

SHIRETOWN SOUNDS

New Auditorium Open for Fall Musical!

You've been hearing about the new auditorium for months (years, even!) and the time for the gala opening has arrived! We are so excited to present to the community *Damn Yankees* as the very first production in the new auditorium. It has been such a journey watching with baited breath as contractors and workers put in countless hours finishing the auditorium. The students are so excited to perform in such a gorgeous new space!

This musical was, at first, a stretch for me as a director. I have never been what one would call an avid sports fan. It was not until I moved to Houlton that I watched a baseball game on TV in its entirety. Now, not only do I watch baseball, but I have grown to enjoy watching the high school athletes compete. I first saw *Damn Yankees* when I was in grade school and really fell in love with the plot and the music. With this specific group of students, this year has proven the perfect year to undertake this musical.

Not sure what it's about? You are not alone! Over the summer, as I began telling people who asked the name of the musical, I was often met with confused looks. "Is it about the Civil War or about baseball?" In a sentence, it's about one team desperate to beat the New York Yankees - now that's something many local sports fans can relate to!

Middle-aged baseball fanatic Joe Boyd (Jared Tapley) trades his soul to the Devil, the charming but devious Mr.



Applegate, (Tyler Delano) for a chance to lead his favorite team to victory in the pennant race against the New York Yankees. As young baseball sensation Joe Hardy (Wyatt Jenkins), he transforms the hapless Washington Senators into a winning team, only to realize the true worth of the life - and wife - he's left behind. With the help of a handy escape clause and a guilt-ridden temptress named Lola (Marcy Hernandez), Joe outsmarts Applegate - but does he do it in time to get back to his wife (Stephannie Kreyssig) AND help the Senators win the pennant? Other supporting roles are played by Lucas Anderson, Danika Fitzpatrick, Marina DiMarco, Katie Good, Tyler Swimm, and Zacharia Harvey.

It has been such a joy to work with Sandy Hartley as the choreographer for *Damn Yankees*. Sandy owns dance studios in Millinocket and in Houlton. Many of the cast members have taken or are taking dance classes with her, and our entire cast has just loved her dances! Pam Chernesky and Joe Fagnant are assisting in numerous capacities with the show. Kevin Mania designed and built the sets. Paula Gendron is the costume coordinator.

Remember the long lines waiting to find a seat for the musical? Those days are gone! We are selling reserved seats, which means you get to choose exactly what seat you'd like to sit in! If you'd like to pick out your seat in person, come to the high school after school. Michelle VanTasel will be there every day this week. Or, you can order by phone: 521-4470 or by email mivantasel@msln.net.

Friday, November 20 at 7pm
Saturday, November 21 at 7pm
Sunday, November 22 at 3pm.
Doors open half an hour before showtime

Tickets: \$8 adults
\$5 students (to gr. 12) & senior citizens

We hope you will join us for the gala opening of the new auditorium. It is a space that the entire community will enjoy and be able to use.

~Rebecca DeWan
director of *Damn Yankees*



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



HHS Auditorium Opening Events

The Houlton Community Arts Center Council and the MSAD #29 Music Department will be hosting several special events to celebrate the opening of the newly renovated Houlton High School Auditorium. Since construction started this past June, contractors have been pushing hard to finish all the major changes in the new audience entry area and the auditorium. The Houlton Community Arts Center Council will be holding an invitation only sneak peak to the Auditorium on Wednesday November 18, from 5-6pm. The council has invited major donors and the MSAD #29 school board to have the first official public walk through of the space.

On Friday, November 20 at 7pm, the Houlton High School production of *Damn Yankees* will be a special gala opening event in the renovated auditorium. Over 70 cast, crew and orchestra members will present this 1950s musical about the frustration of one fan who'd give anything for his favorite baseball team to beat those dreaded New York Yankees. What a familiar theme to many local sports fans! This event runs also on Saturday at 7pm and Sunday at 3pm. Audience members are able to buy reserved seats, which will alleviate standing in line and the rush to find a seat. Tickets are on sale at the high school each day starting at 2:30pm or by calling Michelle VanTasel at 521-4470 or email mivantasel@mshs.net

With the annual fall musical as the gala opening of the auditorium, the next event is just as spectacular. The HHS Band and Chorus Winter Concert will be held at 7pm on December 2. This concert will feature the HHS chorus, chamber choir, percussion ensemble and band with special guests. The high school chorus will be joined by the Houlton Community Chorus, while the band will perform along with members of McGill's Community Band. All the groups will combine on "O Come All Ye Faithful" as the special closing selection. The high school band will also feature a guest conductor. World renown composer Samuel Hazo will rehearse with the band during the day and then lead them on two of his own compositions. This concert is open to the public and will be a fantastic way to view hundreds of musicians fill the stage at Houlton High School.

