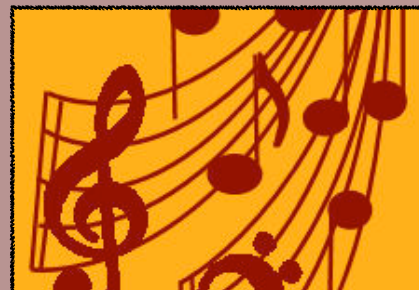
~Joe Fagnant, HS Band Director and HCACC President



HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT  
Wednesday, December 2 @ 7:00pm



JUNIOR HIGH WINTER CONCERT  
Tuesday, December 8 @ 7:00pm



COMMUNITY CHORUS CONCERT  
Friday, December 18 @ 7:00pm  
with special guest Houlton High School Chorus



# SMALL AND NOTEWORTHY NEWS



## **“Damn Yankees” in full production mode**

This year’s musical is about Joe Boyd, a real estate agent in his forties who is a die-hard Washington Senators fan. The Senators are doing terribly - especially when they play the New York Yankees. Joe is given the opportunity to transform into a 22-year-old wonder hitter and lead the Senators to winning the pennant! A new life presents many opportunities that he never had before, but will he be able to leave his loving wife behind forever? Come November 20, 21, and 22 to find out!

Auditions were held the second week of school and the cast is set for the first musical to premiere in the newly renovated auditorium! Congratulations to Wyatt Jenkins, Jared Tapley, Lucas Anderson, Tyler Delano, Marcy Hernandez, Stephannie Kreyszig, and Danika Fitzpatrick who are cast as lead characters in the musical. We have a tremendously talented group of 41 high school students involved onstage for the musical. Many more will be joining us as we begin the backstage portion of the production.

We are very lucky this year to be having Sandy Hartley as our choreographer. Sandy runs dance studios here in Houlton (where many of the cast members take classes!) and in Millinocket. Welcome Sandy - we are so happy to be working with you! Also on board is Pam Chernesky as our acting coach. Additionally, she will also be working with students to design and paint the major set pieces.

Ms. DeWan has given the entire cast a rehearsal schedule that goes all the way through production week. Students are expected to plan ahead, enter their rehearsals into their planners, and always bring homework to do when they are not onstage.

## **Houlton Community Chorus needs your voice!**

Houlton has a great tradition of music in the schools and in the community. Singing with the Community Chorus is your opportunity to add your voice! The chorus will have its own concert on December 18 and will be joined by the HS Chorus. The Community Chorus is also invited to sing at the high school winter concert as part of our community celebration that evening. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 at the Methodist Church on Military Street. Singers of all ages are encouraged to join - no experience necessary! Call Joyce Fitzpatrick for more info: 532-9035.

## **eMusicTheory Accounts for All Music Students**

Every student grades 7-12 has his/her personal computer provided by the district. We are making use of that this year by subscribing to eMusicTheory.com. Piano class and both choruses have been given user names and passwords - band students will receive them soon! Students are able to work at their own pace on music theory basics such as note names, rhythms, intervals and chord structures. This is a great tool and will be very helpful in tracking individual progress and giving students extra help if needed.

## **Saturday Sewing Day for the fall musical**

Do you sew? We need your help! Saturday, October 24 from 9:30-3:00, any parents willing to help sew musical costumes will meet in Mrs. Richardson’s room at the high school. Lunch will be provided. Please bring your own scissors and sewing machine (if you have one). Let Ms. DeWan know that you’ll be coming ([redewan@msln.net](mailto:redewan@msln.net)).

## **All Aroostook and All State Auditions**

Students in grades 7-12 are encouraged to audition for the All Aroostook honor ensembles. Band members must sign up with Mr. Mania or Mr. Fagnant, and pay the \$10 audition fee. Auditions are on November 7 at the high school. They will be assigned an individual time and audition in front of two judges. They have been practicing the audition etude during band rehearsals. High School Chorus students must sign up with Ms. DeWan and pay the \$10 audition fee. They have to sing “Fire, Fire” on November 7 in front of two judges. Junior High Chorus members *do not* audition on November 7. Instead, they must sing for Ms. DeWan, then she will send a list of recommended students to the manager of the All Aroostook Middle School Chorus.

