

MCKINNEY HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS



FALL CONCERT

OCTOBER 7TH, 2025, 6:30 PM

MCKINNEY HIGH SCHOOL

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

SPERRY PERFORMANCE HALL





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The background of the entire page is a light gray, semi-transparent pattern of musical notation, including staves, notes, and clefs, arranged in a grid-like fashion.

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Kathy Crabtree, Violin & Viola

Jeremiah Glusica, Cello & Bass

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Candy Bundles

Candy bags are for sale in the lobby before and after the concert this evening - \$5 each. They make great gifts for your musician!

MHS Orchestra Spirit Night Fundraisers

Skip the cooking and cleaning and support MHS Orchestra at the same time! Below is our final restaurant spirit night for this semester.

By eating at these restaurants or patronizing these businesses, and mentioning MHS Orchestra, 20% or more of proceeds will be donated to the MHS Orchestra Booster Club.

Mark this down on your calendar and bring a friend - MHS Orchestra chooses not to do school-wide cell phone callouts for these events!

Wednesday, October 29th

Barro's Pizza (all day)

2730 S Central Expy



Monday, November 17th

Super Shack

2901 S Central Expy

Monday, December 15th

MOD Pizza

1871 N Lake Forest Dr #9



Concert Orchestra

Jacob Cortez, Conductor

Nighthawk
Mike Kamuf

Momentum
Robert Longfield

Violin

Brooklyn Abrams
Ziva Ahmed
Diego Briceno
Jacob Cook
Rozlyn Dove
Bri Harris
Killiam Hernandez
Isabella Jaramillo
Julio Mejia
Violet Polley
Isaiah Rosborough
Paulina Sanchez Gonzalez
Hunter Sayre
Rosario Solis
Emily Tovar

Viola

Katelynn Brown
Ezequiel Cisneros
Juan Delgadillo Cruz
Abigail Houston
Katelyn Micoff
Viola Vargas
Arshavir Ziaee

Cello

Anna Cisneros
Abigail Evans
Jonathan Guzman
Casey Sattler
Adrien Smith

Bass

Brooke Barragan

Nighthawk

Nighthawk is an energetic original composition for string orchestra that employs complex harmonies while still being approachable for student musicians. The piece begins with *quartal harmony* (notes stacked four notes apart), followed by a driving rhythmic ostinato in the cellos. The main theme is introduced by a solo violin which follows by a reiteration of the theme by all the first violins underneath powerful off the string articulations in the second violins and violas.

The piece continues to develop with a secondary theme that gets passed around the orchestra all while being accompanied by rich, stacked harmonies. It concludes similar to the opening with a restatement of the main theme by a solo violin followed by a unison ending featuring the same quartal harmony as the opening.

Momentum

Momentum is an exciting overture for string orchestra. The piece begins with the marking *Allegro furioso*, roughly translated as “fast with fury”. Each section builds momentum by performing the main theme along with a jagged and articulated accompaniment. The momentum slows to a lyrical interlude marked *Andante tranquillo*, roughly translated as “walking tempo and calm”. The lyrical middle section offers a contrast to the aggressive opening highlighting lush harmonies and intricate counterpoint. It concludes with an acceleration that gains momentum into a fast and exciting grand finale.

Sinfonia Orchestra

Jacob Cortez, Conductor

Mechanisms

John Caponegro

Mysteria Abyssii

Kirt Mosier

Violin

Yamama Ahmed

Garrett Biggs

Jazmine Bray

Sofia Edgar

Ashley Hernandez

Angel Martinez

Tianna Mathis

Adley McAlexander

Alannah Pape

Andrina Rios

Christopher Session

Kevin Torres

Genesiss Torres Lopez

Daniela Velez Muniz

Viola

Marley Moore

Jacqueline Nguyen

Edidiong Okon

Gwenyth Pena

Pearson Prows

Cello

Zachary Boyko

Justin Elorza Mendoza

Michael Kluge

Violet Phillips

Tristan Stambaugh

Landon Swearengin

Bass

Brooks Cowan

Christian Montez

Samuel Runyon

Mechanisms

There are many different steps in the manufacturing process. Machines, dedicated to performing a single function on a item for use in a particular product, have mechanisms which create repetitive rhythms while performing their task. The item then moves along the automated assembly line to where it encounters more machines waiting to perform their tasks.

