

**High School
2015-2016
Handbook**



USC CHORAL BOOSTERS



Men's Ensemble

...

Women's Chorus

...

Clarion Choir

...

Pantheon Choir

...

Chanteclairs

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Message from Our Choral Director

*There was music in my mother's house
There was music all around
There was music in my mother's house
And my heart still feels full with the sound.*

~ Stuart Stotts

As I sit here typing this with tears in my eyes, less than a week since my mother was buried, I can not compose the “rah-rah let’s get back to school and get ready to rehearse for all of the great performances we are going to do this year” kind of welcome letter for the handbook no matter how many attempts I have made. You may check the calendar for all of those events and you can be certain that we do have a wonderful year of activities planned, but what I really want to say to all of you is “thank you.” Thank you for the beautiful basket of flowers at the funeral home that was sent from the “USC Choir Family.” Thank you to those of you who braved two tunnels and the Parkway East to find Wilmerding to attend the visitation or the funeral. Some of you, including students, have lost mothers, and my heart silently went out to you as you were consoling me. Thank you for the cards, messages, calls, thoughts, prayers and support you have shown during the past week and throughout my mother’s illness. Thank you to 2015 alum, Megan Jones, 2014 alum, Hannah Lane, and seniors Ben Nadler and B. Turner Queen for honoring my mother with the perfect gift prior to the funeral service. Singing Billy Joel’s *Goodnight My Angel* in front of grieving family and friends had to have been incredibly difficult to do, yet they sang beautifully with maturity, dignity and professionalism beyond their years. There was not a dry eye in the funeral home. The outpouring of love from USC has been overwhelming. You are not just my “choir family;” you are a part of my family.

I was blessed to have had two loving parents who saw the value in giving their children a music education. There was always music in my mother’s house. Both of my parents had beautiful voices and sang or played music constantly around the house. My brother played the accordion (as every good Serbian/Croatian boy did) and piano, and majored in Music Education with a concentration in voice and piano. I played the piano, flute, my grandfather’s violin, and guitar, and majored in Music Education with a concentration in voice and piano. We all sang in the church choir, and my father played and sang lead in a Tamburitza Orchestra. In fact, he had a great time performing with his group on New Year’s Eve in 1990, but was diagnosed with leukemia New Year’s Day, and died five months later. After his first round of chemotherapy, which, I remember being told was strong enough to kill a horse, he sat up in his hospital bed and sang Easter hymns. My mother was in the audience of every performance she could attend. When she wasn’t well enough to attend, she would stay awake until I got home so I could show her a program and tell her about the performance.

My parents left a legacy of love for their family and friends, a legacy in which singing and music played major roles. I am very fortunate to share that love with the parents and students at USC, and to be a part of your family. Thank you for all you do to encourage and support the arts, and for supporting me through this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Milovac

*Here I lie.
I have had pleasure enough.
I have had singing.*

~ Fred Mitchell

Welcome to Choral Boosters!

Welcome to a new season of choir and a new year of USC Choral Boosters. The 2015-2016 school year is sure to be an exciting and busy year for all of us. I'd like to officially welcome and thank each of you for joining Choral Boosters. The Choral Boosters' Mission is to promote and support the efforts of Ms. Milovac and each student in our High School Choir ensembles. Their talents and dedication are amazing, and I am thrilled to lead this group of parents in their support! *Please remember that whatever your talents or availability, every volunteer effort is greatly appreciated.*

Please feel free to contact me at any time with comments or questions. Your ideas and input are always welcome! Thank you for joining the USCHS Choral Boosters, and I look forward to seeing you at each of our 2015-2016 meetings.

