

Applause

Volume 24, Number 8 School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC March 2023



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From the Editors

Dear Readers,

Mr. Grauer wisely told us, as we laid out this paper, to start the editor's letter with a joke. He gave us an example that we really couldn't top: "My favorite day is March 4th, because we're marching forth." And we sure are marching forth, toward the end of a successful year at SOA. As seniors, we're almost in the clear with college decisions, we're making plans for the summer and graduation, and we're just narrowly getting by in our classes. And Peter is being harassed for his red hair, in the once-awesome month of Saint Patrick's Day.

Francisco Fullana, renowned violinist, visited SOA for a concert with the Sinfonietta on Friday, March 3rd. *Applause* followed the residency with photos (page 19), as well as an interview with Fullana (page 22).

In this issue, we are also excited to cover Women's History Month, the Strings Department at SOA, and some exciting events going on around campus. On February 28th, SOA students celebrated Black History Month with the first Black History Month Jamboree (pages 7-8, 20-21), and juniors and seniors have been preparing for the long-awaited 2023 Powderpuff game (page 9). We hope you enjoy our March paper!

Your Editors,
Peter O'Malley, Lauren Holladay, and Giovanni Cusatis

Peter O'Malley *Lauren Holladay* *Giovanni Cusatis*



SOA Calendar

by Cate Traywick

- Mar 11:** 9th and 10th grade Winter Dance, AMHS Gym, 7:30-11:00
- Mar 15-16:** *Lafayette No. 1* - 8th grade Theater, RMMT, 6:30
- Mar 21:** *Design In Motion* - 8th grade Dance, RMMT, 6:30-8:00
- Mar 22:** Dance Choreography

- Showcase, RMMT, 6:30
- Mar 22-23:** *26 Pebbles* - 9th grade Theater, RMMT, 4:00 and 6:30
- Mar 24:** Teacher Workday & End of Third Quarter
- Mar 27-28:** *Smack Down* - 10th, 11th, and 12th grade Theater, BBT, 6:30-7:30
- Mar 30:** Middle School Orchestra Concert, RMMT, 6:30

- Mar 30-31:** *The Seussification of a Midsummer Night's Dream* - 7th Grade Theater, BBT, 4:00 and 6:30
- Mar 31:** *Reach for the Sky* Fashion Show, 6:30-8:30
- Apr 3-4:** Classical Piano Senior Thesis, RMMT, 5:30-7:30
- Apr 6:** Junior Dance
- Composition, RMMT, 6:30-8:00
- Apr 8-16:** Spring Break

Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of
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by Lauren Holladay

Francisco Fullana Visits SOA for Second Residency
by Peter O'Malley

SOA Students Find Success at Wildcat Classic
by Giovanni Cusatis

Sass Attack: How Society Has Let A. A. Milne Down

"Sass Attack" was started in 2007 by Applause writer David Sass and has been an Applause column for fourteen years. Our staff writer and senior Fashion major, Beatrice Criscuolo, has decided to continue the tradition.

If you're anything like me, your childhood memories were accompanied by characters like Winnie-the-Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore, and all of those who lived in the Hundred Acre Wood. I spent countless hours reading about their adventures. Honestly, I'm pretty sure the only reason I like honey so much, (and I love honey), is because Pooh does too.

So just imagine my delight when I heard there was going to be a new Winnie-the-Pooh movie. My joy lasted for all of two seconds, until I heard the second part of the title: *Winnie-the-Pooh: Blood and Honey*.

My first reaction was to laugh in disbelief. There was no way that they would make a horror movie based on A. A. Milne's beautiful characters that teach young children about kindness and love. But, as I turned to trusty Google, I realized it was true. And worse than I thought.

Normally, I hate to look at full movie summaries before I watch a movie (no spoilers, please). But this time, I have never been so certain about anything in my life: I will never, ever watch *Winnie-the-Pooh: Blood and Honey*. So I didn't feel like I was spoiling anything by Googling the horror movie's summary. And what a summary it was: simultaneously the most horrific and heart-wrenching Wikipedia article I have ever read. And we all know Wikipedia doesn't lie about the important stuff, so I had to believe it.

For all you soulless horror buffs out there who don't care about ruining your childhood, don't worry, I won't spoil the plot. But before you buy your ticket and pay whoever thought it would be a good idea to create a movie villainizing Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet, ask yourself this: is this the world you want to live in? A world where childhood stories are turned into violent nightmares? If it is, then sure, go buy a ticket. If not, come find me, I'll be rereading the best (and original) *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

Opinion: Pollen

by Eliana Gross

Every month since October, I have had something equally (un)important to complain about, nay, denounce, but this month is different. This month I have a bone to pick with Mother Nature. As a disclaimer, I love trees. I think they're great and I think nature is beautiful. However, pollen, the annual affliction plaguing Charleston, is back. It really is a shame that a time of floral blooms, tweeting birds, and fluffy ducklings is announced by an unyielding yellow dust that gets on your car and covers your house and driveway until you finally get around to cleaning it, only for it to be veiled with the powder again not five minutes later.

If it wasn't for allergies, I could deal with its frustrating persistence. Unfortunately, I know from experience that everyone around me, myself included, will inevitably fall to allergies even though every single one of us will say, "but I don't have allergies, I don't know why I'm sneezing or my eyes are watery or my nose is running." You have allergies. Deny it all you want, but you have allergies and you need to go buy Musinex before you spread your germs all over the place.



Beatrice Criscuolo

Provided

Who can you blame for this shared seasonal suffering but Mother Nature herself? Mother Nature lured me into spring with promises of warm weather and clear skies and instead came to my house, where my family lives, to spit on my doorstep and throw sneezing powder into my eyes when I opened the door. What's worse? She did the same to you.

Is this what our forefathers (Greta Thunberg and Theodore Roosevelt) expected when they wrote the Constitution (legislature protecting nature)? Something in my bones says they didn't factor in pollen. I can't prove it yet. I just have a feeling.

Growing up during this difficult time of the year, my father used to tell me, "you know, if your nose is running and your feet smell, then you were built upside down." Hopefully that corny line can offer you more comfort than it did for me. It's of course not all bad. Remember to look forward to Easter, Purim, and Ramadan through watery eyes because if nothing else, SOA students do not yield to something as trivial as yellow dust. Just remember to keep your head high and a bottle of hand sanitizer near as you march into one of the best seasons of the year.

Opinion: Audition Season

by Peter O'Malley

Each year, thousands of high school seniors audition for schools of music around the globe. In January and February, "Audition Season" commenced, and those thousands of seniors traveled far from home in pursuit of their college aspirations. I had my auditions throughout February, and wanted to share my perspective and opinions on the process.

I applied to eight conservatories back at the start of the year. For music schools, there are two rounds: prescreenings and the audition. Some schools are more selective than others with prescreenings, and others deny only the musicians they know wouldn't be accepted. Of those eight schools I applied to, six moved me to the second round. So in early January, I picked the dates to drive up to my six auditions, and I got



Peter O'Malley

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Eliana Gross

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I Want My MTV: Songs of the Early 80s

Wednesday, May 24th

Rose Maree Myers Theater

ready.

Picking the dates was a strategic matter: I knew I wouldn't fly (dangerous for a cello), so I wanted to knock the auditions out in as few trips as possible. And hopefully, I wouldn't have to drive in circles around the East Coast and Midwest. Fortunately, it lined up so that I auditioned for Cincinnati and CIM (Cleveland Institute of Music) one weekend, and then over the course of a week, the other four: Peabody (Baltimore, MD), Eastman (Rochester, NY), DePaul (Chicago, IL), and the McDuffie Center for Strings (Macon, GA).

Over the summer, I finalized my audition repertoire based on what each school had up from the last year. The schools varied in what they asked for, but it ultimately ended up only being one Popper etude, a movement from a cello concerto, two movements from a Bach suite, and a contemporary work. And for a ten-to-fifteen minute audition, I knew they'd only ask for a portion of that. I prepared the fourth movement of the Elgar Cello Concerto, the Prelude and Allemande from Bach's fifth suite for solo cello, Popper Etude No. 21, and Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson's "Fuguing Tune," from his solo cello suite, Lamentations.

It's impossible to know what the committee will ask for. I felt great about my first four auditions, and thought I'd figured it out: they'll only ask for the Bach Prelude, and they'll cut me off at the same place in the Elgar. At DePaul, however, they did the opposite. Instead of the Prelude, they asked for the Allemande, and instead of stopping me where I was used to in the Elgar, they had me keep playing. Needless to say, DePaul didn't go as I'd hoped.

