

Welcome to

Lafayette choir

August 2013

401 Reed Lane • Lexington, KY 40503 • (859) 381-3492 • www.LafayetteChoir.org

Orientation Newsletter for new students and parents.

From the Directors

Dear Singers and Parents:

We would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations on becoming a part of what we believe to be the finest choral program in the state! We are thrilled you have chosen to be a part of these groups. There are many facets, activities and opportunities in the choral department and this newsletter is an attempt to help you become oriented to the choir.

Know your choir: The most important thing is to **know which choir you are in!** There are six choirs in the Lafayette Choral department all with different schedules, activities, and requirements. See page 2 for information about the different ensembles.

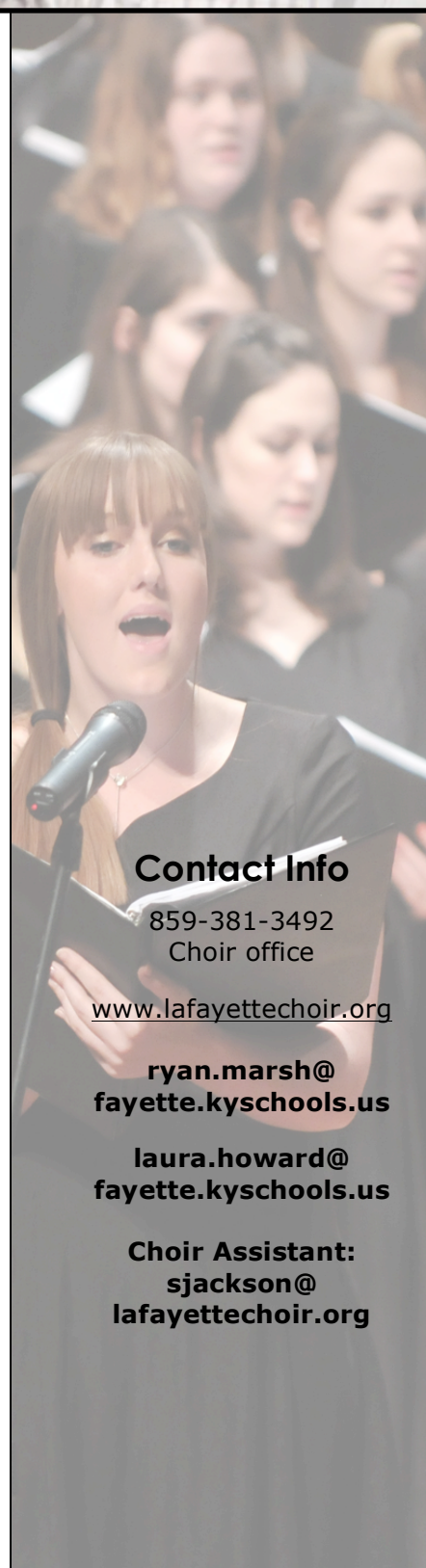
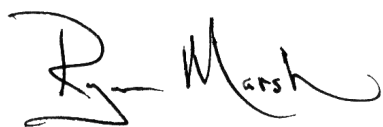
Communication: Communication is the key to a smooth year. We always make announcements in class, post important information on the board, and most often pass out printed info in class. To ensure that this information makes it home – we also email this information. Another great resource for parents and students is the choir website. www.lafayettechoir.org. Pay particular attention to the calendar available there!

Communication is a two way street. We will always do our best to keep you informed, but please do not hesitate to contact us when questions or concerns arise. (Be sure to check the choral department handbook for absence policies.)

Handbook: There are two documents that will make this year go smoothly for parents and students. This newsletter gives the basics. The second is the Choral Department Handbook. This Handbook serves as a syllabus and contains academic information that is important to your success. It will be passed out on the first day of class but is also available online:

www.lafayettechoir.org/students/handbook

It is going to be an exceptional year! Again, we welcome you into the great tradition of singing at Lafayette. We have no doubt that you will make tremendous memories and great friends here! We look forward to working with you this year!