Musical Theater Exchange

November 7 was a busy Saturday for many of our students: SATs, All Aroostook Auditions, All State Auditions... and a trip to Presque Isle! Last year our cast of *Footloose* had such a great time traveling to Presque Isle High School to see their fall musical that we knew we had to do it again this year! So after a long day, about 35 students and parents piled on a bus and went to see *The Pajama Game*. This musical was written by the same people who wrote *Damn Yankees* and takes place in the same time period (the 1950s). It is such a great opportunity to build camaraderie and friendship among young actors and musicians throughout the county without the aspect of competition. It is also a great learning experience for our cast. Many of them have not seen a musical put on by peers because they are always onstage! The show was excellent and we learned a lot! Thanks to the parents who chaperoned, and to the students who were such great audience members. We look forward to having the PIHS cast at our opening night of *Damn Yankees*. (And thanks to Presque Isle for loaning us costumes and props for our musical!)

Congrats to All Aroostook Students

We had many students audition for the All Aroostook Honors Music Festival. It is a great opportunity for our students to work with musicians from around the county and with a new director. Mr. Mania, Mr. Fagnant, and Ms. DeWan are proud of all of the students who auditioned! The 2010 All Aroostook ensembles were announced during school. Congratulations to those who were selected. Parents, you should see a permission slip come home this week. Please sign and return to school before Thanksgiving. The festival is January 15 and 16 in Fort Fairfield. Students will miss school on Friday (1/15) and return home early evening, then rehearse again on Saturday (1/16) and perform a concert late afternoon. The following students were selected:

Junior High Chorus: Tessa, Caila, Erin, Stephanie, Amber, Emily, Madelene, Haven, Natalie, Jill, Kierra, Lucas, Elyjah, David, Keegan, Noah, Tommy and Tyler.

Junior High Band: Hanna, Robby, Alex, Barrett, Isaac, Steven, Phoenix, Cameron, and Ryan.

High School Chorus: Ally, Katie, Heather, Stephanie, Meghan, Tessa, Maryah, Mikaela, Lucas, Brandon, Tyler, Josh, Tyler, Shawn, Mallory, Taylor, Adrianna, Maggie, Gabe, and Zacharia.

High School Band: Ashley, Maggie, Courtney, Chelsi, Marina, Tasha, Dustin and DJ.

World Renown Composer Visits Houlton

On December 2nd, the junior and senior high bands are going to have a wonderful opportunity to work with composer Samuel R. Hazo as part of a "Visiting Artist" program supported by the music boosters. Mr. Hazo is scheduled to work with the UMPI/Community Band for a special concert and lecture series at the end of November. Mr. Fagnant contacted him to see if he could extend his stay in the County, and he was happy to oblige. Mr. Hazo added visits to UMPI, Old Town and Houlton the first week of December. A brief biography about the composer follows:

Samuel R. Hazo (b. 1966) resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his wife and children. In 2003, Mr. Hazo became the first composer in history to be awarded the winner of both composition contests sponsored by the National Band Association. He has composed for the professional, university and public school levels in addition to writing original scores for television, radio and the stage. His original symphonic compositions include performances with actors Brooke Shields, James Earl Jones, David Conrad and Richard Kiley. He has also written symphonic arrangements for three-time Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter Lucinda Williams. Mr. Hazo's compositions have been performed and recorded world-wide, and his works have been premiered and performed at the Music Educators' National Conference and Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic.

Mr. Hazo has been a music teacher at every educational grade level from kindergarten through college, including tenure as a high school and university director. Mr. Hazo was twice named "Teacher of Distinction" by the southwestern Pennsylvania Teachers' Excellence Foundation. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Duquesne University where he served on the Board of Governors and was awarded as Duquesne's Outstanding Graduate in Music Education. Mr. Hazo serves as a guest conductor and is a clinician for Hal Leonard Corporation.

Final preparations for the upcoming concert season

Concert time already!? Indeed! It has been a pleasure for me to watch the growth of both the JH and HS choruses from the beginning of the year until now. The changes have been significant and I'm excited to share their progress with you at the upcoming winter concerts.

The High School Chorus will participate in the first concert in the new auditorium on December 2nd. This will be a special holiday presentation - both the community band and community chorus will join the high school performers. What a way to celebrate the holiday season by involving the community in a brand new space!

The HS chorus will show off the range of musical styles they can sing in by performing a 16th century madrigal, an African Christmas carol, a slow art song, and a few fun upbeat selections. There will certainly be something for everyone in this concert program. One of the favorites among the students is a piece

from Disney's *Tarzan* called "Trashin' the Camp." The chorus is singing in six parts (more than the usual 4) and sounding great!

The High School Chamber Choir has rehearsed a few times and we will go back to regular rehearsals after Thanksgiving. The group is scheduled to perform at the Elementary School in December.