The All Aroostook Music Festival is in Fort Fairfield on January 15 and 16. Students play with musicians from all over Aroostook County and work under a specially chosen director. A concert will be held in the afternoon on January 16.

All State is a music festival held in May. The auditions are much more rigorous, but the festival is amazing! Students spend three days playing with other musicians from all over the state on the UMaine Campus in Orono. Auditions are also held on November 7 at the high school. This is for high school students only. There is no cost to audition. See Mr. Fagnant or Ms. DeWan for audition requirements.

## **Southside School welcomes new Band Director**

Hello. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mike Hutchinson and I am the new Southside band director. I taught in the Katahdin school system for the past 6 years, where I conducted all 5-12 band activities, as well as middle school general music and high school guitar and theory classes. I have played trumpet in Houlton’s musicals and participated in McGill’s Community Band. I am truly excited to be working here in Houlton.

The Southside band members are off to a great start. Beginner band members have already received their instruments and are having a great time starting out. 6th grade band has been busy working on a folder full of music.

Be sure to attend our concert on Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00 in the High School Auditorium.

## **Searching for 1950s props/costumes for musical**

We are looking for the following items for the musical. Contact Ms. DeWan if you have something we could borrow.

- wooden baseball bats
- 1950s gloves and baseballs
- black rubber cleats
- old looking athletic bags
- white bath towels (five)
- wing back chairs (six)
- 1950s WOMEN’S WEAR: housewives dresses, full aprons, pocketbooks, poodle skirts
- rope jumprope
- pocket watch
- FOR 1950S LIVING ROOM: small end table, telephone, television, coat rack
- large wooden desk for team owner’s office
- chair for the large wooden desk
- 1950s (roughly) baseball pictures

## Chorus Brings New Sounds to the Small Engine Room

The High School and Junior High Choruses are up and running - in the small engine room! Due to the renovations in the auditorium, all of my classes are meeting down by the art room and shop area for the first quarter. A big thank you to all the teachers and janitors for making this temporary switch work!

We are so excited to be working toward our winter concerts - the first season in the new auditorium! High School Chorus will be using a simple Christmas carol as a processional. We have a wide variety of selections including "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning," "Betelehemu" and "Trashin' the Camp." The Community Chorus will be invited to sing two joint selections with the high school chorus at the winter concert on December 2. We are excited to work

with this group again. We tried to combine last year, but had a snow day instead! The HS Chorus will also sing at the Community Chorus Concert on December 18. Please make sure that is marked in your calendars. It will be a great season of choral music!

The final piece of the concert will be a great combined number with the HS Band, HS Chorus, Community Band and Community Chorus! A fantastic way to showcase the new auditorium with the community coming together.

Students will be able to audition for the High School Chamber Choir after harvest. This group not only sings at concerts, but also travels around the community. They will be going to the hospital and to the Elementary School in December to spread holiday cheer through song! I am excited to build on

the great sound the group exhibited in New York City.

Junior High Chorus continues to grow musically as we work on producing the best sound possible. Thanks to Carole Bates for accompanying the group. Students have shown their musicianship skills through eMusictheory.com and they'll see how that knowledge makes them a better singer. Many students have expressed excitement about the spring Junior High Musical. I am still in the decision making process, but I am definitely excited about it as well! Stay tuned for more details.

The department website is up and running. You can find upcoming events, policies, and other pertinent information. Email me with any questions!

~Rebecca DeWan, 5-12 Vocal Music

## Mountains of Success and Growth in the Music Department

The beginning of a school year is always hectic and this year was even more of a challenge. The entire band room, all of the teaching offices and every instrument was moved to the small gym for summer storage. A few days of moving, dusting, cleaning, and finding office items took place right before the students began their first notes. Despite the challenges of the auditorium being off limits, the students have been doing a fabulous job of dealing with the limited space. I am sure they will enjoy the time on the expanded stage at the end of November.

The first concert of the year on December 2 will be a special presentation for the community as the HHS Band and Chorus have a few guests to make it a special opening for our first concert in the new space. Members of McGill's

Community Band will be joining us on "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" which will tie in nicely to our winter concert theme of "Mountains." Of course we will feature some traditional holiday tunes such as "Go Tell It on the Mountain," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and a special combined presentation of "All Come All Ye Faithful" with HHS chorus, community chorus and both bands.