Another key to success in audition season (success, as in feeling good about how it went, not the results. I haven't received results from any, so far) is a clear schedule in the morning. Almost all of my auditions were between 11:00 and 11:30am, and I made a schedule for myself: Wake up at 6:30, shower, get breakfast at 7:00, walk to a practice room at the school, start practicing at 8:00 (scales first), take a break at 10:00, and go to the assigned warmup room for the last thirty minutes before the audition. This worked great, and the one day I took a different schedule, I felt poorly about the audition.

Auditions are stressful and draining, but it's important to stay healthy throughout the process. Get sleep, take breaks, and celebrate afterward with good food. It's also incredibly important to form a relationship with the professors you are applying for, and to take lessons with them either in the fall before you submit your prescreening tapes or at a summer festival. And you'll have to be patient. Some schools don't release their results until the end of March. Good luck!

Catching Up on Sports at SOA

by Giovanni Cusatis

The spring sports season is underway and SOA has over twenty athletes competing for their home schools (or Academic Magnet) in baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, and track. Most teams are starting practices and scrimmaging other teams in the area.

Four SOA freshmen are playing soccer for Magnet: Julia Bates, Abby Morea, Cesar Ramirez-Pulido, and Vadym Stefanyshyn. Julia Bates, who is a band major who plays outside midfielder, began playing soccer when she was five and has played ever since on club teams like SURF, for whom she plays in the fall. She looks forward to "representing SOA and AMHS while making an impact in every game I play in."

The majority of athletes that SOA has are on the AMHS track & field



Julia Bates playing for club team SURF.

Provided

team. SOA contributes to all of the events with sprinters and distance runners such as Giselle Rattelade and Ben Fancher, throwers Luciano Cusatis and Milo Timpanaro-Throop, and jumpers such as Nadia Fox and Grey Gaides. Grey is a sophomore who dabbles in many events including the pole vault, high jump, and hurdles. This is his first season on the track team, but he did gymnastics for six years previously. He is enjoying the season so far, and in his most recent meet on March 4th, he cleared nine feet on the pole vault. In the same meet, Milo and Luciano both made the finals for shotput and discus. Also in that meet, Luke Shackelford took first place in the Men's 800 Meter for West Ashley!

Austin Walton is a senior Band major beginning his third season as a lacrosse defensive midfielder for Lucy Beckham. He is a fast and athletic player who brings experience to the team. Lucy Beckham won the state championship last year, so they practice six days a week. Their coach says that "consistent and meaningful practice is valuable in order to improve and get to where we want to be as a team." They have had a few scrimmages against James Island and AC Flora and they are traveling to Charlotte, NC to take on Lake Norman and the Cannon School who are "two very respected lacrosse schools." Austin hopes to hold his starting spot the whole season and hopefully help his team win a second state championship.



Austin Walton posing on media day.

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This Month Among the Stars

by Yatawee Petchsuriya

March 1st: Jupiter and Venus

An optical illusion is created with Jupiter and Venus when the two planets appear to be right next to each other, despite the millions of miles in between. The two planets will be fairly easy to see with binoculars.

March 7th: Worm Moon

This month's full moon had gained its official name of "Worm Moon" from the Farmer's Almanac. Its was derived from early Native American Culture as earthworms were seen to reappear as the winter's snow thawed the ground this time of the year.

March 20th: Vernal Equinox

This marks the beginning of spring! The Earth tilts neither towards or away from the Sun. The amount of daylight and darkness will be approximately the same around the world during this event as the star shines directly on the equator. This event only takes place during the autumnal equinox and vernal equinox. When one hemisphere of the Earth experiences an autumnal equinox, the opposite side experiences a vernal equinox, and vice versa.

March 21st: New Moon

A new moon appears when it aligns between the Sun and Earth in a straight line. This alignment of at least three celestial bodies is also referred to as a Syzygy. The Moon will not be visible, allowing for other astronomical objects to be seen. In the Hebrew and Chinese calendar, the new moon marks the beginning of the month.

April 6th: Pink Moon

April's full moon is considered a Pink Moon due to the pink flowers that bloom in the spring. A new moon phase also involves a Syzygy, but the Earth is now between the Moon and Sun. The Sun's light now shines on the side of the Moon that is visible from Earth.

April 11th: Mercury at Greatest Elongation East

An elongation refers to the maximum angle between the Sun and a celestial object. Due to Mercury's small orbit, the planet is washed out by the Sun's light in Earth's sky. However, during this elongation, Mercury's visibility will be increased.



Mercury visible during its greatest elongation.

starwalkspace

The Kindness Rock Garden: A Welcome Burst of Positivity on SOA's Campus

by Gracie Pennington

On Friday, February 17th, I had the privilege to help with SOA Student Council's latest project: The Kindness Rock Garden. Walking into the Pegasus Garden, I was greeted with students laughing, talking, and eating. The tables were covered in newspaper (last month's *Applause*) and an array of painting pens. Students were writing inspirational messages, kind drawings, and even silly doodles on the colorful rocks



The Kindness Rock Garden

Gracie Pennington

before setting them down in a cute fenced-in area. I could feel the positivity radiating from everyone's creations, from the smiles on people's faces and the friends being made. It was a truly incredible experience.

The mastermind behind this project is 11th grade Vocal major Sunshine Simons. The sunshine she's brought to this school isn't just in her name, but through her kindness and the rock garden itself. I had the honor of interviewing her about the project to find out how this idea came to fruition and the challenges that it took to make it possible.



Provided

Sunshine Simons

Gracie Pennington: What inspired you to start this project?

Sunshine Simons: Five years ago, I was in Kentucky and found a kindness rock on the ground, and it really just touched me. At my middle school we also did a small kindness rock project, but no one really knew much about it. I wanted to make something that easily spreads kindness that is accessible to anyone in SOA! Kindness is something that everyone can use at any point in time.

GP: What was your favorite thing about running the project?

SS: My favorite part of working on the Kindness Rock Garden was really the fact that it could possibly make the people around me feel more loved. I have to remind myself everyday to care for myself and to stay positive, so I thought other people could also use those reminders in a fun way!

GP: What challenges did you face?

SS: The logistics are always tricky when you're working on a project for the first time. For example, I had to figure out where the garden would be, how to maintain it, and how to get people involved. And on top of it I had to get approval from the school and Student Council. But all the time and effort that I, as well as other Student Council Members, put into the Kindness Rock Garden has paid off as long as it helped even one person feel better.

GP: If you could give the students of SOA one piece of advice, what would it be?

SS: If I could give SOA students, or really anyone, one piece of advice I would say that no act of kindness is wasted, no matter how small! It may not feel like a lot, but you never know the impact you have on people!



Gracie Pennington

SOA students painting rocks for the garden.

SOA Celebrates Black History Month With First Annual Jamboree Event

by Gracie Pennington

SOA's first annual Black History Month Jamboree was a smashing success. Many speakers all around Charleston came down to SOA to show off their talents and to tell their stories. In addition, there were a lot of fun activities, such as line dancing, live music, and food, which was simply phenomenal. I feel cheated that nobody has ever told me about chewies in my life, but I'm so glad I got to try them at the jamboree. They're a true delicacy, and I will most definitely be making them at home. Seeing SOA students celebrate and

learn about Black history in such a fun, immersive way was a wonderful thing to see, and I'm so glad I got to witness it.

Recently, I had the privilege to sit down and talk with Pagelyn Smalls, the head coordinator of the event. We discussed the roots of the project, the process in planning it, and much more.

Gracie Pennington: What inspired you to start this event?

Pagelyn Smalls: I was sitting in AP US History, actually, and Ms. Orchard was talking about how she did a Black History Month celebration at her old school, and literally the Saturday right after that, my pastor was talking about making change and taking action. I was like, "you know what? I want to have a Black History Month event, but like with an SOA and Pagelyn spin to it." So that's kinda where it came from.

GP: What were your main goals with the jamboree?

PS: Mainly, I wanted people to see the diverse fields that many Black people are in. We had a farmer, we had someone from Coca-Cola, and so many more. I wanted people to have the fun aspect, and we got that with lunch and the live music. I also wanted them to see the educational side of what's going on today: how people are showing Black excellence in many various fields and careers.

GP: What connections helped you to plan such a wonderful group of speakers?

PS: I can not take credit for that, we had Carsyn Smith, and she is kind of like our network girl. She was out there getting speakers for us. I was like, "you know what Carsyn? I'ma let you do your thing and get speakers," because she has her Styles club, so she knew a lot of people through that.

GP: What does organizing this kind of event involve? Challenges, Rewards?

