MAY 2026 VOLUME NO. 8

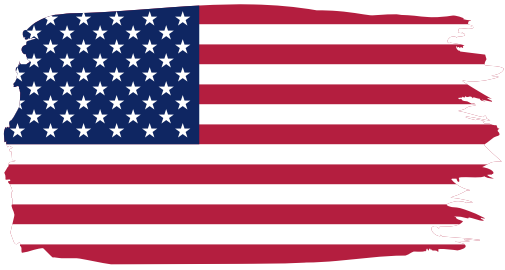
ENCORE!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON MUSIC DEPARMENT

MUSIC IN THE MAKING

MADISON MUSICIANS - ARE YOU CONCERT-READY?

Being "concert-ready" as a student musician or singer in a school ensemble means having the musical accuracy, technical proficiency, and professional etiquette required to perform a program from memory or sheet music confidently and expressively in front of an audience. It encompasses more than just playing the right notes; it includes preparation, discipline, and understanding how to behave as part of a polished group.



CHECK GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR CONCERT INFORMATION

1. Musical Proficiency

- Technical Accuracy: Knowing all notes, rhythms, dynamics, and articulations in the repertoire without needing to stop and correct them.
- Rehearsal Consistency: Regularly attending sectionals and full group rehearsals, and being able to perform the entire concert program top-to-bottom, including challenging sections.
- Listening Skills: The ability to listen to others and blend, ensuring one's part does not overpower others and that tempos and tuning are synchronized.
- Memory/Familiarity: Knowing the music well enough that the focus can shift from reading the notes to following the conductor

2. Behavioral and Performance Etiquette

- Onstage Conduct: Understanding how to walk on and off stage properly, how to bow, and how to stay focused while sitting or standing.
- Uniform/Attire Compliance: Having the required specific uniform cleaned and ready, which is designed to focus audience attention on the music rather than the performers.
- Stage Presence: Presenting a confident, professional demeanor, including good posture and appropriate facial expressions.

3. Preparation and Logistics

- Equipment Readiness: Ensuring the instrument is tuned and in working order, bringing all necessary accessories (extra reeds, valve oil, mutes), or having sheet music in a folder.
- Arriving at the designated time, which is usually earlier than the performance time, to allow for tuning, warming up, and final logistics.
- Mindset: Managing performance anxiety and understanding that the goal is to perform well as a team, reducing nerves by feeling comfortable with the music.
- Have a light meal and water before the performance.

MUSIC AT MADISON

The 7th and 8th Grade Band
The 6th Grade Band
The Jazz Band
The 6th Grade Chorus
The 7th & 8th Grade Chorus
The Madison Singers
The Madison Orchestra
The String Ensemble
Broadway Babies Drama

IMPORTANT DATES

- 6th Grade Chorus & Madison Singers Spring Concert -5/5 @ 6pm
- Orchestra Spring Concert - 5/5 @ 7:30pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Band & Jazz Band Spring Concert - 5/7 @7pm
- Grade 6 Band & Jazz Band Spring Concert- 5/12 @7pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Chorus & Madison Singers Spring Concert -5/14 @7pm
- NJHS Induction Ceremony - 5/20 @7pm
- Memorial Day Parade (7th and 8th Grade Band) - 5/25
- Music Festival - Band & Orchestra Trip - 5/29
- Stepping Forth - 6/17 @ 4:30pm



Check google classroom or the school website for more important dates!

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BAND TOGETHER

BAND AT MADISON



BAND CONCERTS

(Concert Dress Clothes: Black and White, no sneakers. See handout)

Thursday, May 7th @ 7pm
7 & 8 Band
and Jazz Band

Tuesday, May 12th @ 7pm
Grade 6 Band
and Jazz Band

Students should arrive by 6:20pm to warm up!!!

Memorial Day Parade



Rehearsal:
Thursday, May 21st afterschool
2:35-4:15/ MMS Parking Lot

Parade: Monday, May 25th
9AM Long Hill Green
Khaki shorts, Blue Band shirts, Sneakers
Sunglasses ok; no hats

Trills and Thrills

Festival 2026



Band Trip Rehearsals:

Friday, May 15th in-school Periods 3&4

Thursday, May 28th Afternoon
(2:35-4:15)

Trip is all day Friday May 29th

TIPS FOR THE AUDIENCE: CONCERT ETIQUETTE AND HOW TO BE A GOOD AUDIENCE

1. You are invited to applaud upon the entrance of a conductor.

2. Please hold your applause until each piece is completely finished, except in the case of jazz band, where it is traditional to applaud briefly after a jazz solo. If a concert piece has more than one movement, please wait until they are all finished before clapping at the end. You can tell if a piece is completely finished because the conductor typically lowers their hands at the very end.