I am pleased to announce that world renowned composer Samuel Hazo will be working with the high school and junior high bands during the school day, and will conduct two of his compositions in the evening concert. "Olympiada" and "Ascend" are two of his fabulous compositions (that also just happen to tie into our mountain theme). The HHS Band has performed several of Mr. Hazo's pieces in past years and the students have

enjoyed the musical interests he brings to his compositions. This will be a great addition to our special opening and it is quite a treat to bring him here to Houlton.

With such an intense start to the school year, I encourage students and parents to keep up to date with grading found in the syllabus, lessons and events in the monthly calendar and rehearsals of jazz groups and the percussion ensemble. A lot of this information will be posted to the web site and if there are any questions with your student's progress, I encourage you to email or call me. I know I can help every band member improve with the support of parents and the student's willingness to work hard. This is going to be a great year!  
~Joe Fagnant, HS Band

## Junior High Band Continues to Grow!

We have hit the ground running with the Jr. high Band this year. The band continues to grow in numbers; we currently have 93 students in the band, (20 more than we had last year). We started off the year with some new pep band music that will be sure to get you moving in the bleachers at basketball games.

We have already been working on our December concert music as well. This year we will be performing music from *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and take a visit to the Caribbean for a "Caribbean Christmas" to name a few. Jazz Band has also started with some solo

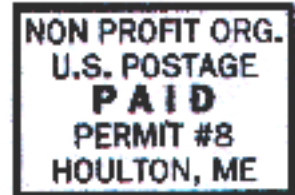
workshops meant to help the students learn about improvisation and jazz articulations. The students have far surpassed my goals already and it looks like it will be a good year in the Jazz world at the Jr. High.

We are anxious to perform in the new auditorium in December. Everyday there is noticeable progress being made, and it will be a facility where our young musicians will surely shine. However, before we can shine on stage we need to practice, practice, practice. Jr. High band students are required to practice at least 60 minutes a week. Practice is considered to be a week long homework

assignment, and is factored in as about 50% of the final grade. I believe every student should get a 100 in band. This is easy to achieve as long as the student is working, and most individual progress in a musician is achieved during private practice time. Split up the home practice time throughout the week and it will make a world of difference. Practicing and putting forth one's best effort will change a good performance into one that we will all remember for a lifetime.

As always please feel free to contact me whenever you have a question or concern, the best way is through e-mail at [kemania@msln.net](mailto:kemania@msln.net).  
~Kevin Mania, Jr. High Band

MSAD #29 MUSIC DEPARTMENT  
Houlton High School  
7 Bird Street  
Houlton ME 04730  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Parent/guardian  
Mailing Street  
Mailing City, Mailing State Mailing Zip

## MSAD #29 MUSIC BOOSTERS

We are a successful music department because of parent and community support! We can't do it without you! Here are the minutes from our most recent booster meeting. Note that there are many ways for you to be involved. We look forward to seeing you at future meetings and booster events.

### I. Old Business

- A. Thank you to all parents for helping out with trip last year
- B. Booster Scholarship for class of 2009: \$3,100
- C. Trip photos still available
- D. Last year's Sound Support will go towards new sound system in auditorium: recognition will be given to the music boosters.

### II. New Business

- A. Keep checking out the web site: [www.sad29music.org](http://www.sad29music.org)
- B. Musical help: Gathering items that fit Damn Yankees
- C. Sound Support: need a chair person to help organize database and track money
- D. Visiting Artist: Composer Samuel Hazo, December 2 to work with HS and Jr Band and conduct the concert. Approximate cost is \$1,250
- E. Boston Trip 2010-2011 I: Start earning credits this year. Need help in tracking credits.

**III. Next meeting: October 19th, 7:00pm Music Room**

### Leaders Needed!

*Email us to volunteer!*

- Organize database and track money for Sound Support
- Call parents for baked goods for Musical Buffet
- Chairperson for fall musical ticket sales

### Booster Events

*Many hands make light work!*

- October 24: Saturday Sewing Day for the fall musical
- November 7: All State/All Aroostook Auditions
- November 20, 21, 22: Musical Dessert Buffet
- March 18: District Vocal Jazz Festival
- April 10: State Vocal Jazz Festival