Contact Info

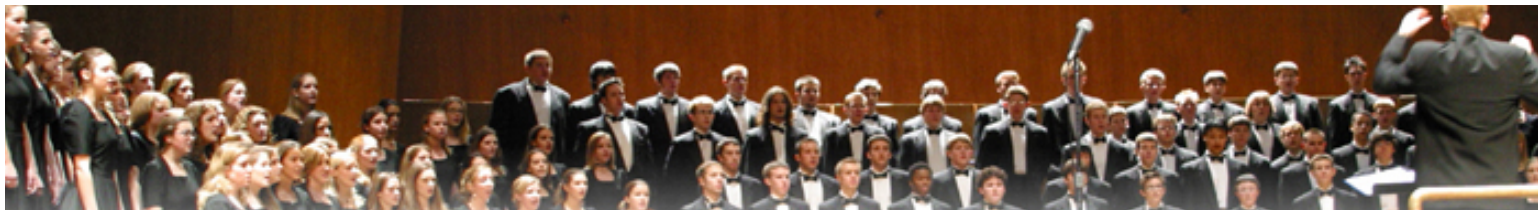
859-381-3492
Choir office

www.lafayettechoir.org

ryan.marsh@fayette.kyschools.us

laura.howard@fayette.kyschools.us

Choir Assistant:
sjackson@lafayettechoir.org



Ensembles

With over 200 students in six different choirs plus SCAPA Voice, there are a lot of things going on and lots to keep track of. Knowing which choir you are in will simplify things significantly. Ensembles are usually set in the Spring and changes will usually not be made after classes begin.

Men's and Women's Chorus – These choruses are designed primarily for beginning and intermediate choral instruction. They will provide an understanding of the fundamentals of proper vocal techniques, choral techniques, and music theory (as it applies to selected pieces.) These choirs do not require an audition for enrollment.

The **Men's choir** is directed by Mr. Marsh. Highlights of the year include UK Male Chorus Day, concerts throughout the year, contest and performing at LHS athletic events.

The **Women's Choir** is directed by Mrs. Howard. Highlights of the year include KMEA Festival Contest, Women's Choir Festival (Feb), UK Bluegrass Choral Music Festival and concerts throughout the year.

Advanced Women's Choir – The Advanced Women's choir is made up of advanced women of all grade levels. Upper classmen take Womens' choir as a second or third choir and provide outstanding leadership. Many SCAPA Voice majors are also in Women's Choir. Advanced Womens' Choir is conducted by Mrs. Howard.

Lafayette Singers – "Singers" is a performance-oriented class geared to expose students to a wide variety of choral literature, ranging from the various historical styles through rehearsal and performance. Performances will take place throughout the school year. Singers is open to students by audition. Singers is directed by Mr. Marsh

Lafayette Chorale – The Lafayette Chorale is the highest level vocal ensemble of the Choral department at Lafayette. Performances will take place throughout the school year and students will be given opportunities to participate individually, as well as in the choral ensemble. Placement in Chorale is by audition and is directed by Mr. Marsh.

Madrigal Singers – This is a chamber ensemble, which is open to advanced vocal students (usually grades 11&12). Students in this ensemble will study and perform music from virtually all stylistic and historic periods and they will learn advanced vocal/choral techniques, sight-reading and basic musicianship. Directed by Mr. Marsh

SCAPA Voice – Vocal majors are enrolled in either Advanced Women's Choir, Singers or Chorale for scheduling purposes. If you are an incoming freshmen, you will be in Singers or Advanced Women's Choir. SCAPA majors participate in the Choir Gala, private lessons, recitals, and solo and ensemble, in addition to all of the activities of the choir you are enrolled in.

How to Move Up in the Choirs: Each choir is a preparation for entrance into the next chorus level. Our goal is to prepare each student for successful advancement in the choirs. Auditions are held in the Spring for the following school year. Each student singing in a choir is required to audition as part of the participation grade for that semester. The auditions are based largely upon sight-singing and musicianship skills taught throughout the school year.

Gala ★
& Silent Auction
Thursday September 26

Donations & Workers needed!

Contact:

Krista Giancarlo: 669-6423

krista.giancarlo@gmail.com

**** Important Parent Meeting ****

Monday, August 26th at 6:30 pm

There will be a parent meeting in the Choir Room for all choir parents. We will cover concert attire, fundraising, and other important items for the year. There will also be an opportunity to meet and talk with our Directors as well as members from the Chorus Boosters.

Please make plans to attend.



Concert Attire Fittings

Tues Aug 6 1 pm - 4 pm

Wed Aug 7 12 - 2 pm

Thurs Aug 8 1 - 3 pm



All students need to be fitted for a dress or tux.

