

# Carson City Schools

Presents



# 12th Annual CHOIRPALOOZA

Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 6:00 PM  
Carson High School, Morse Burley Gymnasium

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## **Program:**

### **Elementary School Choirs**

Bluebird, Bluebird, Here Comes a Bluebird - American Signing Game

Bicinium by Dom Van Orman

*Directed by: Dominick Van Orman—Seeliger Elementary School*

The Clouds – Words and Music by Cynthia Gray

*Directed by: Alan Catron—Bordewich-Bray Elementary School*

Kookaburra-Australian Folk Song, Arranged by Melissa Keylock and Jill Friedersdorf

*Directed by: Ashley Cosens—Fremont Elementary School*

### **Middle School Choirs**

*Piano Accompaniment: Sue Kinney*

When the Light of Morning Breaks by Pinkzebra

*Directed By: Briana Valley – Carson Middle School*

Let Me Fly by Rollo Dillworth

*Directed By: Jon Brill – Eagle Valley Middle School*

### **High School Choirs**

*Directed By: Andy Sonnemaker*

*Piano Accompaniment: Sue Kinney*

#### **Choir I / II Combined**

**Great Day!** arranged by Rollo A. Dilworth

#### **Chamber Choir**

**Daemon Irrepit Callidus** by György Orbán

#### **Concert Choir**

**Tshotsholoza** adapted by Jeffery L. Ames

*Tenor, Kellen Thorley; Congas, Nathan Torres; Djembe, Kevin Segura Cortez*

### **Combined School Choirs**

There is Peace by Jim Papoulis

*Djembe: Jon Brill*

*Piano: Sue Kinney, Drums: Jon Brill*

*Directed By: Andy Sonnemaker – Carson High School*

***Please be courteous by turning off all electronic devices so that they will not disrupt the performance. Please show respect for the performers by not talking whistling or yelling during or after each group performs.***

## Meet the Directors:

### **Alan Catron – Bordewich-Bray Elementary School**

Alan Catron is the Music Specialist at Bordewich-Bray Elementary School, where he was Educator of the Year in 2014. He received his Bachelor of Music from the University of Nevada-Reno and his Master's degree from Lesley University. This is Mr. Catron's 21st year in the Carson City School District. Prior to this position he taught Elementary through Secondary bands in Idaho for 14 years. Mr. Catron is the Music Director for Wild Horse Children's Theater and is an active trumpet player and singer in the community, performing in groups such as The Carson City Symphony, the Capital City Community Band and the Carson Chamber Singers.

### **Dominick Van Orman—Seeliger Elementary School**

Dominick Van Orman is the Elementary Music Specialist at Seeliger Elementary School. He graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a Bachelor's of Music in Music Education in 2017 and from Colorado State University, Fort Collins with a Master's in Music Education with Kodály certification in December 2023. Along with his Kodály certification, Dominick has also completed Level I of Orff-Schulwerk. He is the treasurer/secretary for the Sierra Nevada Association of Kodály Educators and is on the communications committee with the national Organization of American Kodály Educators. Dominick also plays in local jazz bands; he is 2<sup>nd</sup> trombone and soloist for the Mile High Jazz Band and often plays with Rosebud's Dance Band. He is in his 6th year of teaching at Seeliger and is happy to call it his home!

### **Nicole Whitsett—Fritsch Elementary School**

Nicole Whitsett is the Music Teacher at Fritsch Elementary School. She received her Bachelors of Music in Music Education at Duquesne University, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2017, and her Masters of Education in Educational Administration at Grand Canyon University in 2020. Upon completing her undergrad, she moved to Carson City to begin her career at Fritsch, where she has been teaching for the past eight years. In 2023, Mrs. Whitsett was awarded the Teacher of the Year at Fritsch Elementary School. She is proud of her students and excited for them to experience Choirpalooza and Band-O-Rama!

### **Ashley Cosens—Fremont Elementary School**

Ashley Cosens is the music specialist at Fremont Elementary School where she teaches K-5 general music, choir, and band. Mrs. Cosens has taught elementary music for 16 years in the northern Nevada area, both in the Carson City School District and Washoe County School District. She holds a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Music Education from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Mrs. Cosens has lived in Nevada for almost as long as her home state of Ohio (“*Go Buckeyes!*”) and she loves to sing, play piano and spend time with her husband and almost 3-year-old son.

### **Cassidy Paul– Empire Elementary School**

Cassidy Paul is thrilled to be here with her students at Choirpalooza! She is a graduate of UNR that now teaches at Empire Elementary School, where she went as a student many years ago. Cassidy relies heavily on the Orff-Schulwerk in her classroom. She is also passionate about playing the trumpet all over Carson City and Reno.