Gary DeCock
Choral Booster President

Leadership Team

Executive Board		Contact Info.
High School Choral Director	Lorraine Milovac	lmilovac@uscsd.k12.pa.us
Ft. Couch Choral Director	Thomas Hunsberger	thunsberger@uscsd.k12.pa.us
President	Gary DeCock	gary@pghlax.com
Vice President/Incentives	Julie Stolzer	jastolzer@mac.com
Treasurer	Lisa Smith	lisaannsmith@verizon.net
Secretary	Kathy Schenker	kschenker@verizon.net
Membership	Brooke Tarcson	brooketarcson@hotmail.com
Parent Advisor	Mary Cappetta	fcappetta@verizon.net
Faculty Advisor	Don Pickell	dpickell@uscsd.k12.pa.us

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE@

www.USCChoralboosters.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR :)

Boosters Meetings

Monthly Choral Boosters meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in the Choir Room ~ Rm.314.

Please join us!

Sept. 3 Jan. 7
Oct. 1 Feb. 4
Nov. 5 Mar. 3
Dec. 3 Apr. ~ TBD
 May 5

Choral Booster Mission & Membership

We invite you to join the USC Choral Boosters!

USC Choral Boosters promote and support the efforts of Ms. Milovac and each student in our High School Choirs.

Annual dues are \$15 per family. Each choir has an additional mandatory wardrobe maintenance fee. Wardrobe will only be distributed if the student has paid the 2015-2016 wardrobe fee.

Wardrobe Fees

Women's and Clarion Choir \$15

Pantheon Choir and Men's Ensemble \$30

If you did not join during the Kick-Off Party on August 20 or the Wardrobe fittings on September 10 or 12, please contact membership chair Brooke Tarcson at USCCBmembership@gmail.com or 724-942-4679. Brooke will e-mail or mail a membership form to your home.

Membership dues should be made payable to **USC Choral Boosters**, then returned to:

Brooke Tarcson, Membership Chair, 297 Casa Drive, USC, PA 15241

Thank you for joining Choral Boosters!

Benefits to Joining

- ⑥ We work to communicate effectively with our Choral Booster families who will receive e-mail reminders regarding upcoming choral opportunities/events.
- ⑥ We raise money to benefit our Singers and Director—for choral trips, projects, performances, recognition events, and more.
- ⑥ We annually distribute a portion of the money that we raise into individual student incentive accounts. These funds are used by the student to help pay for choral trips. A student **must** be a member of Choral Boosters to receive this subsidy.
- ⑥ We support the talents and enthusiasm of our singers, and enjoy the music they provide to our entire community. Join us as we help our students shine!

Choral Booster Incentive Program

General Fund Account

The General Fund is created through the fundraising efforts of the Choral Booster Organization. At the close of each budget year, the Executive Board will allocate a specific amount of funds from its operating budget, after all expenses have been paid, to the General Fund.

- ⑥ Some of the General Fund Account will be distributed to Student Incentive Accounts every 4th year for the major Music Department Trip (historically the Disney Trip). **Only those students who are paid Choral Booster members will be eligible to receive these funds.**
- ⑥ General Account Funds will be distributed to all eligible students equally.
- ⑥ The fundraisers that currently fund the General Fund Account are:
 - ▶ Musical Backstage Greetings
 - ▶ Musical Basket Auction
 - ▶ Chic-Fil-A/Chipotle Nights

Student Incentive Accounts

A student incentive account is comprised of the monies raised by each student through fundraising events offered throughout the year. These funds are available to use for any choral trip taken during a student's four years at USC High School.

When a student registers for chorus, and joins the Choral Boosters, a student incentive account is opened for them through the Choral Boosters Organization. This account will remain open as long as the student is a member of Chorus and until the student graduates.

Upon graduation the student's incentive account funds will be transferred to a sibling's account in the USC HS Choral Program. If there is no sibling in the Choral Program, the funds will be transferred into the Choral Boosters General Fund Account. Choral Booster Incentive Account Funds can only be transferred to other siblings within the High School Choral Department. Funds cannot be transferred to siblings in other music departments.

Fundraisers that currently fund the Student Incentive Accounts are:

- ▶ Sarris Candy
- ▶ Joe Corbi Pizza
- ▶ Giant Eagle Gift Cards
- ▶ Yankee Candle

Fundraising Opportunities

The Choral Boosters provide various opportunities throughout the school year for students to raise funds for their individual Student Incentive Account, and for parents to help strengthen the Choral Booster General Account. With the exception of the Joe Corbi Fundraiser (which is sponsored by the Band Association) all profits from Choral Booster Fundraising funnel into either the individual student's incentive account and/or the Choral Booster general fund. The Student Incentive Account is funded to pay for both choral department and music department trips. All choral students have the opportunity to participate in planned trips.

