

# FRHS CHORUS BOOSTERS



## OFFICERS 2007-2008

Shirley Devine, Co-President  
Beth Carlson, Co-President  
Deb Sloss, Vice President  
Rona Watts, Secretary  
Jan Peters, Treasurer

September 25, 2007

Dear Chorus Parents:

Welcome back veterans, and a warm Welcome to the parents of our incoming freshmen. We look forward to working with you this year to provide support for the various FRHS chorus ensembles, and especially the opportunity to see them in action at upcoming Holiday Concerts, the Valentine Cabaret, and of course, at adjudication next spring.

There are many ways in which you can support your child's involvement in the FRHS Chorus. We hope that you will take just a minute to review these opportunities:

- 1. Join the Chorus Boosters:** Please complete the attached form for the Chorus Boosters, and return it with your annual dues in the amount of \$15.00 (check payable to FR Chorus Boosters) by October 30<sup>th</sup> to Jan Peters, Treasurer, 4968 Cline Hollow Road, Export, PA 15632. Alternatively, you may send it to school with your child in an envelope marked for FRHS Chorus Dues to Mr. Kris Rust. The Chorus Boosters Annual Dues provides the funding needed for the many chorus programs you'll see listed in the attached newsletter. All families who join the Chorus Boosters will be recognized in the Concert program books and on the FRHS Chorus web site.
- 2. Help a Chorus Booster Committee:** We hope that you will consider getting to know some of the other chorus parents, and lend a helping hand. Many hands make light work! Please have a look at the attached list of Chorus Committees; your help for any of these will be greatly appreciated.
- 3. Join us for informative meetings:** The first general meeting of the Chorus Boosters will be held on October 10, 2007 in the FRHS Chorus Room. We hope to see you there!

We look forward to working with you to help make this a memorable and enjoyable year for our FRHS Chorus Students. Please feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

Shirley Devine, Co-president  
devine49@juno.com

Beth Carlson, Co-president  
bethanncarlson@adelphia.net



*Shirley Devine, Co-President  
Beth Carlson, Co-President  
Deb Sloss, Vice President  
Rona Watts, Secretary  
Jan Peters, Treasurer*

[www.frhschorus.org](http://www.frhschorus.org)

**W**elcome back to another academic year, and a warm welcome to our incoming chorus freshmen! This mailing contains information about chorus events and activities for the coming months.

### NEW THIS YEAR

The FRHS Chorus Boosters will meet regularly throughout the year (October through May) on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The first General Meeting of the FRHS Chorus Boosters is set for Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Chorus Room.

**All chorus parents, students, and other interested individuals are welcome to join us!** We anticipate a productive, fun year and have some new activities in store for students this year. We hope to see you there! A committee signup sheet is attached to this newsletter, and we hope you will consider joining us to plan Chorus activities throughout the year.

### 2007/2008 FRHS CHORUS BOOSTERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Shirley Devine, Co-president  
724.733.7476 [devine49@juno.com](mailto:devine49@juno.com)

Beth Carlson, Co-president  
724.468.1088 [bethanncarlson@adelphia.net](mailto:bethanncarlson@adelphia.net)

Deb Sloss, Vice-president  
724.327.0260 [reddebsloss@gmail.com](mailto:reddebsloss@gmail.com)

Rona Watts, Secretary  
724.327.1151 [rona@schoolofcool.org](mailto:rona@schoolofcool.org)

Jan Peters, Treasurer  
724.387.1252 [jjpeters@alltel.net](mailto:jjpeters@alltel.net)

### THE CHORUS BOOSTERS' FUNDRAISING KICKOFF

Attached to this newsletter are descriptions (and order forms) for our fundraising activities this year! Thank you for your support in helping to make this year a fun, memorable one for chorus students!

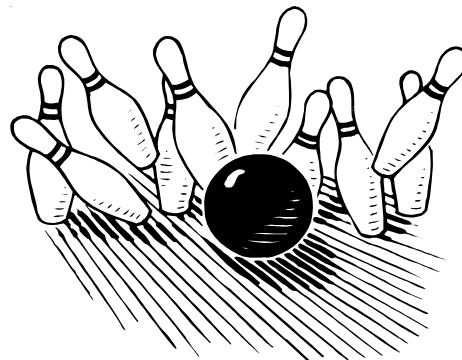
### AND THE WINNER IS ...



Congratulations to Mrs. Gajdos, winner of the Chorus Boosters' Community Day Raffle "Out on the Town in Our Community" basket valued at over \$600.00.

### FIRST-EVER BOOSTERS BOWL-A-THON

The boosters are planning a FREE bowling/pizza party for all chorus students. Watch your email and [www.frhschorus.org](http://www.frhschorus.org) for more details!