### **Christina Bourne -- Mark Twain Elementary School**

Christina Bourne, Music Educator at Mark Twain Elementary School was born and raised in Carson City, NV. She graduated with honors from Carson High School in 1997. She received her Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Nevada in 2001, obtained her Masters in Music Education in 2007, and has her National Board Certification. Christina has been teaching general music, band, and choir for the Carson City School District for 21 years. She was a Finalist for the Nevada State Teacher of the Year in 2021, was Carson City School District Teacher of the Year for 2009, and Mark Twain's teacher of the year for 2017. Christina enjoys volunteering her time for various community organizations, spending time with her family, and singing professionally in her free time.

### **Briana Valley – Carson Middle**

Miss. Briana Valley grew up in Carson City participating in local Theatre programs at the Brewery Arts Center and Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company. She moved to Reno to obtain her Bachelor of Music Education from UNR. While at UNR, she enjoyed being a part of the University of Nevada Chamber Choir and other music ensembles. While in Nevada Chamber Singers, she was excited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City, New York, and at the National MENC convention in Milwaukee. She graduated with her Masters in Music Education through Kent State University in 2022. Miss. Valley is happy to be back at Carson Middle School (her own middle school) teaching musical theatre and choir. While back in Carson She has been working as the Musical Director for Youth Theatre Carson City, where they have provided high level youth theatre performances for over 10 years. At YTCC, she has been involved in the production of shows such as "Annie Jr.", "Cinderella", "Shrek the Musical" and "The Little Mermaid Jr". Miss. Valley also started performing again with local performing arts groups such as the Western Nevada Musical Theater Company associated with Western Nevada College. She was last seen performing in their musical revue "Home Again", "Mamma Mia" and "Mary Poppins." She has also performed in shows like "Les Miserable" and "The Pajama Game".

### **Jon Brill – Eagle Valley Middle School**

Jon Brill has been a cornerstone of the Eagle Valley Middle School Music Department since August 2001. A Reno, Nevada native, earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1999 and later completed a Master's Degree in Music Composition in 2017. Mr. Brill maintains high expectations for his students, many of whom have earned spots in local and state-level honor ensembles, with some continuing their musical journeys at the collegiate and professional levels. His ensembles have consistently achieved excellent and superior ratings at regional music festivals. In 2007 and 2025, he was honored as Eagle Valley Middle School's Educator of the Year. Beyond teaching, Mr. Brill is an active composer, writing for band, orchestra, choir, percussion ensembles, and various chamber groups. Several of his works are published through GPG Music, including his piece In the Dark Shadows of the Moon, which was featured in the 2016 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic new music reading session in Chicago. As a percussionist, Mr. Brill frequently performs with the Reno Wind Symphony and serves as the drummer for the band "Drinking with Clowns." He is a member of ASCAP, Percussive Arts Society, the National Association for Music Education, Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Golden Key Honor Society. In his free time, he enjoys the outdoors, loves to run and hike, and is an avid San Francisco Giants fan. Most of all, he loves spending time with his two amazing Black Labs, Thor and Roscoe, especially playing fetch with them.

### **Andy Sonnemaker -- Carson High School**

Andy Sonnemaker holds a BA in Music from Earlham College and an MM in Choral Conducting from the University of Oklahoma. As a music educator, he has taught at elementary, middle school, high school and university levels in Indiana, Oklahoma, and Nevada. Currently, he is delighted to be teaching Choir I, Choir II, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, Musical Theatre, and Guitar at Carson High School. In addition, he adores working with his students on all of the extras like the Northern Zone Nevada Music Educators Association honor choir, the Nevada American Choral Directors Association All-State Choir, and the Carson High School Spring Musical (which he and Ms. Beckwith hope you will come see on April 4, 5, or 6!) In his free time, Mr. Sonnemaker loves hiking and seeing the world with his dear wife, Rhonda Holloway, and has been known to spend a bit of whatever spare time there is after all of the above hunting for and restoring vintage fountain pens.

### **Sue Kinney—Piano Accompanist**

Sue started accompanying the choirs at Carson High School shortly after moving to Nevada from the Chicago suburbs 15 years ago. She accompanies various choirs in northern Nevada, including the Northern Nevada Honor Choir. She was the most recent conductor of the Tahoe Community Choir, which unfortunately disbanded during the pandemic. She is also the organist at St. John's in the Wilderness Episcopal Church in Glenbrook, NV. Sue's other passion is musical theater. She is the principal keyboard player for the Western Nevada Musical Theater Company and has played in and music directed many productions in the area, most recently "The Spitfire Grill" for Black Ice Theater Co in South Lake Tahoe. You can visit her in the pit for "Sound of Music", which opens at the Carson Community Center this spring.

