

Director's Note

Happy February!

Even though we're only a few weeks into second semester there are countless incredible happenings in Tosa East Orchestra.

First, students are more than half way finished with our chamber music unit. This unit has all students playing in small ensembles (quartets, trios, and duets) two to three days per week. The end of our unit wraps up with a week full of in class performances, turning our orchestra room into a small black box theatre. The unit wraps on the week of March 9th and I suspect you may hear more practicing from your musician at home as we approach the end of the month.

The second semester also means guests coaches and performers are back! So far we've hosted duets performed by Alex Ayers and Paul Hauer (both of the Milwaukee Symphony) and two performances by the Philomusica Quartet (featuring MSO members Jeanyi Kim, Nathan Hackett, Shinae Ra, and WLC's Alexander Mandl). We will host bassist Clay Schaub (from the Commercialist) and Hello Cello's Thea Vorass.

Finally, last October, East Chamber orchestra performed at the Bradley Symphony Center in conjunction with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Wisconsin Public Radio. That performance is going to be broadcast on the radio!! February 18th at 8:00pm and February 22nd at 2:00pm. Tune in to 90.7, WPR Music!

Have a great month and we'll see you at the Strings Festival on April 12th at Brookfield East.

Upcoming Events

March 14th, 2026

WSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival
Longfellow Middle School
8am - 12pm

April 12th, 2026

All City String Festival
1:15pm Arrive / 1:45pm Perform
Brookfield East HS Field House
Brookfield, WI

4th Annual Kidz Jam

Our 4th Annual Symphony Orchestra Kidz Jam was a HUGE success. While it's hard to tell exactly how many families joined us on Saturday, February 7th, estimates are between 100-150. We're so proud of the musicians for their hard work, planning, and for hosting this huge, incredible event!

Norway Chaperone Update

For the last month I have worked closely with our travel partners to determine how many chaperones we are able to bring with us to Norway. Hopefully we will have all of the space considerations, train, and bus information within the next few weeks. If you submitted a chaperone application, we will be back in touch very soon.

Spring Conferences

Spring Conferences at Tosa East High School are Scheduled for February 17th, 26th, and 27th. Unfortunately I will be unavailable on both February 17th and 26th. I would still love to meet with you, either in person or via phone/zoom, and would be happy to schedule a time with you directly. If you would like to set up a conference time/day, please send me a direct email and we can coordinate a time that works with your schedule. **I will be available via Google Meet on February 27th** and you can access that sign up link via the main conference schedule spreadsheet (emailed soon from Tosa East).

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