It is important to note that your singer will not be eligible to apply incentive account balances to trip expenses unless his/her family is a member of Choral Boosters.

Fundraisers for 2015-16 *Tentative schedule ~ subject to change.*

Date	Fundraiser	Chair(s)	Seller	% Profit	Student Incentive Account	General Fund
All Year	GiantEagle Gift Cards	Courtney Banton	Students Parents	5%	4.5%	.5%
Sept. 12- Oct. 26	Joe Corbi Pizza & Cookie Dough	Sue Ravasio	Students	TBD	TBD by Band Assoc.	Band Assoc.
TBA	Chipotle Night	Mary Cappetta	Students	50%		100%
Oct. 30- Nov. 11	Sarris Candy		Students	25%+	75% of profit	25% of profit
Oct. 30- Nov. 11	Yankee Candle	Kathy Schenker	Students	40%	75% of profit	25% of profit
Nov. 21	Madrigal Dinner	Doris Glover	Parents		*	100%
Spring	Sarris Candy		Students	25%+ of profit	75% of profit	25%
Spring Musical	Backstage Greetings	Cheryl Welch	Parents	Over 85%	*	100%
Spring Musical	Musical Raffle Baskets	Mary Cappetta Maureen McDonough	Parents	Over 85%	*	100%

Committee Chairs

Committee	Committee Chair/Co-Chairs	Contact Info.
Choral Trip Chair		
Ft. Couch Representative		
Pops Concert	Ellen Halloran	ehalloran@gmail.com
Pantheon Banquet	Brooke Tarcson	brooketarcson@hotmail.com
Senior Recital	Courtney Banton	bantnfam@comcast.net
Sweet Harmony	Stephanie Rieger	stephrieger@comcast.net
Wardrobe ~ Clarion & Women's	Tara Rankin	tzrankin@yahoo.com
Wardrobe ~ Pantheon/Men's	Debbie Schubert	deb_schubert@hotmail.com
Winter Concert Reception		

FUNDRAISER CHAIRS

Backstage Greetings	Cheryl Welch	cwelch925@yahoo.com
Giant Eagle Gift Cards	Courtney Banton	bantnfam@comcast.net
Joe Corbi	Sue Ravasio	sueravasio@comcast.net
Madrigal Dinner	Doris Glover	dglover@uscsd.k12.pa.us
Musical Raffle Baskets	Mary Cappetta Maureen McDonough	fcappetta@verizon.net mmmcd@aol.com
Sarris Candy		
Yankee Candle	Kathy Schenker	kschenker@verizon.net

ABOUT GIANT EAGLE GIFT CARDS

You can purchase GiantEagle gift cards from the Choral Boosters to use at GiantEagle, GetGo, or to by gift cards to other stores as gifts.



EXAMPLE: One Choral Booster family got their GE cards from the Boosters, bought Lowe's gift cards at GiantEagle to pay for a kitchen remodel, and their child's Disney trip was covered from the incentive they earned... not to mention many FREE tanks of gas from the FuelPerks!!

*GiantEagle gift cards will also be sold before Choral Booster meetings.

Calendar of Events

All dates are accurate as of 8/19/15, but are subject to change. Updates will be sent via Choral Boosters e-mail communications, or check the Music Department calendar @ www.uscsd.k12.pa.us. or the website @ www.USCChoralboosters.com.