**Carson City School Board**

**Lupe Ramirez** — President

**Mike Walker** — Vice President

**Molly Walt**—Clerk

Members:

**Rebecca Roberts, Matt Clapham, Richard Varner, and Michelle Pedersen**

**Carson City School District Administration**

Andrew Feuling, Superintendent

Tasha Fuson, Assoc. Superintendent of Educational Services

Dan Sadler, Assoc. Superintendent of Human Resources

**School Administration**

**Carson High School**

Dan Carstens, Principal

Dr. Susan Moulden, Vice Principal

Cheryl Macy, Vice Principal

Josh Billings, Vice Principal, CTE

Rodney Wade, Vice Principal

Sherri Louthan, Dean of Students, Fine Arts

Matthew Morgan, Dean of Students

Shauna Woolridge, Dean of Students

Brenda Ramirez, TOSA, Attendance

**Carson Middle School**

Amy Robinson, Principal

Jeremy Lewis, Vice Principal

Tad Williams, Dean of Students

Mike Maiello, TOSA Dean of Students

**Eagle Valley Middle School**

Dr. Lee Conley, Principal

Greg Thedford, Vice Principal

Lois Linehan, Dean of Students

**Bordewich Bray**

Cheryl Richetta, Principal

Dr. Carolyn Cook, Vice Principal

**Empire Elementary School**

Raegan Virgil, Principal

Nathan Bringham, Vice Principal

**Fremont Elementary School**

Dr. Jennifer Ward, Principal

Jeff Hurzel, Vice Principal

**Fritsch Elementary School**

Daniel Brown, Principal

Gina Hoppe, Vice Principal

**Mark Twain Elementary School**

Chelise Crookshanks, Principal

Mark Rodina, Vice Principal

**Seeliger Elementary School**

Kari Pryor, Principal

Ryan Icanberry, Vice Principal

# Concert Etiquette

## **What Is Good Concert Etiquette?**

Concert etiquette refers to appropriate and polite behavior while attending or performing in a live musical event. Demonstrating good concert etiquette shows respect for the conductor, performers, fellow audience members, and the music itself.

## **What Should I Do as An Audience Member?**

### **Concert Etiquette for Audience Members**

1. **Sit quietly** while waiting for the concert to begin. Soft conversation is fine, but avoid talking or making noise during the performance, as it can distract the musicians.
2. **Applaud** only after a full piece of music has been completed.
3. **Remain seated and attentive** during the performance. The musicians are giving their best effort and deserve the same respect from the audience.
4. **Keep programs quiet** and avoid rustling them during the performance.
5. **If you must leave**, do so only between pieces or at the end of a group's performance. Ideally, stay for the entire concert.
6. **Silence cell phones** and avoid texting, gaming, or other electronic distractions.
7. **Be mindful with photos.** Flash photography is distracting and should be avoided during performances.
8. **Supervise young children.** Keep them seated with you, and if they become restless or disruptive, step out until they are calm.
9. **Be courteous** and show appreciation for all performers, not just those you know.

Following these guidelines ensures a respectful and enjoyable experience for both performers and audience members. Thank you for your support!



## Support music education in your community and nation

### Get Knowledgeable! – The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The Every Student Succeeds Act offers many opportunities to support a sequential, comprehensive music education in our nation's schools through:

- Title I, Part A – Provides funds to school districts to help disadvantaged children achieve proficiency on challenging academic standards and improve the performance of low-achieving schools.
- Title II, Part A – Focuses on improving student academic achievement by bolstering skills and expertise of teachers, principals, and other educators and increasing the number of high-quality teachers and principals in schools.
- Title IV, Part A – Provides funds to support a well-rounded education (including music), safe and healthy students, and the use of technology in the classroom.

Visit [bit.ly/NAfME-ESSA](http://bit.ly/NAfME-ESSA) for more information.

### Take Action! – Advocate for Your School's Music Program

Become an advocate at the state and local level through the Civic Action Field Guide: [bit.ly/NAfMECivicActionFieldGuide](http://bit.ly/NAfMECivicActionFieldGuide)

- Know an administrator or lawmaker? Invite school board members, county/district supervisors, state and national lawmakers to a school music performance.
- Increase involvement in school music programs by sponsoring school music clubs or talent shows to generate interest and enthusiasm among students not currently enrolled in music classes.
- Work with teachers and administrators to get involved in Title IV, Part A planning for your school district. These funds can support a well-rounded education, including music.

To learn about how you can advocate for Title IV, Part A funds to be used in your school's music program:

Visit [bit.ly/TitleIVatoolkitFAQ](http://bit.ly/TitleIVatoolkitFAQ) for Title IV, Part A Toolkit for ideas.

Visit [bit.ly/AdvocacyResourcesNAfME](http://bit.ly/AdvocacyResourcesNAfME) for other advocacy resources.