### STAY "TUNED" ...

- Oct 10 Chorus Boosters Meeting 7pm
- Oct 11 Chorus Bonfire Booth
- Oct 19-20 Honors Chorus Festival Derry H.S.
- Oct 30 Chorus Boosters Dues are due
- Nov 7 Chorus Boosters Meeting 7pm
- Nov 19 District Chorus Auditions at North Allegheny High School
- Dec 5 Chorus Boosters Meeting 7pm
- Dec 7 Combined Choir Rehearsal
- Dec 11 Choral/Orchestra Holiday Concert
- Jan 2 Chorus Boosters Meeting 7pm
- Jan 18 Martin Luther King (MLK) Choral Festival Rehearsal
- Jan 19 MLK Dream Concert in Pgh
- Jan 21 MLK Dream Concert at FRHS
- Feb 1 Multicultural Extravaganza TBD
- Feb 6 Chorus Boosters Meeting 7pm
- Feb 7-9 District Choral Festival
- Feb 15 Valentine Cabaret
- Feb 28-29 FRHS Musical
- Mar 1-2 FRHS Musical
- Mar 5 Chorus Boosters Meeting 7pm
- Mar 27-29 Regional Chorus at Hickory H.S.
- Apr 2 Chorus Boosters Meeting 7pm
- Apr 17-19 All-State Chorus
- May 7 Chorus Boosters Meeting 7pm
- May 10 Music in the Parks (adjudication)
- May 15 Combined Choir Rehearsal
- May 16 Spring Choral Concert

## DID YOU KNOW...

This year there are 87 students enrolled in one of three chorus classes: Chorale, Treblemakers, and Choir.

Chorus students have the opportunity to audition to participate in numerous chorus festivals throughout the year: The West-moreland County Music Educators Association *County Chorus* and *Honors Chorus* and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association *District, Region, and All-State* Choruses.

Last year, several chorus students were selected to represent FRHS in the chorus festivals, including the All-State Chorus.

On average, FRHS chorus students participate in two adjudicated chorus events each year, including the annual "Music in the Parks" trip in the spring. Last year the FRHS choruses returned home with the following ratings/honors:

**Treblemakers: Excellent rating and 1<sup>st</sup> place Women's Choir**

**Chorale: Superior rating and 1<sup>st</sup> place Mixed Choir.**

**Jazz Choir: Superior rating and 1<sup>st</sup> place Jazz/Show Choir, as well as the highest ranking choral group of the day.**

The FRHS choruses are active groups! In addition to the annual Holiday Concert in December and the Spring Choral Concert in May, our chorus students performed for various community functions last year including the Delmont Apple and Arts Festival, St. John's Church (during a Christmas in Salem Crossroads weekend), Redstone Highlands, the Village of Clover Ridge, Beverly Manor, the FRHS Multicultural Extravaganza, the Pitt African Music and



*Sporting the FRHS Chorus Awards won at the 2007 Music in the Parks Ceremony in Hershey, PA are (left to right): Chris Jenko, Doug Komandt, Rachel Schnorr, Director Kris Rust, Garrett Boyd, and Sara Benaquista.*



Dance Ensemble, and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Because the school district covers only a portion of the budget needed to run the choral program, the work of the FRHS Chorus Boosters (financial, educational, and social) depends entirely on the support and participation of chorus students and their families. The annual membership dues of \$15 per chorus family are used to offset the expenses associated with the annual Valentine Cabaret, Spring Banquet, and senior gifts. The Boosters' Fundraising

activities provide the additional funds that cover social activities such as the "After-Concert Punch & Cake Reception" and bowling and pizza parties, and the means to provide students with enrichment experiences that are not part of the regular chorus curriculum (Visiting Artists Program, theatre trips, etc.).

### Join the Chorus Boosters

**Please help us to continue to enrich the chorus curriculum and join the Chorus Boosters by October 30th. You may submit your annual membership dues of \$15 (payable to FRHS Chorus Boosters) to Mr. Rust in an envelope marked "Dues", or you may mail a check to:**

**Jan Peters, Treasurer  
4968 Cline Hollow Road  
Export, PA 15632**

*Thank You!*

## MEET THE DIRECTOR ...

A native of North Carolina (a slight drawl can be detected!!!), this year marks Kris Rust's 13th year of teaching chorus at FRHS. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education at Furman University, SC. He also holds two masters degrees: the Master of Arts in Musicology (University of Pittsburgh) and the Master of Music in Choral Conducting (Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music). He received additional training at the CMU Dalcroze Institute and Duquesne University.