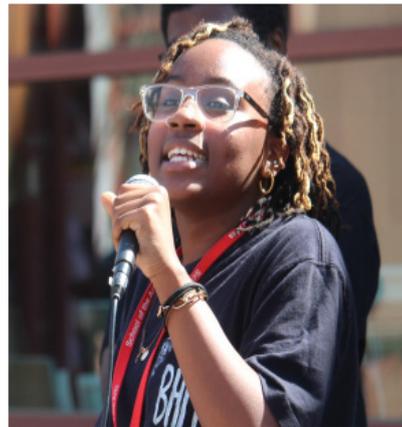
PS: The main thing as far as the planning, I would say, is a lot of smaller aspects, like the performances, the food, the student ambassadors, figuring out where the speakers are going to go, the logistics of where the students are going to go, and how they were put into the sessions. I would say that the biggest wow factor I had was just how smoothly everything went. Whenever you're planning it, I feel like you can only see it in smaller aspects, but when the day began, it started to flow. So, the big thing was the flowyness for me.

GP: Do you plan to do this again next year? If so, what will you do the same? Different?

PS: Yeah! I think that it's definitely on the table for next year. I think that what I want to do differently is have some more lunch activities for the middle school, because they had two speakers in the RMMT, but I think that I want to do some more for them. I also think that it needs to be spread out more throughout the month; one big day was kinda stressful for one big thing with all that stuff. You know, the sad thing about it is the seniors on the planning committee won't be here. I just want to shout them out, they just helped so much. Some of them are graduating, and now we've got to start recruiting and getting some more people because if we're going to keep this going and do it bigger and better, we are gonna need some good and dedicated people.

GP: What was your favorite thing that you saw yesterday?

PS: Hmmm, some people would say the baby goat, but I honestly would say... well, from lunch, what I loved was the togetherness of everyone. We started line dancing in the middle of the courtyard. I loved to see it, I had my selfie stick out. That was definitely my favorite thing, and hearing everyone's remarks about how great the food was; that was my biggest heart-grabber. From the sessions, it was just seeing how the speakers were doing their own thing and being natural, and the students getting into it and having fun. I remember the



Pagelyn Smalls speaking to SOA students at lunch during the Jamboree.

Lauren Holladay

comedian- everyone was having a good time with him, and the baby goat from the farm. Everyone was just so interested and intrigued, and I loved seeing how people were learning and taking away from this day.

Thank you to Ms. Orchard, Ms. GG, Mr. Gibson, Coach Butts, Carsyn Smith, Madyson Brown, Justin Feaster, Auryanna Ascue, Patrice Simmons, Ramere Kelly, Elliot Kate Cooper, Kenya Hines, and many more for making this event become a reality.

Where Were They Then?

Giovanni Cusatis spoke with **Mr. Karl Clark**, SOA Interventionist, about his life before SOA.

Giovanni Cusatis: Where did you grow up and what are some of your favorite childhood memories?

Karl Clark: My father was in the military until I was in fifth grade. We lived in Hawaii before that. We moved to Walhalla, SC, in 1979 (fifth grade) where I went to middle and high school. I went to Clemson and UGA for BAs and then UNC Chapel Hill and USC for masters. I have taught in Sumter, Columbia, and Charleston, SC. I moved to Charleston in 2000 (to be close to the beach) and came to SOA in 2006. I have been at SOA for seventeen years. My fondest memories and favorite hobby is time at the beach. It was where we spent every weekend and most afternoons. While in Hawaii, my military dad worked with logistics and security. He knew when/where Hollywood production companies were going to be (which beach), and he would take me and my brothers to visit filming sets when TV shows and movies filmed on location in Hawaii. We got to see the cast and filming of *Donny & Marie Show*, the original *Hawaii 5-O*, *Brady Bunch*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Happy Days*, and myriad TV shows and movies, usually on the beaches. We got to meet Burt Reynolds, Cheryl Ladd, Lonnie Anderson, and lots of stars from the 60s, 70s,



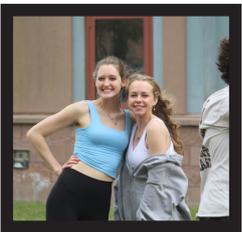
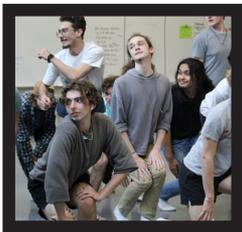
Mr. Clark (middle) with his brothers Terry (left) and D.J. (right) in 1972.

Provided



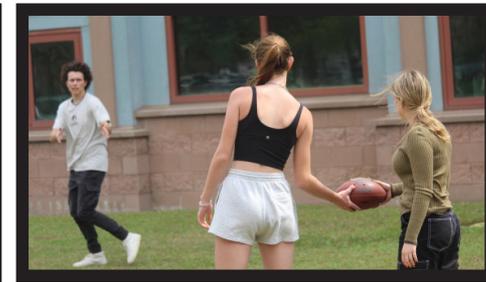
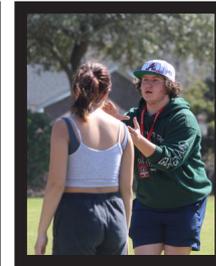
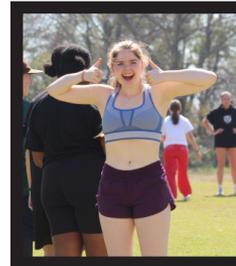
Mr. Clark (left) with his family in Hawaii in 1978.

Provided



SOA Juniors and Seniors Prepare for Powderpuff

Photos by Lauren Holladay



and 80s.

GC: What was life like after high school? Where did you go to college?

KC: I went to a small, boring, mountain town high school. Nice people, but boring. I didn't start really enjoying life and understanding myself until I got to college. College was amazing... and exhausting... and some of the best times I have had. I got four degrees and spent almost nine years in college before I realized I would have to eventually get a job, so I chose teaching. One thing I realized about college, at least for me, was that it was less about where I was attending and more about what I did with it... I sought out jobs and friends and excitement, kept myself busy, and figured out what I wanted to do with my life while attending college(s).

GC: You used to teach various history and current event classes. How did you get into teaching?

KC: My mom was a teacher (elementary/middle/high PE for a combined thirty-eight years), and she experimented teaching techniques on us while we were growing up. While living in Hawaii, mom made sure we knew how



Mr. Clark playing soccer in 5th grade in South Carolina.

to swim, making us take multiple swim classes every year (since I was two years old) during the summers. After we took them all, mom pressed us (me and my two younger brothers) to take surfing, kayaking, lifeguarding, water safety, SCUBA, and ocean spelunking classes... anything to keep us busy and out of her hair. When we moved to SC, I was hired (paid!) by the Red Cross to teach little kids to swim when I was in the eighth grade (because there were few others in our area that had taken sooo many swim classes). I

was teaching lifeguarding by ninth grade, and was a lifeguard instructor by seventeen. And I was making \$20 an hour my freshman year at Clemson (1987) training lifeguards and taking care of the pool... back then, that was great pay for a seventeen year old. I got a partial fellowship (paid half of my tuition!) at UNC through the Red Cross/United Way to teach swim classes there as well. So, swimming and the beach basically led me into my teaching career.

GC: What do you like to do outside of school?

KC: My hobbies are spending quality time at the beach when possible, traveling (especially to Europe and across US/Canada), reading (especially fond of sci-fi, fantasy, and the classics), and working on my house (which never ends). I'm a huge fan of board and card games, a collector of old and new D&D paraphernalia and literature, I love watching movies (especially *Marvel*, *James Bond*, sci-fi/fantasy, and international films), and learning about gardening (great with trees, not so with flowers and grass).

GC: Do you have any advice for students?

KC: Honestly, I spend so much time lecturing and forcing my advice on students that I am taking a break from hard advice. Enjoy life. Have goals. Make friends. Keep promises. Be honest. Seek joy and contentment. Get a pet. Travel. Think for yourself. Vote, stay informed, and care about the welfare of others. And don't be a jerk.



Mr. Clark (right) in 1987 posing for his Senior Superlative photo with his classmate Linda Abercrombie (right). Both students were voted "Most Intellectual."

Where Are They Now?

Peter O'Malley reached out to 2019 Strings graduate **Benjamin Kremer**, to hear about his time in undergrad, and his experience this year with Master's auditions.

Peter O'Malley: You just finished your post-undergrad auditions. What schools are you looking at? What did you play in the auditions?

Benjamin Kremer: Yes! I had a great time traveling all around for my auditions and going to cities I've never been to before. I auditioned for the music schools at Rice University, Northwestern University, Peabody Conservatory, and Yale University. In most of the auditions, I played some of the Violin Concerto No. 2 by Sergei Prokofiev, Sonata No. 1 in G minor for solo violin by J.S. Bach, Caprice No. 17 by Niccolò Paganini, and *Zigeunerweisen* by Pablo de Sarasate.

PO: One of the things I looked most forward to after auditions was digging into new repertoire. Are you starting new music?

