



# *J.P. Stevens Musical Performance Groups*



## *Music Department*

*Andrew DeNicola*

*Band*

*John Zazzali*

*Band*

*Brian Verdi*

*Orchestra*

*Jonathan Meszaros*

*Choir*

*Raul Huaman*

*Guitar*

### **Freshman Band**

The Freshman Concert Band is open to all wind/percussion instrumentalists at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level. It is the goal of this ensemble to obtain instrumental knowledge and comprehend the various musical concepts taught throughout the term. Band members are required to take a weekly lesson during their study hall and attend the three primary concerts: Holiday Concert in December, Winter Concert in February, Spring Concert in May. Performance in this band is a prerequisite for placement in the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Pupils are both eligible and encouraged to attend our annual band trip.

### **Symphonic Band**

The Symphonic Band is open to all wind/percussion instrumentalists at the 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade level. It is the goal of this ensemble to enhance and encourage each student's understanding of instrumental musical concepts and terms with an emphasis on rehearsals and performances. The literature for this band is generally more advanced and offers more performance opportunities than the Freshman Band. Students in this band are both eligible and encouraged to attend our annual band trip.

### **Wind Ensemble**

This ensemble meets every day as a course which students may receive Honors credit by their third year of participation in high school band (Freshman Band/Symphonic Band). It is the most prestigious and select concert organization of the band program and is comprised of advanced wind and percussion instrumentalists whose musical commitment is the performance of the finest wind band literature. Students participating in the Wind Ensemble are of high caliber and are exceptionally self-motivated. Grading is challenging, demanding and rewarding. The vast majority of members study privately outside of school in order to perform at such an advanced level. Acceptance into Wind Ensemble will be by audition only. Auditions take place each May. Class size is limited to pre-determined instrumentation. Performances have included chamber ensemble recitals, Regional/State Concert Band Festivals, and the NJ State Gala (virtually every year). In 2007, the JPS Wind Ensemble was invited to perform at the prestigious Carnegie Hall. In 2015, the Wind Ensemble was one of 16 bands nationwide to be invited to perform at the National Concert Band Festival located in Indianapolis, Indiana. Students in this ensemble are expected to attend the annual band trip.



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## **Lab Jazz Band**

The Lab Jazz Band meets every Monday & Thursday after school from 2:45-5:00 P.M. beginning in the month of November. Any student playing saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass or drums may audition for participation in this group. The Lab Jazz Band performs at various festivals and competitions throughout the year, culminating with our annual band trip and Jazz Extravaganza. In 2007, the JPS Lab Jazz Band was awarded third place at the State Jazz Finals and since, has been invited back to perform yearly at the state level. The emphasis of this band is primarily placed on learning the various genres of jazz including swing, Latin and ballads. This band is a prerequisite for the Jazz Ensemble.

## **Jazz Ensemble**

The Jazz Ensemble meets every Monday and Thursday after school from 2:45-5:30 p.m. beginning in the month of November. This ensemble has the same instrumentation as the Lab Jazz Band, and students are selected for the group by audition. This performing group is involved in numerous festivals and competitions throughout the Winter/Spring. Some performances included are the annual NJAJE State Jazz Finals and our Jazz Extravaganza. The band has received superior ratings at every festival attended and was selected as NJAJE State Jazz Band Champions in 1998, 2000, 2004, 2009, 2010, & 2011.

## **Marching Band**

The intense marching season begins with band camp, held for a week and a half in late August. When school begins, practices take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays after school. The marching band performs at all the football games and competes every weekend (Saturday) from the end of September through early November when championships are held. Anyone who is willing to put in the time, effort, and dedication will be rewarded with a great musical experience.

## **Pit Orchestra**

The Pit Band is a select group of musicians chosen by the band director who perform the music that accompanies the Musical Theater during its annual spring musical. Rehearsals take place throughout the month of February and into early March. A member of the Pit Band will learn what it is like to create music behind the scenes for the actors on stage.



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## **Indoor Guard**

The Indoor Guard makes music come to life through body movement and utilizing various pieces of equipment (flags, sabers, rifles) with dance incorporated into every move. Each year the Indoor Guard competes at various high schools throughout New Jersey. Practice is held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, as well as Saturdays prior to a competition, from January-April. All students are welcome to try out; no experience is necessary.