Kris is an accomplished pianist, but was also trained to play the French Horn, which he gave up after college. Over the years, Kris has had many interesting musical experiences, but one that stands out as most memorable for him was singing Beethoven's 9th Symphony at age 16 under the direction of Robert Shaw at the Brevard Music Center in the mountains of North Carolina. Beyond classroom teaching, Kris is involved with the the Point Park Conservatory of Performing Arts, the Pitt African Music and Dance Ensemble, the Pitt "Bach and Baroque" Concert Series, and the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh Music Program.

To the audience, Kris perhaps is best known for the energy he brings to the stage and choral performances. In the classroom, he views his role as that of a facilitator of student learning. By providing a rich environment and stimulating experiences, students have the opportunity to connect and grow with music in ways that are consistent with their musical and personal development. His teaching philosophy is elegantly simple: "I believe through studying music people learn more about themselves and the world around them. We become more self-assured and compassionate." Judging from students' choral accomplishments this past year, his philosophy is practical and effective!

In addition to his regular teaching duties, Kris has been extremely supportive of the FRHS Chorus Boosters, and offers this: "The Chorus Boosters have been a tremendous support for the FRHS choral program by providing funding for guest artists and social activities. They provide organizational and logistical support for the Valentine Cabaret, concert ticket sales, the chorus bonfire booth, chaperoning, trips to the theatre, etc. If you're not involved, consider getting involved."

Thanks, Kris, for your dedication to providing our students with an excellent, well-rounded music education, and for your commitment to using the resources available to strengthen the choral program and ensure its continuation as a curricular offering at FRHS.

*"Music is the shorthand of emotion."*

— Leo Tolstoy



## CHORUS BONFIRE BOOTH

Be sure to stop by the Chorus Students' Booth at the Homecoming Bonfire on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 PM. for what promises to be an awesome combination of Eats and Treats!



Parents: If you are not hearing from us, your student may not have provided us with your

current email address. If you wish to be on the FRHS Chorus Email Distribution list, please forward your current email address to: [info@frhschorus.org](mailto:info@frhschorus.org)



The bus is full, and we're roaring to go to The Benedum Center on January 27th to enjoy this Tony Award Winning Musical.

For those of you who ordered tickets, more information is forthcoming.

## AUDIENCES REALLY DO MATTER

*Excerpt from the Princeton University Music Boosters News, Fall 2006*

For years, the general rule of thumb for estimating concert attendance was that each student performer would have, on average, between one and two audience members present. Now, it appears that number needs to be revised downward. At some concerts, it is painfully obvious that there are significantly more persons on stage than listeners in the audience. This is not a phenomenon unique to Princeton. Other schools and professional groups are facing attendance problems as well. Lots of reasons are advanced for this attendance fall-off, among them being different priorities in people's lives, kids and parents being involved in more activities, and increased competition from other forms of "entertainment"-- in many cases without having to leave their homes.

This does not, however, diminish the importance of the audience. The presence of an audience significantly changes the dynamics of the performance. Knowing that people are listening entails a seriousness and focus which might not have been present during rehearsals. An audience helps

create a sense of satisfaction and ownership among performers, and validates the efforts made in preparing the music. This is particularly true if there is a connection between the audience and performers, as is often the case with school programs.

Students genuinely want to do well in front of their families. Given the many challenging influences impacting young people today, opportunities to support them in their positive achievements would seem to be of critical importance. With many opportunities competing for their time and attention, students are less likely to continue in a program that is not seen as a high priority by their families and others important to them. Administrators as well tend to evaluate the success of a music program on the basis of numbers rather than artistic merit.

So, the bottom line is that audiences really do matter. In fact, they are crucial to the continuance of the school music program. Squeezing in time to be a supportive audience member may be more difficult today than it was 20 years ago, but it is no less important. Although performers will continue to give concerts whether they have large or small audiences *because it is the necessary outcome of what they do in class every day*, surely it is a much better experience if a great audience is there to listen.



# got music?

## MOUSE PADS

Available in black or blue, with white lettering, "got music?" mousepads may be purchased for \$5.00 each by filling out the enclosed order form.

Hurry ... quantities are limited!

## NOTE-ABLES

These 12-inch colorful music notes may be purchased for \$1.00 each, and will be added to the Wall of Noteables in the Chorus Room for the academic year.

Fill out the enclosed order form to recognize your chorus student.



## HOLIDAY BASKET OF CHEER RAFFLE

Includes gift certificates to local eateries, salons, spas, and photography studios.



Students earn \$2.00 in their individual student accounts for every 10 tickets sold.

Prizes for the student who sells the most raffle tickets, AND the student who sells the winning ticket!

# FRHS CHORUS BOOSTERS



## OFFICERS 2007-2008

Shirley Devine, Co-President  
Beth Carlson, Co-President  
Deb Sloss, Vice President  
Rona Watts, Secretary  
Jan Peters, Treasurer

## Parent Volunteer Form

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Email address (Preferred): \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please note: email is the main method of communication for Chorus Boosters.)**

Parents' Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Available Days/Times: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check any of the following Chorus Booster Committees with which you would like to be involved and return the form to Mr. Kris Rust in the Chorus Room.