BK: I've been looking forward to the same thing. I definitely wasn't getting tired of my old repertoire, however I did miss the excitement of learning and focusing on new music. After finishing the last of my auditions, my teacher and I brainstormed a bunch of new repertoire to start. I finalized my recital program, chose a new concerto, and picked a few other pieces to look at.

PO: In your undergrad at Lynn Conservatory, how did you grow as a musician? What achievements did you make in the past four years?

BK: What I have been working on is getting into the mindset and bringing out the style of each piece that I perform. While improving my technical abilities (intonation, hand coordination, dexterity, etc.) is a large focus of mine, it ultimately serves as a tool to be able to play my repertoire as close as possible to how I would like to hear it played. A couple of big milestones and achievements of mine have been my recitals and performing entire concertos at school. I have also competed in and won a couple of competitions at school and in Florida. These

have given me further opportunities to perform for the public and work with some amazing musicians.

PO: What summer festivals are you looking at?

BK: I must admit that I was a little behind in preparing for summer festival applications, so I'm currently looking around at what festivals are still accepting applications. It has been a little while since I went away for the summer to a music festival and it's definitely something I'm

considering. That being said, I could also use the summer to take a little breather before whatever comes this fall.

PO: You graduated in 2019 from

SOA. What do you miss from high school? Do you visit Charleston often?

BK: The things I miss about high school are the classes I took with my friends,



Ben and his parents outside of Lynn Conservatory.



Ben plays in recital at Lynn.

orchestra/strings, and Tanger. I still spend the majority of my vacations from school in Charleston with my family.

PO: What do you look forward to for the future?

BK: It may be the timing of finishing my auditions just about a week ago, but right now all that I can think about is what I will be doing with the violin this fall. I'm also excited to think about where I'll end up after finishing my degree in south Florida; it has been a fun four years, but I don't plan to stay after this semester.

PO: What advice would you give students looking to study music in college?

BK: I think one of the best parts of studying music in college is playing for and showing your musical ideas to friends and peers. It can be a lot of fun and you will end up learning a lot from other music students. I would also say to go to as many concerts as you can. They're so much more fun than practicing and you will learn so much more from seeing and hearing the music in person instead of online. There are usually student discounts available and sometimes you can even get student tickets for free. Sometimes it takes some digging to find various solo, chamber, and orchestra concerts in the area, but it's totally worth it.

SOA Slang

by Riley Borkowski and Cate Traywick

Side eye: (v) A look in which you move your eyes to the side, showing your disapproval or disgust for something.

"My favorite Yo Gabba Gabba character was Foofa" "...*side eye*"

ICK: (n) When someone who you initially found attractive does an action that you find incredibly unattractive.

"He actively avoids eating vegetables..." "Ew that's such an *ick*"

Dupe: (n) A cheaper or lower quality alternative to a typically well-known thing or person.

Sees Peter O'Malley "YoYo Ma *DUPE*"

Situationship: (n) A romantic relationship that remains undefined or uncommitted.

"Oh is that your girl?" "Nah it's still a bit of a sticky one, it's still a *situationship*"

WYA: (phrase) A shortened form of 'where you at.' Commonly used to express confusion regarding someone's location.

"Riley wasn't in journalism today, so I hit her with a *WYA* text."

Arc: (n) An important moment in a person's life, usually used in past tense

"I've started putting ketchup on my mac and cheese. My villain *arc* has begun."

Drip: (n) A term used to describe someone's sense of style as cool or fire (see subsequent word).

"Yo! Did you see Mr. Martin's bowtie? He's got so much *drip*."

Fire: (adj) Used to describe the undeniably high quality of an item or person.

"Dude, that Bo-Berry Biscuit was *fire*."

Beef: (n) To feud or to hold a grudge against someone.

"Cate said she didn't like my viola playing, so now we have *beef*."

Hot take: (phrase) A phrase used as a precursor to expressing a controversial opinion.

"*Hot take*, I don't like Riley's viola playing."

Creative Writing Embarks on the "Fripp Trip"

by Cate Traywick

From February 22nd to 24th, freshman and sophomore Creative Writing majors enjoyed a writing retreat to Fripp Island and surrounding areas. There, we encountered lessons in writing, injustice, and the Gullah-Geechee Nation, as well as a strengthened sense of camaraderie within our program. We departed SOA at a strict time of 7:00 AM, meaning that I (as well as the majority of my classmates) had a staggering 5:00 AM wake-up call, but after getting

over our absolute exhaustion, we were on the road to Fripp Island!

One sleepy bus ride later, we made our first stop at the ruins of Old Sheldon Church! Centuries-old oak trees surrounded the majestic and serene remnants of a once glorious building and the grounds were dotted with equally ancient gravestones. This was a welcome escape from the cramped seats of the bus. Although a fence was erected around the church itself back in 2019, we still delighted in walking around and taking pictures of the ruins and surrounding nature!



SOA Creative Writers visiting the ruins of Old Sheldon Church.

Danielle DeTherms

Once we were back on the road, we feasted on granola bars and juice boxes; I, as well as my bus-mate, Elle Baker, opted for a Very Berry juice box, and they were quite refreshing! As we traveled over the marsh and through the surrounding woods, I couldn't help but smile at the stunning scenes before us. A striking high tide reflected the morning sun and countless white-tailed deer grazed in the marsh grass as we passed. Once we got to Fripp, we began the odious task of unpacking our mass of snacks and luggage and carrying them across the street to our house for the next three days.

After unpacking and devouring a lunch of mac and cheese and barbecue, we headed to St. Helena Island, where we had the opportunity to walk around the historic Penn Center. There we learned about Penn School, which was the nation's first school for formerly enslaved people, and the efforts that Penn Center makes towards preserving this significant site. After our informative amble through the Center, we settled on a dock and read excerpts from various memoirs that contained themes of race and injustice. The dock (and the surrounding marsh) was a perfect place to sit down and write about our experienced injustices. We shared our thoughts on what we read and wrote, as well as relished the pleasant weather!

Throughout the trip, we enjoyed plenty of downtime, where we were able to socialize and bond with our fellow Creative Writing majors. Usually, we don't have time to interact with the other grade levels, so this change was very much appreciated. Upon our arrival back to the house, I was introduced to a game entitled "Dutch Blitz" by a freshman Creative Writer, Gwenny Svendsen. Although Dutch Blitz is a fast-paced game, I wasn't swayed, and much to my delight, I won the first round against multiple veteran players. But it turned out to simply be beginner's luck, as I lost the subsequent three rounds. After eating dinner and playing games (a lot of games, including Uno, Spot It, Spit, and James Bond) we headed out to the beach, flashlights in hand, and enjoyed a completely deserted, moonlit seaside.

The next morning, we got up bright and early to meet with the highly accomplished and highly engaging Queen Quet, the elected Queen of the Gullah-Geechee nation. Queen Quet took us to various sights and destinations around the Gullah-Geechee sea islands where she spoke of the history and cultural significance of each stop. Not only was she an excellent guide, but she made a point to answer questions and to speak with each of us about our writing. A highlight of our meeting with Queen Quet was when she found out that it was sophomore Lily Jensen's birthday, and she insisted upon a round of Happy Birthday sung in Lily's honor. Once our tour concluded, we once again hopped on the bus and headed to Hunting Island!

Immediately after arriving at Hunting Island, we were cut loose to spend time on the beach. I, along with many of my classmates, chose to lie

in the sand and enjoy the warm and perfectly sunny day (which resulted in a somewhat nasty sunburn). Eventually, we were called over to a cluster of shaded picnic benches where we read poetry and prose that highlighted the beauty and profundity of nature. This led to time for writing, and some then shared their work aloud; it was without a doubt my favorite part of the day.

The next morning, we had a slower start. We ate breakfast and sat around reflecting on our trip, recounting to the group each of our favorite parts. After that, we packed out and headed to Beaufort. There, we were set free to have lunch on our own before heading back to SOA, and after lunch, we were treated to ice cream and various other sweet treats.

All-in-all, the Fripp Trip was a resounding success, full of socialization, writing workshops, and mental enrichment that is sure to leave the 9th and 10th-grade writing majors beaming for weeks to come!

SOA Students Perform *The SpongeBob Musical*

by Gracie Pennington

In mid-February, I caught the second show of SOA's second school musical since COVID: *The SpongeBob Musical*. The story follows SpongeBob (Tai'La Wilson), his friends, and the town of Bikini Bottom after being faced with a threat of certain doom: a nearby volcano's imminent eruption. SpongeBob gets his pals together to stop this from happening, thwarting Plankton's (Ramere Kelly) evil plans. SpongeBob and Patrick (Devon Brunson) had such good chemistry on stage; it was hilarious watching them sing and interact. Sandy (Meredith Layne Hungerford) and Squidward (Tyler Caplea) were also incredible, as were all of the leads. They all stepped into the shoes of the character that they were portraying, embodying them incredibly well.