If there are questions or concerns, please contact: Kathy Anderson, ander65@aol.com

SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN



Each year the Lafayette Choir seeks sponsors. This campaign is by far, our most successful fundraiser. We ask every student to sell 2 ads.

The Campaign runs August 1-Sept 3.

Think creatively! We are also willing to do In-kind sponsorships of goods or services. Such ideas include audio equipment, t-shirts, etc. Contact Mr. Marsh for question about in-kind donations! Info, forms and request letters can be found online.

www.lafayettechoir.org/boosters/sponsorship



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please complete our online volunteer survey. We need to know what areas you are willing to help.

Volunteer
Survey

www.lafayettechoir.org/forms/VolunteerSurvey



Thursday August 29 at 3:45

The Lafayette Choir will be hosting a workshop for students who are new to the Lafayette Choirs. We will focus on leadership, team-building and working and playing together.

All Men's Choir, Women's Choir and Advanced Women's Choir, and SCAPA Voice and Singers Freshmen are required to attend.

The workshop will be held at LHS. Seasoned veterans of the choirs will help lead the retreat.



Mastering
Musicianship

VOICE

The Choral Department offers an outstanding opportunity to students for private voice study. The program offers students the opportunity to take individual voice lessons over a 10-week session each semester. The advantages to this program are cost and convenience. The rate for private lessons in Lexington is approx. \$15 per half-hour lesson or more. The M2 program at Lafayette is only \$110 for the 10-week session, and the majority of the private instruction takes place in the practice rooms of the Lafayette music department, under the direction of highly qualified music consultants. Enrollment spots are limited.

Stay tuned for info coming soon.

www.lafayettechoir.org/students/m2



Meet the Directors:

Ryan Marsh is a native of Floyd Knobs, Indiana. Ryan attended the University of Louisville School of Music from 1997 to 2003 where he earned the Bachelor of Music Education degree in Choral Music, Piano and Voice, and the Master of Music Performance Degree in Choral Conducting.

Ryan has an interest international choral music and has attended and sung in international choral competitions. He is active as an adjudicator for Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) contests and festivals. Ryan is a staff member of the Kentucky Ambassadors of Music European program and represents the Central Kentucky Region. He has also served as the Lexington District All-State Chorus Co-Chair and KMEA All-State Choral Chair. Mr. Marsh received National Board Certification in 2011.

Mr. Marsh is proud to direct the Lafayette Chorale, Singers, Madrigals, and Men's Chorus. He also teaches AP Music Theory and Music Technology. He is married to Tiffany who is the choral director at Western Hills High School in Frankfort. They live with their daughter Emory and dog Cosmo, in Midway.



Laura Howard is a native of Mt. Sterling, KY where she graduated from [Montgomery County High School](#). She credits her involvement in the music programs of the Montgomery County Public Schools with the beginnings of her musical passion and ultimately, her career.

Mrs. Howard is a graduate of [Morehead State University](#) where she completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. As an undergraduate, she received her Bachelor of Music Education degree as a piano major on the choral/vocal education track of study. She also received the Master of Music degree while studying music education and choral conducting. Mrs. Howard recently completed (final) Level III training in the Kodaly philosophy of music literacy and education. She began her teaching career in 2002 at Southern Middle School in Fayette County where she was responsible for general music classes, grades 6-8, as well as the 6th, 7th and 8th grade choirs. She has also had a private piano and voice studio since 1996. For many years, Mrs. Howard has served as an accompanist for various choirs, soloists (both vocal and instrumental), and musical productions. She also serves as a church musician both as a pianist as well as a vocalist.



lafayette choir B O O S T E R S

FIXED PAYMENT AGREEMENT

Choir payments are vital to providing quality experiences to our students. Chorus Boosters work hard to keep costs low for families. These costs are extremely inexpensive as compared to the costs associated with many other school-related extra-curricular activities your student might choose. This payment includes: Concert Attire Rental, choir T-shirt (for performances), folder, music, pencil, transportation, participation fees in area-wide contests and festivals, etc.

Students make only one payment regardless of number of ensembles in which they are enrolled.