2015

August	11	Chanteclair Summer Camp (6:00-9:00pm) ~ HS Choir Room
	20	Choral Parent Kick-off (7:00-8:30pm) ~ Dominion Clubhouse
	23	Welcome Back Picnic for All Choir Students ~ Montclair Pool
.....		
September	1	Musical/Fall Play pre-screening auditions 5:00pm ~ HS LGI
	2	Fall Play Call back auditions 5:30pm ~ HS LGI
	3	Choral Boosters Meeting 7:00pm ~ HS Choir Room
	10/12	Choral Boosters Registration/Pantheon & Men's Ensemble Wardrobe Pickup 9/10 (7:00-9:00pm) or 9/12 (9:00am-12noon)
.....		
October	1	Choral Boosters Meeting 7:00pm ~ HS Choir Room
	10	Thespian Club Cabaret 7:00pm ~ HS LGI
	13	"Pops" Concert (all Choirs) 7:00pm ~ HS LGI \$5 admission
	21-24	Fall Play 7:30pm ~ HS Theatre
	25	Fall Play 2:00pm ~ HS Theatre
	30-31	PMEA Honors Choir Festival ~ Seton Hill University
.....		
November	4	ACDA Mucho Macho Men's Choir Festival (Boys Gr.6-9) ~ ???
	5	Choral Boosters Meeting 7:00pm ~ HS Choir Room
	7	Chanteclairs Masterclass/Performance with Chantecler 4:00-10:00pm ~ Westminster Church
	7	Chantecler Performance 7:00pm ~ Westminster Church Ticket sales online at westminsterchurch.org
	20	ACDA Sweet Harmony (Girls Gr. 6-9) 8:30am-4:00pm ~ USCHS Theatre
	21	Madrigal Dinner (Chanteclairs, Clarion Choir, Men's Ensemble) 5:30pm ~ Westminster Church
	23	PMEA District Chorus Auditions 4:00pm ~ Belle Vernon HS

December	3	Choral Boosters Meeting 7:00pm ~ HS Choir Room
	TBA (6 or 13)	Chanteclairs Concert 7:00pm ~ Westminster Church
	14	Spring Musical Dance auditions 3:00-5:00pm ~ HS Theatre
	15	Holiday Choral Concert (All Choirs) 7:00pm ~ HS Theatre
	16	Spring Musical Final Casting auditions 5:00-11:00pm ~ HS LGI
	17	Spring Musical Callback auditions (if necessary) 3:00-11:00pm ~ HS LGI
	17	Pantheon Choir Performance at Allegheny County Courthouse
	21	Spring Musical Company Meeting 6:30-9:00 ~ HS LGI

2016

January	7	Choral Boosters Meeting 7:00pm ~ HS Choir Room
.....		
February	3-5	PMEA SHS District Chorus Festival ~ Penn Hills HS
	4	Choral Boosters Meeting 7:00pm ~ HS Choir Room
	13	Pantheon Choir ~ Beethoven's Ninth Symphony 7:00pm (place, rehearsal dates and times TBA)
.....		
March	3	Choral Boosters Meeting 7:00pm ~ HS Choir Room
	4-6	Spring Musical Performances ~ HS Theatre
	10-12	Spring Musical Performances ~ HS Theatre
	16-18	PMEA Region Choir ~ Western Beaver
	30-31, Apr. 2	PMEA All-State Conference ~ Hershey, Pa.
.....		
April	1-2	PMEA All-State Conference ~ Hershey, Pa.
	TBA	Choral Boosters Meeting 7:00pm ~ HS Choir Room
	4	Pre-trip Concert 7:00pm ~ HS Theatre
	7-10	Music Department Trip to New York City
	8-9	PMEA Jr. High District Chorus ~ Trinity MS
.....		
May	5	Choral Boosters Meeting 7:00pm ~ HS Choir Room
	19	Spring Choral Concert 7:00 ~ HS Theatre
	22	Pantheon Banquet 6:00pm ~ Crowne Plaza
.....		
June	4	Senior Recital ~ TBA
	6	Chanteclairs to Elementary Schools ???
	9	Graduation

Concert Attire

Women's Chorus

- ▶ Black dress pants
- ▶ Black dress shoes, heel no more than 2", no open toes
- ▶ White cotton/lycra shirt with long sleeves and a jewel neck
—T-shirts available through Choral Boosters and will be distributed when wardrobe fee is paid.