The musical itself was hilarious. The jokes were delivered well and the overall chemistry of the characters onstage was impeccable. The ensemble did a wonderful job of creating the atmosphere, too; a crazed cult of Patrick worshippers, a riot of squirrel haters, the aquatic boy-band The Electric Skates, and the rest of Bikini Bottom's undersea ensemble contributed to the humor and the overall vibe of the musical. I could also tell that the tech crew put a lot of love into running the show... seeing Patrick flying across the stage on a harness was something I thought I'd never see. It was majestic.

The music was really great. I was pleasantly surprised to see just how many artists worked on the songs, and ecstatic that one of my personal favorite bands, They Might Be Giants, wrote a musical number for the show. Joining them are many stars including Cyndi Lauper, Panic! At The Disco, Aerosmith, and David Bowie. The soundtrack combined a lot of musical styles like rap, rock, and musical theater, and the performers' vocals accompanying the tracks were incredible. I wouldn't expect any less from an SOA production.

Even though the cast didn't receive costumes on time, the musical was still just as good, if not better, without them. The true spectacle of the show was the vocal and acting talent of the incredible performers on stage. I'm incredibly glad I got to see it!

The History Behind St. Patrick's Day

by Ariana Lane

There are over one hundred Saint Patrick's Day parades held across the United States each year, but how many people actually know the history behind

what they are celebrating? Saint Patrick's Day has been observed for over 1000 years, beginning in Ireland and slowly making its way around the world. The holiday was created by the Church as a way to honor Saint Patrick after his death on March 17th, 465 CE. Despite Saint Patrick's Day's notoriety for being Irish, St. Patrick himself was actually British. The reason that the holiday started in Ireland was because Saint Patrick is credited with spreading Christianity across Ireland. Additionally, many aspects of the holiday originally served as Christian imagery: the notoriety of the shamrock comes from the legend that St. Patrick used a shamrock as a symbol of the Holy Trinity while spreading Christianity, and the actual day of Saint Patrick's Day originally served as a "feast day" during Lent, to provide Christians a day off from abstinence.

Although there are many Christian Symbols in St. Patrick's Day because of the holiday's roots, there are also some Celtic symbols that have been brought into the holiday, the most famous of which being the leprechauns. Leprechauns come from the Irish folklore "Lobaircin," meaning small bodied fellow. In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were responsible for mending shoes for the other fairies. They were known to be mischievous and used their trickery to protect their famed treasure. Though leprechauns also have their own holiday on May 13th, they became synonymous with the holiday of St. Patrick's Day.

Many of the traditions we associate with Saint Patrick's Day today didn't actually begin until the late 18th century. The color green, for example, wasn't associated with St. Patrick's Day until 1798 during the Irish Rebellion. Before that, Saint Patrick's Day was associated with the color blue, which was known as the color St. Patrick would wear and as the color on Ancient Irish flags.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in 1601 in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. Much later, in 1772, Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched in NYC during St. Patrick's Day. That parade continues to be celebrated in NYC and is now the world's oldest and largest civilian parade.

So, while you're out on March 17th, pinching your friends and watching the Charleston St. Patrick's Day Parade, make sure to keep the long history of Saint Patrick's Day in mind, and when you walk into school with no green in sight, remember that blue can be used as a last resort.

Women's Charities to Support This Women's History Month

by Madison McDonald

Here is a list of five great women's charities you can support as a part of Women's History month. These charities support women's education, women's social, and reproductive rights, economic justice, victims of war and abuse, women of color, and the LGBTQ community.

The Malala Fund

Founded by Pakistani education activist and Taliban shooting survivor Malala Yousafzai, the Malala Fund seeks to provide education for young women worldwide who may not have access to it. Malala's organization works in countries such as Pakistan, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and many more. Her organization even works in Afghanistan where women's education is outlawed. You can support this charity and read more about Malala's story on malala.org

Girls Not Brides

This organization is working to end child marriage. This is an issue that affects young men and women, but it disproportionately affects young women. Girls Not Brides aims to allow kids to be kids without having to marry prematurely. To support this organization, visit girlsnotbrides.org

My Sister's House (Local)

My Sister's House is a domestic abuse shelter that operates locally in North Charleston. They provide shelter for women who need a home for themselves and their children due to being displaced by an abuser. They even will provide clinical and therapeutic services to those in need. They are a great



A photo taken on stage by Patchy the Pirate (Sam Owens) during *The SpongeBob Musical*.

Sam Owens

SOA French Students Celebrate Mardi Gras

On February 21st, 2023, Ms. Bednarczyk’s French classes celebrated Mardi Gras by hand making festive masks and enjoying desserts brought in by students.



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organization that SOA has worked with in the past, and take monetary donations as well as certain goods. To support them, visit mysistershouse.org.

National Women's Law Center

The National Women's Law Center is an organization that is dedicated to advocating for women's rights. They seek to close the wage gap, fight for reproductive rights, support members of the LGBTQ community (specifically trans women), and to support women of color. The National Women's Law Center has been fighting for women since 1972. To support this organization visit nwlc.org

Women for Women International

Women for Women International works to provide relief for female survivors of war. Currently, a large portion of their donations are going towards supporting women in the Ukraine. They are also providing a great deal of support in Syria, due to the recent earthquakes. To support this charity and hear the stories of some very inspiring women, go to womenforwomen.org

Dr. Selby Prepares for Performances in Upcoming ASTA National Orchestra Festival

by Riley Borkowski

Riley Borkowski, Sinfonietta violist and Applause reporter, sat down with Dr. Christopher Selby, School of the Arts Strings Director, and asked him a few questions about the orchestra and their upcoming performances at the American String Teachers Association National Conference in March.

Riley Borkowski: What have you individually been doing to prepare for the concert?

Christopher Selby: I have been listening to music, listening to other performers, watching other performers, and bringing in guest artists to work with the Sinfonietta. And what that does is give me other ideas and other approaches for handling issues. I've also been doing a lot of score study, but it also goes all the way back to before I picked the music. I was talking to other directors about what would make a good program and finally decided on the program that we are doing. I feel really good about the music we picked, and I think it is a winning program.

RB: What is your biggest motivator?

CS: Naturally, I want my students to be the best; I think there's a part of me that has this competitive side to it. But there's something deeper and more rich than that and that is the awareness that these national competitions really make everybody dig deep. It makes all of us try our hardest to perform our best and give a great performance and be inspiring. Just the process of signing up for a national competition and following through with the national competition is a motivator for me and my students in a very deep way. Winning sounds so superficial, but I want my students to find themselves and find their best throughout the whole process. That motivates me.

RB: Do you feel nervous about the competition? If yes, how do you combat that?

CS: So, this is the one competition that I always feel nervous about. And the reason I'm nervous is that I want the best for my students. If I feel like they're disappointed with their performance it breaks my heart. So I want them to feel good about whatever they do, whether it's first place or fourth place, I want them to feel good about it. When it comes to nerves, I have to do some soul-searching to find whatever I'm nervous about. And I combat that by saying this instead of



Dr. Selby

Chamber Music Charleston

"I really want us to win," I say "I think we will be difficult to beat." I think that's important because if someone out there beats us, that's fine. After all, they just have worked really hard too. It's not that we sucked, but we were great and they were really great too.

RB: What are rehearsals for Sinfonietta typically like?

CS: One thing that makes Sinfonietta rehearsals different is the student capability and the student leadership. There is a whole lot more student leadership going on in a Sinfonietta rehearsal. That's not to say that the students are teaching the class, but I feel like the students are doing the work that they can do, so that I don't have to do their work. And then my job is sort of a bigger picture director to make sure that everybody's work comes together. I make sure we have a direction we are going towards and guide the many different moving parts towards the same vision and same goal.

RB: In addition to Sinfonietta, the Chamber Symphony is playing at the national conference. What is it like juggling both ensembles?

CS: It's a lot, especially since they are doing something completely different. They're going to be a demonstration group for a session that I am presenting. I've been preparing that session for other string teachers around the country. And then the Chamber Symphony will be demonstrating what it is that I teach and how I teach to the other teachers. It's one thing to stand up there and talk at these teachers, but for them to actually see kids do what it is that I do makes a huge difference for them. And they're also giving a short performance, kind of like a mini concert. But the biggest thing is their demonstration, and I want to make sure that they are ready to demonstrate for all the teachers in the country. A lot of teachers come to get ideas, and when they see us do something like cross tune or tune in a refined way, they're like "Wow, that's what it's supposed to look like." Because a lot of teachers don't even know what that looks like. It's very powerful and helpful to them.