Mechanisms is suggestive of the repetitive patterns produced by machines on a manufacturing assembly line to where it encounters more machines waiting to perform their tasks.

Mysteria Abyssii

Mysteria Abyssii was written to evoke to mysteries of the deep, as the ethereal scoring takes the listener into the dark areas of the ocean. The celesta adds that magical sparkling quality that many bioluminescent underwater creatures possess.

The listener is taken on a journey of exploration and beauty. The composer chose to put the title in Latin (literally translated as “Mysteries of the Abyss”) because the listeners journey is taken down deep where ancient ruins may lie.

There is a strange beauty to the piece that culminates in powerful chords towards the end. This climax leads the listener to believe that something large has been discovered, only to find out that the abyss extends even deeper than imagined as the piece fades into the deep.

Camerata Orchestra

Jeff Harvick, Conductor

Beneath the Autumn Sky

Kevin Sluder

Tango Misterioso

Susan H. Day

Violin

Saleen Alshammary
Oscar Convento
Garcia
Mia Ehrlich
Yaira Espinoza
Sharona Khavar
Mason Maxwell
Zhina Mohsenpour
Dominick Pesano
Carlos Quiroz
Maria Rico Merino
Andony Rodriguez
Natalie Sims
Robert Vigil
Trinity Williams

Viola

Jean Alvarez
Joshua Fannin
Fernando Huerta
Alondra Lugo
Luca Martinez Galindo
Josh Monsanto
Alexis Perales Valadez
Mia Torres

Cello

Eric Alonso
Kate Britt
Mason Brock
Kenneth Brown
Carrissa Chiu
Alex Cohee
Meilani Gomez
Barzin Khavar
David Lopez
Joselyn Morales
Charlotte Nipharack
Janessa Staiger

Bass

Samuel Newhouse
Charles Wisdom

Beneath the Autumn Sky

Beneath the Autumn Sky was written in by local McKinney composer Kevin Sluder in 2017.

“Reminiscent of a crisp, cool autumn day, when the leaves have turned, a handful already fluttering to the ground; the sky a paler blue than usual.”

Last month, Mr. Sluder visited McKinney High School Orchestra to work with Camerata on his composition.

Tango Misterioso

Tango Misterioso was written by composer Susan H Day. It was awarded as a winner of the Texas Orchestra Directors Association Composition Contest in 2011.

This mysterious-sounding tango is written in the keys of C minor and D minor. Distinctive tango rhythms, captivating minor melodies, and appealing chordal harmonies create an authentic Latin flavor.

Philharmonic Orchestra

Jacob Cortez, Conductor

Baroque Variants

Kirt Mosier

Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Richard Meyer

Violin

Ian Craig

Ingrid Valadez

Hayden Donaldson

Esther Mujica Gomez

Diana Rangel

Benjamin Obara

Duncan Cissik

Maximilian Gallen

Vanessa Flores

Camille Johansen

Edwin Ramirez

Olivia Sullivan

Viola

Daniel Magno

Evan Luna

Leyla Feiser

Beckham Boysen

Madeleine Littwin

Nuray Tever

Cello

Tyodus Millette

Ryleigh Layne

Atticus King

Braeden Franzen

Logan Rice

Ellison Hampton

Bass

Gavin Pendergraft

Nelly Love

Baroque Variants

Baroque variants is a string orchestra piece that draws upon the stylings of Johann Sebastian Bach but sets these features to modal harmonies and modern rhythms. The motif of the piece comes from Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3*. There is a fugal exposition in the middle of the piece that pays homage to Bach's wonderful counterpoint. The piece then moves into a challenging string quartet texture and comes back with a flurry to end on the original Brandenburg motif.

Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Legend of Sleepy Hollow is a tone poem based on Washington Irving's famous short story. In the first part of the piece, the three main characters are introduced, each represented by a different theme:

The Apparition of the Headless Horseman is a favorite legend shared amongst the town folk of Sleepy Hollow, many of whom claim to have seen him riding his horse "in the gloom of night, as if on wings of the wind." The second half of this theme incorporates the "Dies irae" from the Requiem Mass.

Ichabod Crane is the local Schoolmaster. His theme is loosely based on the German student song "Gandeamus igitur," used by Brahms in his "Academic Festival Overture." Since Ichabod is also the school choir director, phrases from the choral tune "Old 100th" are used in this section.

Katrina Van Tassel is the daughter of an affluent Dutch farmer. Her theme is playful and flirtatious. Ichabod soon takes an interest in Katrina. Their themes are intertwined and followed by a love theme that is derived from the initial Apparition theme.

At a dance at the mansion of Katrina's father, Ichabod and Katrina's themes are present in a waltz time, and then heard simultaneously as the couple dances together. The men folk then gather to share colorful stories of ghosts and goblins.

After the dance, Ichabod is rejected by Katrina, and begins to slowly ride his horse homeward. With ghost stories filling his head, he soon becomes frightened, and nervously begins whistling his theme (represented by solo violin). Suddenly, out of the night, the ominous silhouette of the Apparition appears, carrying his head on the pommel of his saddle. Horror-struck Ichabod takes off on his horse, and the chase begins!

The Headless Horseman closes in and hurls his head at Ichabod, knocking him off his horse, into the dust. The Apparition rides off and disappears into the night. Ichabod is never seen again in Sleep Hollow, but the voice of his ghost is often heard chanting a melancholy tune... (represented by the cello/bass). A final quote from the Apparition theme ends the piece.

Chamber Orchestra

Jeff Harvick, Conductor

Serenade for Strings Op. 48

III. Elégie

IV. Finale

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Violin

Saylor Baker

Emma Engle

Joe Jaramillo

Annalise Kleineberg

Justin Lee

Kaitlin Lee

Kara Lin

Britney Pena Chavez

Mike Rocha

Shae Rudder

Austin Taylor

Ryan Tonui

Ryan Ung

Viola

Zalana Aguillard

Brooke Barragan

Hana Bokmeyer

David Das

Greyson Hampton

Lucas Hlavaty

Megan Machuca

Cello

Brooke Aguillard

Zailee Fiore

Georgina Golden

Kiran Hartman

Taro Higuchi

Anna Li

Garrett Machuca

Allison Nguyen

Ruben Solis

String Bass

Sewuese Dyegh

Amber Wang

Serenade for Strings

Serenade for Strings was composed one summer when Tchaikovsky was in Ukraine. While many of his works exhibit an ability to emote feelings, the serenade seems to encapsulate multiple sentiments, sometimes at the same time.

III. Elégie

Elégie is perhaps the most substantive of the four movements, and opens with more of Tchaikovsky's adroit use of simple scales as melodic material. Its lush, close voicing, and somewhat ambiguous tonality gives it a rather antique aura. It soon seems to settle on the relative minor key, but then quickly moves to D Major for the following *animato* section. There, the winsome tune (again, a simple scale) is nothing so much as an implied vocal "serenade" with triplet pizzicatos in the rest of the orchestra evoking a "singer's" guitar accompaniment. Various other sections take up the tune in artful variations, with beguiling counterpoint, until a little cadenza-like passage in the first violins takes us to the recap of the slow introduction. But Tchaikovsky is not finished yet. In a manner so familiar from his symphonies, he extends the passage, and introduces his familiar pulsating cross-rhythms over a sustained bass. Then, everyone ascends into the acoustic stratosphere to end as high and soft as possible on harmonics.

