

NOVEMBER 2011

# The Metronome

Clements Orchestras

## From the Podium



### About Us...

Established in 1990, The Clements High School Orchestras are comprised of over 150 students in grades 9-12. We are a co-curricular program featuring four performing string orchestras, one fundamentals string orchestra, and a full symphony formed in conjunction with the Clements Symphonic Band. Our favorite colors are hues of blue and white or concert black, and we strive to embody ownership and accountability, personal musical growth, musical growth of our ensembles, and program stewardship.

**“Nothing we have done before will ever be good enough again.”**

*WOW! What an exciting start to our year...we had wonderful performances from all the ensembles at their fall concerts and the Chamber Strings have been chosen as the Honor Orchestra for the state of Texas by the Texas Music Educator Association. As state champions, we will perform a concert at the TMEA convention in February!*

*All of the ensembles are working hard and setting goals for personal and ensemble growth as well as learning leadership skills in our monthly team building workshops.*

*The boosters have been invaluable in helping me with office tasks and area auditions, and I sincerely appreciate all their hard work! Our next concerts will be January 10<sup>th</sup>, and we hope to see all the parents there!*

*In this season of thanks, I am grateful everyday to know and work with such amazing young people, and to be supported by their families as we use music to create the next generation of leaders.*

*Happy Thanksgiving to all!*

*Mrs. W*

### Important Dates

#### Region

Region Concert  
11/18-11/19

#### Region

Region Chairing  
11/15

#### Social

Big Brother/Big Sister Social  
11/11

# And now for...

## A Message from the President

As humble orchestra president, I, Kevin Kuo, am proud to be able to be here today, leading such a prestigious organization. In the three-and-a-quarter years I've been in Chambers, this is the highest honor we've achieved. And how wonderful it is to have it happen this year. Of course I'd say this, but what Chambers has accomplished is, to say the least, incredible. Though talent and dedication are key components to any success, it doesn't take just talent. It doesn't take just dedication. It also takes perseverance and teamwork and fortitude and, most importantly, passion. It takes patience. I can recall a point in those six weeks we were rehearsing when some of us just put down our instruments and said, "We're done." We gave up. But, obviously, we picked it back up, gave it our all, and... it gave back. Chamber's success shouldn't be thought of as just ours, but... everyone's.

So where to now? Well, firstly... as I recall, there were several that asked us "Why? Why even try? Plano (our biggest competitor) is just going to win again, like they do every year." After some, well, parading, we move on. In the words of Al Muenzer, my late violin teacher and past concertmaster of the Houston Pops, well... "I don't see what the big deal is." Truthfully, our goal shouldn't be to make Honor Orchestra every single year. It shouldn't about the title. Rather, like everything else in life, it should be about improving ourselves, continually growing and obtaining the skill to *maybe* achieve said title again—even after my senior class have graduated, even after this year's freshmen class have graduated, and long beyond that.

Obviously, winning isn't improving. Improving is improving.  
But winning is nice though.

On behalf of this year's Honor Orchestra, thank you. Thank you, Mrs. Wolfe, for working your hardest to direct not just our music, but our orchestra. Thank you, parents, teachers, and supporters. With all gratitude spoken and unspoken, we thank you—and will do so time and time again—for being the foundation upon which all our successes are built. And thank you, all those of Clements High School, for providing the home and the means of accomplishing each success.

Once again, congratulations.

Sincerely Yours,  
Kevin Kuo



# Birthdays

Happy birthday to our November babies!

Chen Clara 11/1/2011  
Chen Clair  
Li Brian 11/1/2011  
Oei Karlin 11/1/2011  
Cheng Michael 11/2/2011  
Chen Marcia 11/5/2011  
Zhan Freada 11/5/2011

Minter Candice 11/6/2011  
Martins Marina 11/11/2011  
Vuong Victoria 11/11/2011  
Wang Emily 11/18/2011  
Cheng Connie 11/19/2011  
Zhang Steven 11/25/2011

## Sticky Note Reminders!



Big Brother/Big  
Sister Social

Nov 11

Meet your class  
goals!!!

Region Chairing  
11/15

**PRACTICE  
YOUR  
MUSIC!**