The Junior High Chorus will perform their winter concert on December 8th - a joint concert with the Junior High Band. It is extremely important that we have all of our singers there! The group is sounding great. One of their favorite songs in a medley from the Broadway hit *Wicked*. We're also performing the Jackson Five hit "ABC," a holiday madrigal, a song that celebrates winter, and a few fun rounds and songs that were taught by rote. A big thank you to Carole Bates for continuing to support the music program by accompanying this group.

The groups have made huge strides so far this year. With the choruses sounding great and the new auditorium looking fantastic, we need to make sure that the singers look equally put together. Therefore, it is important that all participants adhere to the black and white dress code for both the JH and the HS concerts. You can find a detailed description of the dress code on our website.

A big thank you to the students for being incredibly flexible during the first quarter. We have sung in the small engine room, held sectionals in the ATM room, rehearsed in the small gym, had musical rehearsals in the lobby... we've been everywhere!

I look forward to both the JH and the HS concerts. I wish you all a happy holiday season.

~Rebecca DeWan, 5-12 Vocal Music

Guest composer to work with bands & conduct at concert

It is hard to believe that one grading quarter is already gone and that we are approaching major performances for the cast and crew of the musical and also the upcoming high school band and chorus concert. Before we know it, the sounds of the HHS band will be heard pumping up crowds at sporting events. The band did get an opportunity to get outside and support the girls soccer team in their home playoff game. It may have been a little chilly, but the students did a great job in the stands. Thank you to the band members who dedicated themselves to the first performance.

Time is getting close to the first performances in the renovated HHS auditorium. I know the students will truly enjoy the extra elbow room on stage and the new acoustics they will experience. As president of the Houlton

Community Arts Center Council, many of my days have been filled with taking care of details for the auditorium project. I do appreciate the support of my colleagues in this effort and also the patience of the students as I have been tied up in meetings with contractors and architects. With this first phase of the total project coming to a close, we know as a band that we will need the second phase to commence as soon as it can because of the need for a room that will be appropriate to fit the band and all of the equipment we use.

As we get deeper into the school year, more events will be placed on the monthly band calendar. Our first concert is on December 2nd at 7pm and students are reminded that we will be rehearsing that day with our special guest conductor, Sam Hazo. Please read the

brief bio provided on page two that gives a little more detail about this award winning composer. As we prepare for our concerts musically, students are reminded that dress for our concerts will be formal black and white, and a description of our required concert dress is on our web site. Basketball and hockey games will be starting up at the beginning of December. Students will be provided with a schedule of sports performances and need to stay organized to make sure they do not miss those graded events. Schedules will get busy soon enough, and it is my goal to help students through these busy months ahead of us. I know they can be successful and I look forward to getting them out to perform in the public. ~Joe Fagnant, HHS Band

Junior High Band Continues to Grow!

Jr. High band is going strong, and gearing up for our concert on December 8th. We will be presenting several selections for you. One of our selections will be a reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas with band accompaniment and a special guest narrating. Along with our concert music we are also getting ready to start playing music at the Varsity Basketball games. The students are progressing and we are having a good time.

Jr. High Jazz band has already started as well. It looks like we have a great band

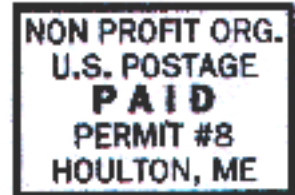
this year. Last year we came in 1st place at the state jazz festival, and we are already in good running to be a very competitive band. Currently we are playing four selections, some of them are newer songs that you have most likely not heard of, and some are classic jazz selections like "Take the A Train" and "Afro Blue." The band is playing great and we are sure to have a productive and good year.

As the holiday season is quickly approaching I want to take a moment and talk about new instruments. If you are

looking to upgrade your child's instrument or buy them a new kind of instrument, please consult with me. I want to make sure these fine young musicians get quality instruments. Keep in mind, quality does not always mean expensive, it means it will last a long time. There are instruments that say that they are professional or the same as other brands, but that is not always the case. Please let me help you in your search. I am always on the look out to find good quality instruments for students.

Have a happy Holiday,
Kevin Mania

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. Paid out \$15,011.99 to Houlton Community Arts Center from Sound Support
- B. Thank you to the parent volunteers who helped with auditions.
- C. All Aroostook Intake: Judges meals \$575, Concessions \$308.15

II. New Business

- A. Musical help: Damn Yankees: last minute details
- B. 2009 Sound support will be used to buy new standing risers
- C. Visiting Artist: Composer Samuel Hazo, December 2nd to work with HS and Jr Band and conduct the concert. Approximate cost is \$1,250

III. Boston Trip 2010-2011: Start earning credits this year. Becky Tuttle will track credits. Next credit opportunity is working the musical, usher and help with dessert buffet.

IV. Future Dates: Next meeting: Monday January 11th, 7:00pm Music Room (no December meeting due to concerts)

Booster Events

Many hands make light work!

- November 20, 21, 22: Musical Dessert Buffet
- March 18: District Vocal Jazz Festival
- April 10: State Vocal Jazz Festival