Clarion Choir

- ▶ Black dress pants
- ▶ Black dress shoes, heel no more than 2", no open toes
- ▶ Black cotton/lycra shirt with long sleeves and a jewel neck
—T-shirts available through Choral Boosters and will be distributed when wardrobe fee is paid.

Pantheon Choir Women

When Wearing Black Choir Gown

- ▶ White pearl necklace
- ▶ Black dress shoes, no more than 2" heel, no open toes, natural shade hose

To Be Worn Under Choir Robe

- ▶ Dress or skirt of your choice
- ▶ Black dress shoes, 2" heel, no open toes, natural shade hose

Men's Ensemble & Pantheon Choir Men

When Wearing Choir Tuxedo Ensemble

- ▶ Black (or very dark) dress shoes with dark socks

To Be Worn Under Choir Robe

- ▶ Black (or very dark) dress slacks
- ▶ Black (or very dark) dress shoes with dark socks
- ▶ White-collared dress shirt with tie of your choice

PANTHEON CHOIR GOWN/TUXEDO NOTE

Pantheon Choir gowns/tuxedos will be distributed to your student only if:

1. His/her \$30 wardrobe maintenance fee for 2015-2016 is paid. **AND**
2. He/she signs a student contract indicating he/she is aware of his/her responsibility to care for the apparel reserved for his/her use during the 2015-2016 choral season.

Our Choirs

Mods for Choir Classes	
1/2	Music Theory
3/4	Clarion Choir
7/8	Women's Chorus
11/12	Pantheon Choir
13/14	Men's Ensemble
15/16	Theatre Arts

Men's Ensemble—An elective course open to male students in Grades 9-12 interested in participating in a choral group. The Men's Ensemble, one of four performing groups at the high school, is designed to accommodate new students entering the Choral Department, as well as upperclassmen who enjoy the camaraderie of singing in an all-male choir. Members study basic singing techniques and the basic elements of music. The repertoire ranges from music of the Renaissance, Barbershop and popular styles of music. All coursework is completed in class during rehearsal, except for occasional evening rehearsals (if necessary), and a minimum of three mandatory annual concerts. Students receive regular grades as in academic subjects. Students in this ensemble are required to pay a Wardrobe Fee of \$30.00. The Men's Ensemble always provides an entertaining addition to USC's Choral Concerts, and often performs in the community on field trips. **No audition is necessary.**

Women's Choir—An elective course open to female students in Grade 9 who are interested in participating in a choral group. Members study basic singing techniques and the basic elements of music. The repertoire is of a varied nature including classical, secular, musical theatre, and popular songs. All coursework is completed during rehearsals in class, except for occasional evening rehearsals (if necessary), and a minimum of three mandatory annual concerts. Students receive grades as in academic subjects. Performance field trips may be taken. Students in this ensemble are required to purchase a shirt at the cost of approximately \$15.00 that will serve as concert attire. **No audition is necessary.**

Clarion Choir—Open to all female students in grades 10 -12 who are interested in participating in a performing choral group. Members study singing techniques and intermediate elements of music. The repertoire is of a varied nature including classical, secular, musical theatre, and popular songs. All coursework is completed during rehearsal in class, except for occasional evening rehearsals (if necessary), and a minimum of three mandatory annual concerts. The Clarion Choir performs challenging women's choral music. Performance field trips may be taken. Students receive regular grades as in academic subjects. Students in this ensemble are required to purchase a shirt at the cost of approximately \$15.00 that will serve as concert attire. **No audition is necessary.**

Pantheon Choir—a mixed choir of female students, grades 11-12 and male students, grades 10-12. **Students must audition for this ensemble.** Auditions will be held the week before course selection sheets are due. As part of the course, members study vocal techniques and advanced elements of music at a higher level than the other performing groups. The Pantheon Choir has had opportunities to perform with the Pittsburgh Symphony, River City Brass, Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra, and other professional musicians, and has collaborated with high school and local choirs in outstanding concerts within and outside of the school district. All coursework is completed during class except for occasional evening rehearsals (if necessary), and a minimum of three mandatory annual concerts. Students receive regular grades as in academic subjects. Students in this ensemble are required to pay a Wardrobe Fee of \$30.00. **Prerequisite: Director's recommendation through an audition; participation in a choral group the preceding year.** At the discretion of the choral director and administration, this course may be offered as an independent study in a flexible mod/day or after-school scheduling assignment. **The Chanteclairs are selected from the Pantheon Choir.**