BEGINNING CHORUS AGREEMENT

Women's Chorus • Men's Chorus

- Yearly Beginning Vocal Music Agreement** (includes attire rental & T-shirt) • **\$60.00**
 We will be paying in two \$30.00 installments

ADVANCED CHORUS AGREEMENT

Advanced Women's Choir • Singers • Chorale • Madrigals • SCAPA Voice

- Yearly Advanced Vocal Music Agreement** (includes attire rental & T-shirt) • **\$80.00**
 We will be paying in two \$40.00 installments

FUNDRAISING OPT-OUT DONATION

Fundraising not for you? Opt out of the 3 major sales fundraisers and still contribute. In-lieu-of Donations to the Lafayette Booster organization are Tax-Deductible.

- Fundraising Opt-Out Donation** • **\$100.00**

BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

All vocal families are invited and encouraged to join the LHS Chorus Booster Association.

- Booster Membership** • **\$10.00**

(Make checks payable to **Lafayette Chorus Boosters**)

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____ **Student Name:** _____

Email Contact: _____

Please indicate Student Name and purpose of the check in the memo blank.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS PAGE WITH CHECK(S) BY AUGUST 26th TO
Lafayette Chorus Department • Lafayette HS • 401 Reed Lane • Lexington, KY 40503**

lafayette choir

PARTICIPATION FORM

*****If Possible, please complete this form online:*****

<https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/selfregister.asp?s=LafayetteHSC>

*Please select "NEW Students" to register your contact information.
Enter your 8-digit IC student number. If you don't know it, make one up; we will correct it. If you need help, please email Mr. Marsh.*

Student Information

| | | | |
|--|------------|---------------|------------------------|
| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | M.I. | T-SHIRT Size |
| HOME ADDRESS | CITY | ZIP CODE | HOME PHONE |
| E-MAIL | GRADE | DATE OF BIRTH | CELL PHONE |
| (if applicable) PRIVATE VOICE TEACHER | | | ***CELL PHONE Provider |

Parent-Guardian Information

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------------------|
| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | HOME PHONE |
| HOME ADDRESS | CITY | ZIP CODE |
| E-MAIL | WORK PHONE | |
| OCCUPATION/SKILLS | | CELL PHONE |
| | | ***CELL PHONE Provider |

Parent-Guardian Information

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------------------|
| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | HOME PHONE |
| HOME ADDRESS | CITY | ZIP CODE |
| E-MAIL | WORK PHONE | |
| OCCUPATION/SKILLS | | CELL PHONE |
| | | ***CELL PHONE Provider |

***By indicating your cell phone provider, you are opting in to occasional text message notices about LHS Choir activities. We can only send text messages if you have indicated your provider. Otherwise, you will not receive text messages from us.

IF UNABLE TO COMPLETE ONLINE, PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM AND TURN IN AT THE PARENT MEETING ON AUGUST 26th TO:

Lafayette Choral Department
401 Reed Lane
Lexington, KY 40503

Information submitted on this form will **only** be used by the Directors and staff of the Lafayette Choral Department and members of the Lafayette Chorus Booster Association in support of the Vocal Music program at Lafayette High School

Fundraising Details

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a necessary part of any school music organization. Operating expenses for groups such as ours far exceed the dollars supplied by FCPS to the choral program. In order for the department to remain vital and offering quality experiences to our students, fundraiser participation is a necessity for each student. Money raised through fund-raising and fees are used for many purposes (seen and unseen) over the course of a school year. (See sidebar)

The Choral Department and Boosters work hard to keep student fees low and offset those low fees with fundraising efforts. Please keep in mind all of the often “unseen, behind the scenes” expenses when considering your level of commitment to fundraising. Your help is a necessity to continue this outstanding program, therefore, **EACH STUDENT IS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VARIOUS FUNDRAISERS THAT THE CHORAL DEPARTMENT SPONSORS EACH YEAR or give an In-lieu-of Donation.**

IN-LIEU-OF or OPT-OUT CONTRIBUTIONS

This year, the booster board will again offer an “In-lieu-of” fundraising possibility for those who may be overburdened with several organizations to fund raise for or for those who would simply prefer not to sell items. The “In-lieu-of” program is intended to allow folks to still contribute to the organization allowing us to meet our fund-raising goals, but perhaps avoid selling items.