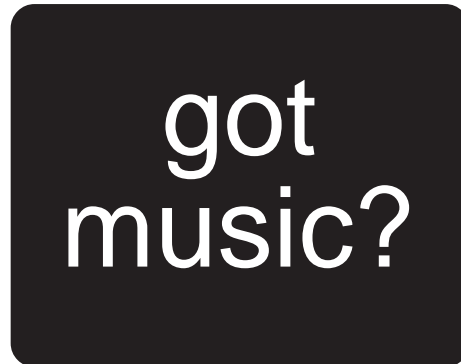
- Valentine Cabaret Committee (room décor, set-up/clean-up, food & beverage, etc.)
- Chaperone Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Ticket Sales Committee (Selling tickets during lunch hours on days preceding concerts and/or the night of the concert)
- Banquet Committee (Assisting with the Chorus Banquet at the end of the year)
- Spring Concert Committee (Setting up a table and selling water and candy during events)
- Concert Attire Committee (Helping out with fitting and/or distribution & collection of uniforms)
- Public Relations Committee (sending concert/performance information to local papers, FRHS electronic news media, FRHS chorus web site)
- Marketing Committee (designing FRHS Chorus newsletters, flyers, programs)
- Other (Please let us know if you would like to help in other ways not listed here)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# MOUSE PADS

**Choice of two colors:  
Black or Navy, with “got music?” imprinted in white.**

**\$5.00**



**A great gift for chorus, band, and orchestra students,  
and all music lovers on your holiday, birthday, and graduation gift lists!  
Available immediately and as long as supply lasts!**

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Black w/white imprint

\_\_\_\_\_ Navy w/white imprint

Total # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed

Send tear-off slip with payment (payable to FRHS Chorus Boosters) to:

Beth Carlson  
227 Rose Ct. N.  
Delmont, PA 15626

Thanks for your support!

# "NOTE-ABLE" MUSIC NOTES

\$1.00 EACH

12" COLORFUL MUSIC NOTE  
INCLUDES CHOICE OF NAME ON NOTE-ABLE!

- ❖ NAME OF CHORUS STUDENT
- ❖ FAMILY NAME
- ❖ OTHER (RELATIVE SIBLING, FRIEND, BUSINESS, ETC.)

\* NOTE-ABLES WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE WALL OF NOTEABLES IN THE CHORUS ROOM ALL YEAR.

SAMPLES:



TO ORDER, ENCLOSE ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT IN ENVELOPE MARKED "NOTE-ABLES" AND TURN IN TO MR. RUST.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING ORDER: \_\_\_\_\_

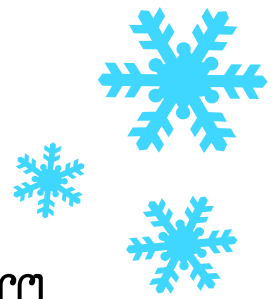
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$1.00 TOTAL AMT. ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME TO INCLUDE ON NOTE-ABLE:  
(USE ONE LINE FOR EACH NOTE-ABLE ORDERED)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONS? CONTACT SHIRLEY DEVINE  
724-733-7476



It's back!

The FRHS Chorus Boosters biggest fundraiser!

# Holiday Basket of Cheer Raffle

The FRHS Chorus Boosters are planning an even bigger, better gift basket for our fundraiser raffle this year that is sure to delight the lucky winner! The winning ticket will be drawn the evening of the Holiday concert, December 11th (winner need not be present).

We are asking each chorus family to donate one item to include in the basket. Last year, bath/body products, coffees, teas, and candies were popular ... the choice is yours! Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> students may bring an item to school to place in a collection box in the Chorus Room.

## New this year:

- 1) Gift certificates to favorite local eateries, salons, spas, and photography studios (which have been generously donated by local businesses) will supplement the items in the basket donated by chorus families.
- 2) Chorus students who choose to participate in this fundraiser by selling raffle tickets will have the opportunity to earn **more money in their individual accounts**. For every 10 raffle tickets sold, \$2.00 will go directly into the student's individual account. This money can be used later in the year to offset the cost of the spring trip or the chorus banquet.
- 3) As an incentive and show of appreciation to our student ticket sellers, the Boosters will award a prize to the student who sells the most raffle tickets, *AND* to the student who sold the winning ticket.



Raffle tickets will be distributed to students

who are interested in participating in this fundraiser in school at the beginning of November.

**THANK YOU**  
**FOR YOUR HELP IN MAKING THIS FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS.**