3. Please turn off all cell phones, devices, pagers, etc. before the concert starts. You may have a catchy ringtone, but we don't want to hear it during the show!

4. Please refrain from any conversation during the concert music. When the music is being performed, everyone should be listening! Also please remember the concerts are being recorded!

5. Please stay and remain seated for the entire concert. We ask that everyone enter and exit the auditorium only between pieces of music.

6. Please take small children to the hallway should they become loud or restless.

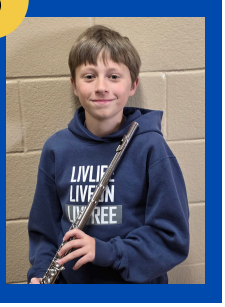
7. Please do not bring food or drinks into the auditorium.

Looking Forward to the Spring Concerts!

-Mr. Thornton

MAY BAND Students of the Month

6



CARTER FINN,
FLUTE

7



ELIJAH PUNNETTE,
TUBA

8



ELI POLLOCK,
TRUMPET

SPECIAL FEATURE

TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL GOLDEN EAGLE MARCHING BAND AND PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE







Three of our Madison students are members of the Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band and Percussion Ensemble- **8th graders Xander Hamilton and Ishika Gadkar-Wilcox and 7th grader Zoe DeLeon.** In addition to all of their school work at Madison, they have been competing all season. Their show in April, Jeepers Creepers: Monsters All Around Us, won a silver medal in the CT State Musical Arts Championships. They also traveled to Dayton, Ohio over spring break to compete in the WGI Percussion World Championships. Way to represent Trumbull and Madison!!

Xander, Ishika, and Zoe will be talking to middle school band students to encourage them to join the THS bands next year.





THE STRINGS BEAT

Reminder

ORCHESTRA SPRING CONCERT

TUESDAY MAY 5th at 7:30pm

🎵 MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT 🎵
SPRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT INFORMATION

📅 DATE: MAY 5
📍 LOCATION: MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
⏰ STUDENT DROP-OFF: 6:50 PM
🎶 CONCERT BEGINS: 7:30 PM
💲 SUGGESTED DONATION/TICKET: $5
(ALL DONATIONS SUPPORT THE MADISON MUSIC DEPARTMENT)

👔 CONCERT DRESS REQUIREMENTS (ALL BLACK – FORMAL):
- DRESS PANTS ONLY (NO JEANS OR LEGGINGS)
- BLACK SKIRTS OR DRESSES (MUST BE BELOW KNEE WHEN SEATED)
- BLACK SHIRTS OR TOPS (NO T-SHIRTS)
- DRESS SHOES (NO SNEAKERS OR SLIPPERS)
- BLACK SOCKS REQUIRED IF WEARING LOAFERS



It's concert time!
I am looking forward to a wonderful evening of music, from Bach to Billie Eilish!
Please review the concert information above.
See you soon!
MR. ELKINS

MAY STRINGS Students of the Month

6



TORI MCMILLAN

7



JAMES RUANE

8



GENESIS PEREZ

MAY 2026

VOLUME NO. 8

Harmony HIGHLIGHTS

CHORUS AT MADISON

May is Concert Month at Madison!

If you walk through the halls at Madison, before, during and after school, you will typically hear the sounds of singing, string instruments, percussion, a saxophone or two and many other instruments! During the month of May - there's music in the air! We can't wait to see you at the concerts!



Be sure to check out the final edition of ENCORE! of the year in June for concert photos!

Reminder

GR. 6 CHORUS & MADISON SINGERS CONCERT
Tuesday May 5th at 6:00pm

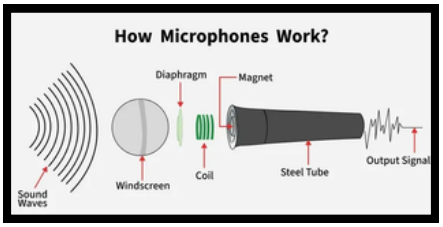
7TH & 8TH GR CHORUS & MADISON SINGERS CONCERT
Thursday May 14th at 7:00pm

(see flyers for for info.)



AMPLIFIED SOUND!

How Do Microphones work?



- **Sound Waves**: Sound waves, which are vibrations in the air, travel toward the microphone.
- **Windscreen**: This part helps reduce unwanted noise from wind or breath, providing clearer sound.
- **Diaphragm**: When sound waves hit the diaphragm (a thin membrane), it vibrates in response to the sound.
- **Coil**: Attached to the diaphragm, the coil moves as the diaphragm vibrates.
- **Magnet**: The coil is placed within a magnetic field. As the coil moves within the field due to diaphragm vibrations, it generates an electrical current.
- **Steel Tube**: The steel tube helps protect and direct the signal, guiding it to the output.
- **Output Signal**: The electrical signal generated by the coil is sent out of the microphone and is ready to be amplified or recorded.