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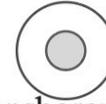


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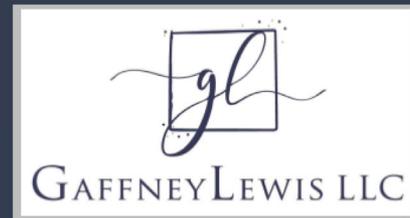
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Sign of the Month: “Good Luck Junior/Senior Powderpuff”

by Ariana Lane

Demonstrated by Deonta Nelson
7th grade ASL & Deaf Culture



1. To begin, bring your dominant hand in front of your face. With your palm facing you, touch your chin with your middle finger.
2. (Juniors) Bring your hands in front of your chest. Point your non-dominant fingers away from your body. Now, with your dominant hand, keep all of your fingers out and touch the palm of your non-dominant hand with your pointer finger.
3. (Seniors) Bring your hands in front of your chest. Point your non-dominant fingers away from your body. Now, with your dominant hand, keep all of your fingers out and touch the palm of your non-dominant hand with your thumb, palm facing outwards.
4. Splay all of your fingers and then interlock them in front of your chest. Repeat this motion twice.



BALLET ACADEMY OF CHARLESTON

SOA Junior Wins Runner Up at South Carolina Poetry Out Loud



Jessie Johnson (third from right) competed for the State Finals on March 4th in Columbia. She recited poems by Eavan Boland and George Eliot to make it to the finals, where she recited “If They Should Come for Us” by Fatimah Asghar.



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A Highlight on Female Composers

By Riley Borkowski

Typically, when people think of composers, people like Beethoven, Mozart, and Tchaikovsky come to mind. But far too often, their female counterparts are overlooked. It is important to talk about these remarkable pioneering female composers.

Jessie Montgomery

Violinist, educator, and composer **Jessie Montgomery** is one of the most notable figures in today's string music scene. At barely forty years old, she has made a name for herself with her lively and touching music. A Juilliard-trained violinist, composition was not originally her focus. When Montgomery was not admitted into the composition class for non-majors, she began to find other ways to continue her studies independently. While working her post-graduation teaching job, she wrote little pieces for her students and the faculty. Then Sebastian Ruth, founder of MusicWorks, commissioned *Strum*. Composition soon became to be the center of her career. Montgomery grew up surrounded by jazz and activism, and she learned to associate her black identity with her music, though her early training excluded it. As the world of string music continues to grow and change, it is getting harder to miss Montgomery's fiery work. A new portrait of American sound has emerged, with **Jessie Montgomery** providing the latest, crucial touches. The SOA Sinfonietta looks forward to performing her work *Strum* in Orlando for the NOF during the third week of March.



Jessie Montgomery

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Fanny Mendelssohn

Many people know **Fanny Mendelssohn** as the older sister of Felix Mendelssohn, but she was much more than that. A pianist and composer, Fanny shared the same love of classical music as her brother. Although her gender prohibited her from enjoying the same social opportunities or support in developing her musical gifts, many said that Fanny's virtuosity on the piano equaled, if not surpassed Felix's. However, despite her mastery, if Fanny might've had aspirations to live out her life as a composer and performer as her brother did, such hopes were quickly dashed; societal constraints prevented women from pursuing musical professions. She composed over 500 works, though her brother published them and took credit for many. She lived long enough to see the attitude toward women in musical professions changing, allowing some of her compositions to appear in print, fulfilling her lifelong dream to be a composer. Among the first female composers to have their work published, Fanny established a precedent for the acceptance of women into a male-dominated musical profession.

Rebecca Clarke

Born and raised in England to a German mother and American father, Clarke spent much of her adult life in the United States. Inspired by watching her brother Hans take violin lessons, Clarke followed in his footsteps, beginning the violin at age nine. She began her studies at the Royal Academy of Music in 1903 but was later withdrawn by her father after her professor proposed to Clarke. She later attended the Royal College of Music, becoming one of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford's first female composition students. Following her criticism of his marital affairs, her father turned her out of the house and cut all funding. Forced to drop out of college, she supported herself through her viola playing. Her compositional career peaked in a brief period, beginning with her viola sonata. She entered the piece in a competition sponsored by Elizabeth Coolidge in 1919 and it tied for first prize in a field of seventy two entrants. "You should have seen their faces when they saw it was by a woman," Coolidge told

Clarke. **Rebecca Clarke's** viola sonata still serves as a staple in viola repertoire decades later.

What early women faced in the music world has led to the success of many proceeding women's compositions. These remarkable women have inspired many girls around the globe. It is important not to let these amazing composers work be forgotten and embrace the change of the music world.

Women in Classical Music

by Peter O'Malley

Classical music has lived for centuries as an important form of art, however the stereotype of a white, male musician has long prevailed, leaving little room for diversity or representation. Yet there have been many trailblazing women who have made significant contributions to the art as composers, teachers, and performers. Among those women are late cellist Jacqueline du Pré, violist Tabea Zimmerman, singer Marian Anderson, and conductor Marin Alsop.

Jacqueline du Pré

British cellist **Jacqueline du Pré** was one of the most influential musicians of the twentieth century, known best for her performances and recordings of the Elgar and Dvořák concertos and other monumental works of the cello repertoire. Though her career was tragically cut short at age twenty-eight with a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, her legacy as a virtuoso cellist and passionate interpreter of classical music continues to inspire musicians and audiences today.

Tabea Zimmerman

Tabea Zimmerman is a German violist. She has recently served residencies with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Berlin Philharmonic, and is currently an Artistic Partner with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Her 2009 recordings of works by Max Reger and JS Bach and 2014 recordings of works by Hindemith awarded her Echo Klassik awards as Instrumentalist of the Year.



Tabea Zimmerman

Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra

Marian Anderson

Contralto **Marian Anderson** was one of the most celebrated singers of the twentieth century, and in 1955 she was the first African American singer to perform at the Metropolitan Opera. She sang at the March on Washington in 1963 and was the first recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963.

Marin Alsop

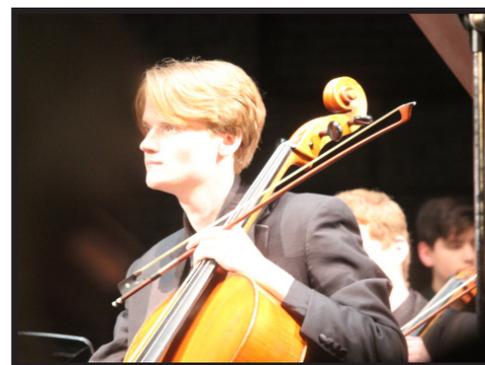
A protégé of the late Leonard Bernstein, **Marin Alsop** is among today's greatest conductors. She made history as the first woman appointed Music Director of a major American orchestra and has conducted the premieres of works by American composers John Adams, Philip Glass, and Jennifer Higdon.

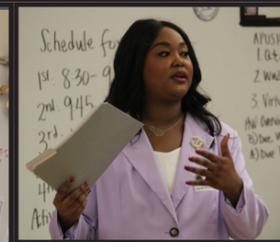
The stories of Jacqueline du Pré, Tabea Zimmerman, Marian Anderson, and Marin Alsop demonstrate the significant contributions that women have made to classical music as performers, conductors, and composers. These trailblazing musicians have challenged traditional gender and racial barriers in classical music, and their legacies continue to inspire and influence musicians and audiences around the world. By celebrating their accomplishments, we can recognize the vital role that women have played in the development of classical music, and work towards a more inclusive and diverse future for this important art form.

Sinfonietta Holds Thrilling Concert Downtown

Photos by Anna Garziera

On Friday, March 3, world renowned violinist Francisco Fullana played with the Sinfonietta at the Sottile Theatre, as part of a residency through Chamber Music Charleston.





SOA Hosts First Annual Black History Month Jamboree

Photos by Lauren Holladay and Z'Nyah Nelson



Applause Meets Globally Renowned Violinist Francisco Fullana

by Peter O'Malley

After a rehearsal for a Chamber Music Charleston concert, Applause Editor Peter O'Malley spoke to guest violinist Francisco Fullana about his performances with the Sinfonietta at SOA, Chamber Music Charleston, and CMC Two.

Peter O'Malley: We just got out of rehearsal of the Shostakovich Eighth String Quartet, which we are playing with the Sinfonietta at SOA. You came last year to play with the Sinfonietta; we played Mozart *Serenata Notturna*, Elgar *Serenade for Strings*, and a Bach Harpsichord Concerto. What did you enjoy when working with the orchestra last year, and what do you look forward to this year?

Francisco Fullana: Well, I felt like last year we really wanted to cover as many styles as possible, and also wanted to feature some of the musicians from the school orchestra. I felt like the Mozart was a really nice way to do that, because it has two solo violins, a solo bass and a solo viola, I believe, and then, of course, the harpsichord concerto is this crazy piece that's very flashy and actually was originally written for violin with a lost manuscript. So, really, thank you to you guys, because I feel like it was a symbiotic situation. That was my very first time playing that piece and I was about to take it on tour and it was extremely helpful to really work on it together and kind of explore things together.