IV. Finale

The last movement has a rather slow introduction, too, starting in the high, soft vein as the previous ending—this time with mutes. After some brief musical musing in a rather subdued mood, the "spirited" movement proper begins. Both slow introduction and the following *allegro* are based upon Russian traditional melodies. The first fast tune is a rather simple little one, whose dance-like character is worked through thoroughly before yielding to the second idea — a somewhat more lyrical one. Tchaikovsky wrings a lot out of these two little melodies, adding some gracious countermelodies along the way, before a return to the rich, full slow introduction to the first movement rounds the whole thing off. After which a scampering coda based on the first Russian tune races to the end, with the usual Tchaikovsky mastery of a scintillating dash to the conclusion.

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Email logos/designs/questions to

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Upcoming Dates

Thursday, October 30th

Performing Arts Halloween Party (MHS Choir, Orchestra, Theater)

MHS Performing Arts Area

7pm-9pm

November 13th-15th

MHS Performing Arts Presents: Addams Family The Musical

Nov 13-15: 7pm

MHS Performing Arts Center

Ticket sales info will be communicated via email

Thursday, December 4th

MHS Orchestra Turkey Bash

MHS Performing Arts Area

6:30-9:30pm

Tuesday, December 10

Winter Concert

MHS Performing Arts Center

6:30pm

MHS Orchestra Spirit Items

Home Team Prints

We have many different types of orchestra shirts available for purchase! Visit the MHS Orchestra store at hometeamprints.net. Shirts can be purchased at any time, and picked up in store a few days later. We also have MHS Orchestra Yard Signs for Sale.



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MHS Orchestra Spring Trip - April 24-27, 2026

New Orleans, Louisiana

Students will stay in hotels in groups of four in New Orleans. Highlights include Mulate's Cajun Restaurant, Café Du Monde, Madri Gras World, shopping in the French Quarter, National WWII museum, Audobon Aquarium, dinner and jazz aboard Steamboat Natchez, and a swamp boat tour in the bayou.

This trip will be limited to 48 student spots - first come, first served.



NEW ORLEANS

McKinney High School Orchestra

Friday, April 24th

- 5:00am Load bus at school, 1400 Wilson Creek Pkwy, McKinney, TX
- 5:30am Depart, 8 hour drive with two-hour buffer and one hour lunch stop
- Stop for lunch en route (on own)
- 4:30pm Arrive in New Orleans, LA!
- Meet your Green Light tour manager
- Check into hotel
- 6:30pm Dinner and live music at Mulate's Cajun Restaurant
- 8:30pm Dessert of beignets at the famous Café Du Monde
- 10:00pm Arrive back at hotel

Saturday, April 25th

- Continental breakfast at hotel
- 9:15am Load bus
- 10:00am Visit Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World
- 12:00pm Lunch and shopping on Magazine Street
- 2:00pm Experience the interactive WWII Museum
- 5:30pm Dinner at Maison
- 7:00pm Haunted History Tour
- 9:00pm Arrive back at hotel

Sunday, April 26th

- Continental breakfast at hotel
- 9:15am Load bus
- 10:00am Guided tour of New Orleans
- 12:00pm Free time for shopping and lunch in the historic French Market
- 2:00pm Visit the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas and the Insectarium
- 6:00pm Dinner and jazz aboard the Steamboat Natchez
- 9:00pm Arrive back at hotel

Monday, April 27th

- Continental breakfast at hotel
- 8:00am Pack and load bus
- 9:00am Cajun Pride swamp boat tour of the bayou
- 11:00am Picnic lunch on the bayou
- 12:00pm Depart for home
- Dinner stop on the way (on own)
- 11:00pm Arrive back at school

Sign-up will be released via email and Canvas link within the next week.

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