A microphone converts sound into electrical signals. Sound waves make the diaphragm move, which moves a coil in a magnetic field, creating an electric current. This current is used to record or amplify the sound, turning it into an audio signal.

MAY CHORUS Students of the Month

6



SANDRA CISZEWSKI

7



MAX GOMES

8



ZOE HOYT

GREAT MUSICIANSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND POSTITIVE ATTITUDE IN CLASS!!

Did you see The Little Mermaid Jr. ?

Please Consider supporting

BY PURCHASING A RAFFLE TICKET YOU HELP SUPPORT Broadway Babies

The Madison Middle School Broadway Babies Theater program and many other area arts programs are supported by The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation.

Please consider supporting this organization to help the arts contintue to grow by purchasing a raffle ticket today!

You can purchase up until 5pm on May 5th!

Keep the Arts Blooming
JAMIE HULLEY
ARTS FOUNDATION

Enter Our 2026 "Keep the Arts Blooming" Raffle

Our Foundation provides life-changing educational opportunities in the arts to hundreds of youth and adults each year through educational programming, scholarships and community projects.

TAKE A CHANCE! Together, we can keep the arts blooming!



Win Visa Gift Cards from $100 to $2,000!
10 Great Prizes to Benefit a Great Cause

The Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit (06-6526327).
Raffle License No. #26-01 issued by Town of Orange CT Police Services

To purchase raffle tickets
scan QR code below or visit website
www.jamiehulleyartsfund.org

Tickets: $20.

Winners announced
live on Facebook
May 5th, 2026 at 7pm



GRADE 6 CHORUS CONCERT INFORMATION

MAY 05
TUES
6:00PM

SINGERS ARRIVE AT 5:45 PM

Concert Time!

- **Grade 6 Chorus** to the Cafe at 5:45pm
- **Madison Singers** to Room 125 at 5:45pm

CONCERT DRESS GUIDELINES

FOR SINGERS

As a symbol of unity and membership of the group, all chorus students are to follow the guidelines for concert attire. Please try to follow these guidelines as closely as possible in an effort to ensure all students feel as though they belong. These guidelines are used commonly in Trumbull public school music performances.

- White button-down long-sleeved dress shirt, ties, dark pants preferred. Ties must be tied prior to arriving at the concert please. No shorts, athletic pants or jeans.
- White modest tops, not tank or thin straps, black skirts, knee length or longer only. Black pants are only allowed if they are dress pants - no leggings or jeans. Black dresses with a white cardigan would also be acceptable. Avoid heavy sweaters or turtlenecks.
- Shoes must be appropriate for standing on risers and safety. Please avoid slippers, crocs, slides, or athletic brightly colored sneakers.
- Students are required to be well groomed, with clean, pressed clothing that will not detract from the concert performance. No perfumes, colognes, body sprays or overly scented deodorants. No phones.



Future Planning
December 2026 Concert Dress will be the same.

TICKET SALES & GUEST INFORMATION

Guests should use the main entrance by the gym and proceed down the hallway past the main office to the ticket table, allowing for the ticket line to remain indoors.

Tickets - $5 donation at the door. **CASH ONLY.**



We appreciate your support as these funds support the music program and help pay for equipment and our wonderful professional accompanists. Thank you in advance!

7TH & 8TH GRADE CHORUS CONCERT INFORMATION

MAY 14
THUR
7:00PM

SINGERS ARRIVE AT 6:45 PM

Concert Time!

- 7th and 8th Grade **Chorus** to the **GYM** at 6:45pm
- **Madison Singers** to Room 125 at 6:45pm

CONCERT DRESS GUIDELINES

for all singers

IMPORTANT!

SPRING CONCERT INFORMATION

As a symbol of unity and membership of the group, all chorus students are to follow the guidelines for concert attire. Please try to follow these guidelines as closely as possible in an effort to ensure all students feel as though they belong.

Required Concert T-shirt
Solid Black comfortable pants.
Sneakers

As usual, students are required to be well groomed, with clean, pressed clothing that will not detract from the concert performance.

No perfumes, colognes, body sprays or overly scented deodorants.
No phones.

SPRING



TICKET SALES & GUEST INFORMATION



Tickets - $5 **cash** donation at the door.
Guests should use the main entrance by the GYM and proceed down the hallway past the main office to the ticket table, allowing for the ticket line to remain indoors.
Concert program will be a QR Code.
Also, we ask that you do not attend if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness, as we are expecting a large audience and we want to keep our singers, families and friends healthy.