PO: I remember, you came over to my house, and we had a short rehearsal; that was really fun.

FF: And then this year, of course, the centerpiece is the Shostakovich eighth quartet, the string orchestra version, which is, I would say, quite challenging. Yet, so far it's been awesome. It's actually really nice to have more time with you guys, last time there were some issues with flights. This time, we'll have really much more rehearsal time, so that'll be super fun. The contrast of styles is going to be really different because we'll have Strum as well, which I'm very excited about. I haven't played that piece in five or six years, and I feel like working with that, you can get completely different sounds that are both quite extreme and not your standard romantic sound of an orchestra. The more we explore that, the further we go, the better.

PO: You grew up in Spain. How is the music world different in Europe versus the United States?

FF: I think it's slightly less different than people think. First of all, these days, with airplanes and social media, and videos and recordings on both sides of the Atlantic, there's so much more communication and collaboration between musicians. I would say that the styles of playing have become more international and less localized the way it was one hundred years ago, when a violinist from France that lived in Paris sounded completely different to someone from Moscow or someone from New York. Now, there's a lot more back and forth, just slight differences, and priority of the playing at times. And this is, of course, a case by case basis, and it's hard to generalize. But what I really appreciate about European playing is just the way people, especially in the conservatory in Germany, have quite a bit of focus on really understanding the style of Beethoven, Mozart, and Bach, kind of like really deepening that



Francisco and Peter play the Handel-Halvorsen *Passacaglia* at the West Ashley Theatre Center on March 2nd

Chamber Music Charleston

knowledge. And then what I really appreciate with the American schools is this excitement about playing the instrument and sometimes, the personality of the player and it's very contrasting and very exciting. But it really is a case by case basis, teacher by teacher basis, and the difference is minute.

PO: What you do outside of music? Do you have any hobbies?

FF: Yeah. First of all, I get to travel a lot, and that itself is a huge hobby of mine. And there are lots of things that I'm very nerdy about, like credit card points and airline miles and airports and airplanes and things like that. One of my very, very top of the bucket list items is to get my pilot's license at some point when, you know, there's a little bit of extra time. So, yeah, that'll be fun. But apart from that, my hobby that I've been doing quite a bit lately has been scuba diving. I got my open water certificate. And when I have a longer stretch of free time, I try to escape to most of Mexico. I've done the rescue course, and I've done a lot of the extra and more advanced courses and continue with that. As musicians, we can get pretty nerdy about things, and we get these little obsessions, hyper focused on certain things. And so I think with hobbies, it's about the same idea: it's not enough to just kind casually have your basic diving certificate and just go when you're on vacation, but actually kind of develop the skills and understand a bit more of the technical aspect of things. The equipment and all those things. On the other hand, more of something I do for now is cooking. I love cooking. Very Spanish of me. We do love some good food, so I cook as much as I can and if it's Spanish of course, paella or Spanish omelets. But I also like Korean food, Japanese food, and Indian food. I try to make it my own and get into whatever food I've had during my last travel and my last kind of cool, exciting trip.

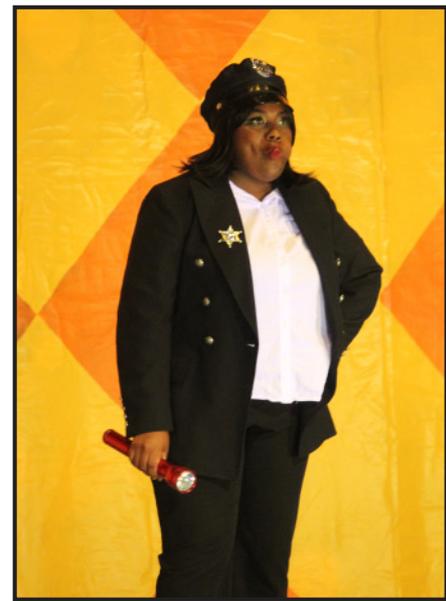
PO: At what point did you decide you wanted to become a professional musician?

FF: Well, I think it started pretty early. I started violin when I turned five, with Suzuki. And my parents were not musicians. So I did things like going swimming, and I took an English after school class. And it got more serious pretty quickly. And then there was a big turning point when I was eight and a half. Actually, a professor from Wisconsin University came to my hometown Majorca, an island in Spain, and I played for him. I was kind of like the little kid who was playing. And he was teaching most high school kids, but I got to play for him. And then he talked to my parents, of course, and then he was like, "Oh, you need to bring your kid to Madrid to have lessons with my former student who's a professor there, concertmaster of the orchestra. And my parents contacted this person and we started going there every few months. And then when I turned eleven, actually, my parents moved from Majorca to Madrid for me to actually study with him and do all that. So I was there for five years before coming to the U.S.

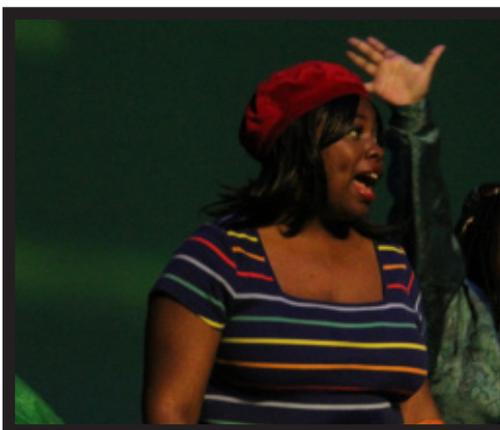
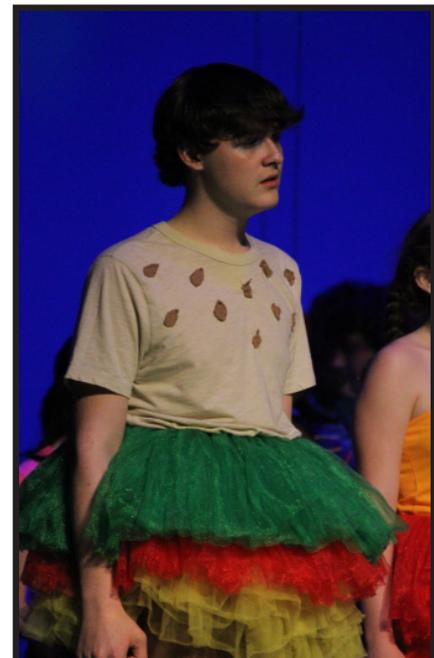


Francisco rehearses Shostakovich with Chamber Music Charleston

Chamber Music Charleston



**SOA's 2022-2023 Production
of *The SpongeBob Musical***
Photos by the Applause Staff



The day I left for the U.S., My parents moved back home. So it was very much just for violin. It was pretty clear that at that point that music was going to be a big part of my life and hopefully something good in my life.

PO: You play on Fritz Kreisler's violin. He was one of the great violinists of history, and you're playing his *Praeludium and Allegro* with the orchestra. Do you feel a connection to that piece, playing on his Guarneri Del Gesu?

FF: It's pretty crazy. It's the first Del Gesu that he owned and concertized on, on the early side of his career. And Kreisler was really famous for his sound. If you listen to any of his recordings, this gorgeous, unique sound, which no one really has anymore, is there. It's very sweet, very warm, very Viennese. Whenever I



Francisco shares his ideas on the Shostakovich with the Sinfonietta

play his music, like *Leibesleid*, or anything that's very singing and sentimental, in a Viennese, or Strauss-like kind of way, I very much hear in the back of my head, the way that he would have played it.

Chamber Music Charleston

PO: Can you tell me about your bow?

FF: It's a lot like *Harry Potter*. Whenever I told non-musicians about how I got the bow, it's a lot like if Harry Potter had a violin. You try a lot of different bows, and they make you sound completely different, and feel completely different. And it's also based on your instrument. I've tried about a hundred bows, and I was able to acquire this bow. It's on the thicker, really pressing sound, and it has, especially in a big hall, a real presence. Especially combined with this violin.

PO: You played Beethoven Op. 18 No. 2 String Quartet and Mozart K. 499 String Quartet with Chamber Music Charleston a couple weeks ago, and on March 5th you played Shostakovich Piano Quintet. Is this the first time you've played any of these works, and do you have a connection to any of them?