## **Choir**

Recognized as one of the finest choral programs in the State of New Jersey, the John P. Stevens Choirs continue to strive for excellence in the choral art. Most recently, this choral program has been nationally ranked as a superior program by members of the Festival of Gold, a national festival of choral music. There are five choices that meet during or after school. They are:

## **Concert Choir**

Concert Choir is the largest choral ensemble at J.P. Stevens; every student in the choir program is a member of Concert Choir. The choir meets during every school day, split between two class periods. There is also an additional rehearsal every Thursday after school. The Concert Choir performs at both the Holiday and Spring Concerts, as well as other fundraising events throughout the year. In addition, Concert Choir attends the annual Choir and Orchestra trip in the Spring. The repertoire performed by Concert Choir is a wide variety of SATB music which spans all time periods and genres.

## **A Cappella**

A Cappella is the entry-level auditioned choir at J.P. Stevens. Students interested in auditioning for A Cappella must be able to hold their voice part in a quartet. A Cappella meets as a class every school day, as well as the full ensemble rehearsal every Monday evening. All members of A Cappella also sing in Concert Choir. The J.P. Stevens A Cappella Choir has been very successful throughout the years at chorus festivals including the Roxbury Invitational, where they were awarded First Place Grand Champion in 2011 and 2012. A Cappella Choir performs at both the Holiday Winter and Spring Concerts, as well as fundraising events and the annual Choir and Orchestra trips in the Spring. Repertoire performed in this choir is mainly SATB music both diverse and challenging.



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## **Men's and Women's Ensembles**

Men's and Women's Ensembles are two separate groups consisting of all men and women in A Capella, as well as others who audition from Concert Choir. These ensembles meet every Wednesday after school hours.

## **Chamber Choir**

Chamber Choir is the most select choir at J.P. Stevens. New members are admitted to Chamber only at the end of each academic year, through a rigorous audition process. Students are evaluated on part singing, tonal quality, blend, musicianship, and sight-reading ability. Chamber meets every school day, as well as Monday evenings. Along with competition, Chamber is heavily involved in many fundraising and community service events throughout the year. The Chamber Choir received highest ratings for both their performance and sight-singing at the NJ-ACDA Festival in 2014. Repertoire performed is of the highest quality and difficulty, and mostly of a level equal to university and professional choirs.

## **Freshman Orchestra**

This orchestra is open to all incoming freshmen and meets as a 5 credit class every day. Orchestra members are required to take a weekly lesson during their study hall and attend the three major concerts (Holiday/December, JP Stevens Orchestra Festival/April and Spring/May) throughout the school year. Performance in this orchestra is a pre-requisite for placement in the Concert Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra I and Chamber Orchestra II. Students in this orchestra are eligible to attend our annual spring trip.

## **Concert Orchestra**

Students in this class receive 5 credits and this group is open to all sophomores, juniors and seniors. The orchestra meets as a class every day and has the same requirements as Freshman Orchestra. The literature for this orchestra is more advanced and offers more performance opportunities than the Freshman Orchestra. Students in this orchestra are also eligible to attend our annual spring trip.



# *J.P. Stevens Musical Performance Groups*



## **Chamber Orchestra I**

Chamber Orchestra I consists of a select group of students performing the most advanced music. This is a newly formed class that focuses on performing as a small, intimate ensemble. The music is highly advanced and primarily focuses on college level music literature. The ensemble meets as a class every day as a course for which students may receive Honors credit beginning their second year of participation in the group. Members have the same requirements as those in Freshman Orchestra, Concert Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra II, but with additional performance opportunities. The majority of these students also study privately outside of school in order to perform at such an advanced level. Students are selected for the chamber orchestra by audition. Auditions take place each May.

## **Chamber Orchestra II**

This ensemble consists of a select group of students performing advanced music. The ensemble meets as a class every day as a course for which students may receive Honors credit beginning their second year of participation in the group. Members have the same requirements as those in Freshman Orchestra and Concert Orchestra, but with additional performance opportunities. In 2014, the Chamber Orchestra was invited to perform at the New Jersey Music Educators Conference. In addition, this ensemble has consistently rated superior in state orchestra festivals and national orchestra competitions winning awards for the best overall orchestra program and best performances. In 2014 they were selected to compete in Washington, DC at the Festivals of Gold; a highly selective orchestra competition. Students in this ensemble are expected to attend the annual spring trip. The majority of these students also study privately outside of school in order to perform at such an advanced level. Students are selected for the chamber orchestra by audition. Auditions take place each May.

## **Guitar Ensemble**

This is a selected group of musicians chosen by audition. The guitar ensemble rehearses and performs music in groups that can go from duets, trios, and quartets, to larger ensembles using various types of guitars. The repertoire covered includes classical, jazz, rock, pop and world music. This ensemble meets once a week after school.

## **Guitar Orchestra**

This is a group of musicians selected by the instructor from Beginning Guitar and Guitar II. The Guitar Orchestra performs at the Winter and Spring Concerts. The repertoire covers original works and transcription for a large guitar ensemble.