If this sounds like the right choice for you, Lafayette Chorus Boosters are suggesting a yearly In-lieu-of contribution of \$100. This in-lieu-of takes the place of your student participating in three major fund-raising sales initiatives for the choir. These three sales include: **Cookie Dough**, **Raffle Fundraiser**, and **Spring Fundraiser TBA**. In-lieu-of Donations to the Lafayette Booster organization are Tax-Deductible.

This year’s planned fundraisers include the following:

Sponsorship and Patron Program ads. (September)

Gala and Silent Auction (October)

*Cookie Dough (October)

*Raffle (November)

*Special Event Fundraiser TBA (2nd Semester)

*indicates fundraisers that are included in the “in-lieu-of” donation program.

FUNDRAISING CREDITS

In accordance with IRS regulations for non-profit organizations, Lafayette Chorus Boosters, Inc does not offer student credits on fundraising.

Fundraising provides:

Chorus T-shirts
Folders
Pencils
Sheet Music
Student consumables
Attire repair, cleaning,
and replacement
Classroom supplies
Classroom equipment
Risers, and maintenance
Posture Chairs
Acoustical Shell
Music stands
Audio/video equipment
Folder cabinets
Performance space rental
Program printing
Festival/Contest Fees
KMEA registration fees
All-State Expenses
Transportation costs to
contests and festivals
Instructional software
Instructional materials
Instructional videos and
audio recordings
Music Library Equipment
Office support
Office equipment
Accompanist fees
Guest clinician expenses
Supplemental instruction
All-State adjudicators
Postage
Student incentives
Awards
Electronic Consumables
(CD’s, Tapes, DVD’s)
Piano Tunings
Musical instruments
Substitute teachers for
when directors are
chaperoning choir tours.
DVD and CD Recordings
of concerts.
AND MUCH MORE.....

LAFAYETTE CHORUS BOOSTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

All vocal music families are invited and encouraged to join the Lafayette Chorus Booster Association whose work is to support the Lafayette Choral Department, its Directors, and the Vocal Music students. Membership entitles you to be a voting member of the organization and is only \$10.00 per year per family.

ANNUAL EVENTS AND DATES OF INTEREST

Stay tuned for more information to come about all of these events.

Mastering Musicianship Lessons (M2): This is a great option for students to take private voice lessons after school for a reduced rate. The cost to students is \$110 for 10 lessons per semester. Register in the Fall.

Gala and Silent Auction: September 26 - This is the opening concert event for the concert season! All are welcome. Performers include: Singers, Chorale, Madrigals, and selected SCAPA Voice Majors.

Fall Concert: October 3 The Men's and Women's choirs perform in concert in Beeler Auditorium.

UK Bluegrass Choral Music Festival: October 4 and 5. This is required for SCAPA Voice majors but is a wonderful optional singing opportunity open to all LHS Choir students and is sponsored by the University of Kentucky Choral Department held at the UK Singletary Ctr. Nearly 500 Singers from across the state join for two days of rehearsal and a performance.

Winter Concerts: The Swing Choir, and Men and Women's Choirs perform their winter concert in Beeler auditorium on Lafayette's Campus. Singers, Madrigals and Chorale hold their concert at an area church or Singletary center.

Lafayette Choral Invitational: This event takes place in January. 7th and 8th grades from Lafayette's feeder schools are invited to work with the choirs at Lafayette. All Lafayette Choir Students are required to attend.

Women's Choir Festival: This Festival is a great event for our Women's choir. The LHS Women's Choir will join with several other schools in the Central Kentucky Area for a festival concert in March. This promises to be a fun day of singing and performing.

UK Male Chorus Day: This is open to all Men in the LHS Choirs. (It is required for the LHS Men's Choir). It takes place in January at the UK Singletary Center.

Solo and Ensemble Contest: This contest is held at Scott County High School (in Late February or March) for soloists and small ensembles. These are usually prepared with Mrs. Howard or Mr. Marsh outside of the school day. The student sings their solo or ensemble piece for an adjudicator. Sign-ups are in early January.

KMEA Festival Assessment: All choirs perform at Festival Assessment in March for comments and rating.

Spring Chorus Banquet: Celebrate the successes of the year at our annual choral banquet in early May.

Ice-Cream Concert: All choirs will perform at the Ice-Cream concert in the spring.



DON'T
FORGET....

There is a wealth of information available to our new members on the choir website including a frequently asked question section. Check it out and don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

www.lafayettechoir.org/info/new_members