Chanteclairs—An extra-curricular choir that specializes in a *cappella* music. Only students enrolled in Pantheon Choir may audition for this ensemble. Students in other choirs may also be invited by the director to audition, but must perform with the Pantheon Choir, as well. Chanteclairs rehearse Tuesdays from 2:30-4:15 p.m. Additional rehearsals after school or evenings may be added at the director's discretion.

Theatre Arts—Open to students grades 9-12. The course is designed to meet the performance needs of the class within the boundaries of the curriculum. Students study various aspects of the performing arts, including acting, singing, movement, stagecraft and theater history. Students will work on monologues, scenes, voice and speech activities, improvisation, movement, character development and audition preparation. The course may be taken consecutive years.

Men's Ensemble

Siddarth Aduri	Connor Damon	Christian Jones	Andrew Rauber
Chase Banton	Dimitrios Dickos	Michael Liptak	Logan Reynolds
Jonathan Barsotti	Quinn Giacobbe	Jonah Manalo	Jacob Ross
Ryan Bentley	Patrick Glover	Alexander Molinaro	Erik Warmbein
Samuel Cancilla	Jonah Glunt	Robert O'Brien	Kyle Warmbein
Liam Carse	Mitchell Grunwald	Brendan Pacalo	Phil Warmbein
Justin Corbin	Zachary Heckler	Turner Queen	Collin Williams

Women's Chorus

Anna Aumer	Alexis Feldman	Jade Leach	Jenna McKenney
Anber Bhuiyan	Halle Hewitt	Jacqueline LeKachman	Rebecca Speer
Mia Collis	Shalmalee Joshi	Nandita Mahesh	YingQi Tao
Jessica Danvers	Casey Kavanaugh	Lena Mastro	Madeline Welch
Taylor Depolo	Erin Lang	Caroline McDonough	

Clarion Choir

Mia Beyerl	Cassandra Henricks	Maggie Paul	Rebecca Smith
Gianna Chimento	Ahnna Jones	Rebecca Quinn	Jordan Spradlin
Julia Conlon	Caroline LeKachman	Zoe Rankin	Riley Stevenson
Maggie Connors	Melissa Lloyd	Abigail Reimer	Mythri Sundar
Grace Drinkard	Susan Mathie	Kate Rosello	Emma Tarcson
Allison Epler	Andrea Mays	Catherine Sandford	Mia Taylor
Kathryn Hall	Julia Miller	Juliah Seymour	
Sydney Harris	Nicole Naumann	Abigail Skeel	

Pantheon Choir

Eyram Akabua	Mitchell Grunwald	Bradley Puskar	Hanna Stolzer
Chase Banton	Emily Hall	Turner Queen	Evan Strain
Jonathan Barsotti	Connor Halloran	Andrew Rauber	Isabel Tarcson
Ryan Bentley	Zachary Heckler	Cara Ravasio	Julia Twerdok
Faley Bulazo	Kellie Kaufman	Logan Reynolds	Rachel VanRyzin
Samuel Cancilla	Wyatt Keating	Alexa Rieger	Erik Warmbein
Liam Carse	Riley Kelly	Jacob Ross	Grant Warmbein
Theodora Contis	Devon Konick	Sarah Rubino	Kyle Warmbein
Jade Crisanti	Keerthana Lanka	Allie Ryave	Phillip Warmbein
Mackenzie Damon	Allison Lento	Mariya Savinov	Tia Watts
Carly DeCock	Alexandra Lugares	Eva Schenker	Connor Welch
Rachel DeMar	Emily McFerran	Jessica Schubert	Isabella White
Abigail Doohan	Lucy McKeever	Mor Shimshi	Alexandra Wirth
Devon Garcia	Claire Mesko	Jack Smith	Rachel Yakima
Patrick Glover	Amanda Mittelman	Jordan Smith	
Jonah Glunt	Callan Mulhern	Sowmya Srinivasa	
Ben Greenberg	Ben Nadler	Katherine Starr	

Chanteclairs

Chase Banton	Connor Halloran	Jacob Ross	Erik Warmbein
Ryan Bentley	Kellie Kaufman	Mariya Savinov	Grant Warmbein
Liam Carse	Amanda Mittelman	Mor Shimshi	Kyle Warmbein
Mackenzie Damon	Ben Nadler	Jack Smith	Phillip Warmbein
Carly DeCock	Brad Puskar	Jordan Smith	Tia Watts
Devon Garcia	Turner Queen	Sowmya Srinivasa	Rachel VanRyzin
Patrick Glover	Andrew Rauber	Evan Strain	
Jonah Glunt	Cara Ravasio	Isabel Tarcson	
Emily Hall	Alexa Rieger	Julia Twerdok	

PMEA: The Pennsylvania Music Education Association exists to help Pennsylvania music educators. They offer opportunities for students to perform in festivals, both honorary and adjudicated, for which a school can earn credit toward certification. They encourage excellence in the profession, across the state. The PMEA is affiliated with MENC, the National Association for Music Education.

NAFME: The National Association for Music Education is the world's largest arts education organization & the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. 130,000+ members represent all levels of teaching (preschool–graduate school). Since 1907, NAFME has worked to ensure that every student has access to a well-balanced, comprehensive, & high-quality program of music instruction taught by qualified teachers.

ACDA: The American Choral Directors Association is a non-profit music education organization whose central purpose is to promote excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research, and teaching. This organization sponsors Mucho Macho Music and Sweet Harmony Festival, grades 6-9.

National Standards for Music Education:

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
7. Evaluating music and music performances
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines

Honors Choir: Pennsylvania schools are clustered into Districts. USC High School is in District 1. Choral students audition to perform at their District's Annual PMEA Honors Choir Festival. This year, District 1's PMEA Honors Choir Festival on October 30-31 will be held at Seton Hill University. There are no auditions for this event this year. Paper applications will be handed out during the first week of school. Participation by all USCHS choral students is highly encouraged.

Seats/Chairs: A concertmaster in an orchestra is called "the first chair." At an auditioned festival, students are ranked by seating or by "chairs." The "first chair" would have the highest total points, "second chair" the second highest points.

You May Want to Know

Adjudication: A formal music performance assessment. For choral music, typical adjudication categories are quality of sound (tone, intonation, vowel uniformity, blend/balance), technique (rhythm/precision, diction/articulation), and musicality (interpretation/style, phrasing, expression, sensitivity, dynamics).

Madrigal Dinner: Chanteclairs present the evening's musical entertainment for Choral Booster's historic annual dinner and fundraiser. Pageantry, costumes, feasting! Don't miss this most delightful celebration held in November.

Backstage Greetings: This Choral Booster fundraiser provides families the opportunity to send a backstage greeting card & congratulatory star cookie to any student involved in the spring musical. This program is a long-standing tradition at USC.

Theater Angels: The Music Department asks that the parents of all students participating in the spring musical (cast, orchestra, costumes, makeup, ushers, stage crew, etc.) volunteer as Theater Angels during the musical season. This year's Theater Angel meeting will be held in January 2016. Theater Angels have an opportunity to pre-order musical tickets! It's a win-win opportunity. Consider being a Theater Angel.

Drama Director: The director for the Fall Play & Spring Musical is Mr. J.R. Hall.

Music Theory and Music Theory Advanced Placement (AP): A full year course providing students with a learning experience equivalent to that of an introductory college course in music theory. The course develops a student's ability to recognize, understand, describe, and analyze the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. The course emphasizes integrated approaches to the student's development of aural, sight-singing, written, compositional, and analytical skills through listening, performance, written, creative, and analytical exercises.