FF: For the Mozart and the Beethoven, it's actually the first time I've played them. Which is surprising, because I did quite a few Beethoven quartets, especially in school and into my early to mid twenties. But this one I've never played, and the Mozart 499, one of his later quartets. They're actually both written very close to each other, in time, but also in style. It's a very young, optimistic Beethoven, and a later Mozart, late twenties, which for Mozart was toward the end. So the size of the quartet is much bigger than the other ones, it's longer. And it's really exploring a lot of different harmonies, and the structure of the piece is sort of elongated, and each movement is quite hefty. A lot of his usual harmonies, cadences, little moments of humor, the dialogue he has between the instruments, is very much pushed to the maximum. And even technical things. The first violin part is actually quite challenging, and it reaches almost as high as his A Major concerto. Even in that piece, he only uses that high A three or four times. So for him to use it is kind of surprising, actually. The sound world the piece is creating is really pushed to the maximum.

PO: What do you like the most about Charleston? What are you most excited to do here?

FF: Two things: food and time to explore and just get outdoors and do whatever. Find a spot to eat, maybe get a good cocktail, which are great here. I also really enjoy the history of the place, the art. There's so many little details that are kind of hidden, that you can't really find on a map, or look up. It's more about getting out there, enjoying a beautiful day, and exploring. The last time I was here, I actually enjoyed some great live music. It's actually the same thing, exploring, but in the evening. Going out to dinner and stumbling upon great live, non-classical music that I also really enjoyed. Hopefully that'll happen again too.



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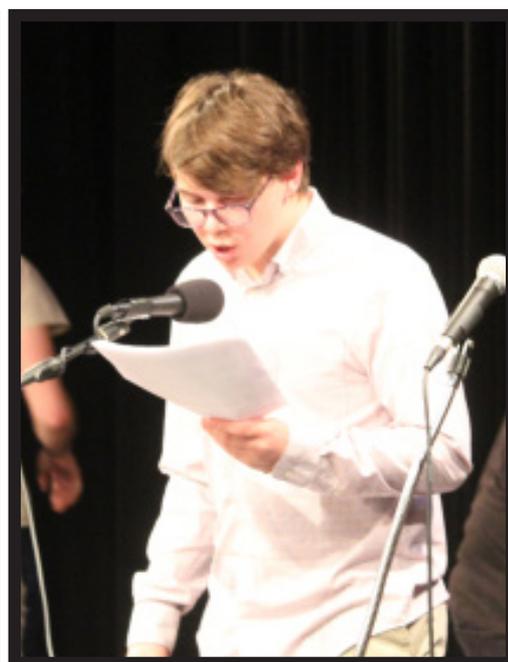
SOA and AMHS Musicians Collaborate in “I Want My MTV: Unplugged”

by Anna Garziera

On Thursday, March 2nd, a talented group of SOA and AMHS musicians got together in the Black Box Theater to perform their first of three shows this Spring. They recreated some of the best hits by Dire Straits, Blondie, and Men at Work (among others), and made the music culture from the early eighties come alive.

With Dr. Cusatis and Mr. Grimshaw overseeing the show, the musicians played fourteen songs, each one better than the last, and for the grand finale, everyone got up on-stage to sing “We Are the World,” by USA for Africa.

The musicians left the crowd fulfilled and excited to play their next show on Wednesday, May 24th in the Rose Maree Myers Theater. There, we can expect great music and a good time.



SOA Fashion Hosts 2023 Fashion Show: “Reach for the Sky”

by Anna Garziera

On March 31st, 2023, the Fashion Design majors will host their annual Fashion Show in the cafeteria, where they will present the collections that they have been working on since August. This year, the grand theme of the show is “Reach for the Sky,” which has been interpreted differently by each fashion student, manifested with their sub-themes to guide their collections.

Keeping with the major’s tradition, the theme was revealed to rising seniors in the last few weeks of their junior year. It was chosen from suggestions made by all of the students but ultimately selected by Ms. Donna Chesborough, the Fashion Design teacher: “The past few years had themes that focused on past events and history. I wanted this year’s theme to be uplifting and with a feeling of positivity for the future. The theme idea I chose was submitted by SOA freshman Marz Watson.”

From sunsets, to air balloons, to butterflies, to star signs, the range of subthemes that will appear on the runway are sure to create a diverse and exciting production. SOA Fashion Design senior Ellison Holland is excited to display her collection on the runway: “I can’t wait for the Fashion Show,” she admits. “It’s crazy to think that it’ll be our last one.”

SOA first-year Fashion Design majors saw a glimpse of what their fellow designers were capable of in the SOA convocation that happened back in December, and cannot wait to display their developing fashionista skills.

With a talented group of thirty-seven designers, Ms. Donna Chesborough is eager to see her students’ garments shine on the runway. “Last year, because of COVID-19 capacity restrictions, the show was split into three locations. This year, with over 700 attendees all in the cafeteria, it will be a fabulous opportunity for the students’ hard work to be showcased and applauded. I can’t wait!” Ms. Donna Chesborough exclaimed. “The fashion show is important to the students because knowing all year long that their designs will be showcased on the runway serves as both motivation and inspiration for the neophyte designers,” she admits, and with that, welcomes us to purchase a ticket and enjoy the upcoming show.

Applause Meets Senior Fashion Majors

Applause staff writers met with SOA 12th grade Fashion majors to discuss their Senior Theses that will be displayed during their annual fashion show.

Anna Garziera

by Peter O’Malley

Peter O’Malley: The theme of the Fashion Show this year is Reach for the Sky. How are you incorporating this into your collection?

Anna Garziera: My collection will reflect vintage flight attendant outfits, featuring colors that are typically used in uniforms and retro silhouettes. In a way, flight attendants are quite literally reaching for the sky every day at work; this year I decided to think outside of the box and take the fashion show theme word for word.

PO: How many of your looks have you completed so far?

AG: I’m quite ahead of where I should be, so I’ve almost completed all eight looks for my collection. I can’t wait to be done, because then I can start working on some pet cap and gowns for my friend Soren Jones as well as pulling together accessories to go with my looks.

PO: Do you have a favorite style?



Applause Staff

AG: I’m usually not too focused on the style of the clothes I wear, but rather on how they fit me. I wear my trusty 501s two hundred days a year with whichever t-shirt is on top of the clean pile, and the other one hundred and sixty-five days, I wear my work clothes, whether I’m working or not. My trusty Clean Juice t-shirts are the exact level of comfort I need on a Sunday afternoon.

PO: What do you most look forward to in the Fashion Show?

AG: Ms. Chesborough is having us speak to the audience about our collections and inspiration, and that is probably the thing I’m looking forward to the least. I’m excited for the show but I’m also excited for it to end. We’ll have so much fun in class after it’s all over.

PO: Whose collection are you most excited to see?

AG: I’m most excited to see how Georgia’s collection will turn out and shine on the runway: I’ve only seen glimpses of her looks, but given that she’s one of the best designers in the senior class, I have high expectations for what she’ll be able to pull off.

PO: What advice do you have for underclassmen Fashion majors?

AG: Every mistake you make is an opportunity to turn your look around and make something wonderful. As Bob Ross puts it, mistakes are just “happy accidents.” I’d say ninety-nine percent of my “creativity” is just a combination of good luck and bad planning. Also, learning to fix small mistakes by hand will save your butt most of the time. There’s nothing some decorative stitching can’t fix.

Beatrice Criscuolo

by Lauren Holladay

Lauren Holladay: What is the theme for this year’s fashion show, and how do you interpret it?

Beatrice Criscuolo: This year, the main theme for the fashion show is “Reach for the Sky.” I am interpreting it pretty literally, as my theme is Hot Air Balloons. There’s a serenity that comes from a deep blue sky, light, wispy clouds, and a tiny, multicolored balloon floating far, far away.

LH: Describe the inspiration behind your collection.

BC: I was lucky enough to find some actual fabric from the envelope of a hot air balloon - the large colorful part that inflates with air and causes the balloon to float. I was really inspired by the huge squares in different jewel tones, unique texture, and the rope system that inflates and deflates the balloon.

LH: What is your favorite piece in your collection, and why is it your favorite?

BC: My favorite has to be the final piece in the collection - incidentally the first one I made. Worn by the fabulous Tyler Bas, it is a huge, multi-paneled, multicolored skirt with a woven corset top. You might remember it from convocation! I feel as though it is really representative of a hot air balloon, with the skirt the same shape and colors as the envelope of a balloon, and the top like a basket.

LH: What challenges did you face while working on your pieces?

BC: I faced the challenge of fabric. I have this amazing hot air balloon fabric, but needed to incorporate other fabrics as well. It was difficult to find fabrics that I felt really embodied my designs until I realized that I could just make my own! You can design your own print and then upload it onto a website, and you will have whatever type of fabric you want sent to your door. I wove pieces of burlap together to imitate a basket, and turned that pattern into a piece of silk. It was a really fun way to get around not being able to find fabric at the local fabric store. I would suggest everyone try it sometime.

LH: Do you have a clothing style that is your favorite to create?

BC: I like to design a mix of casual and formal outfits. I will never say no to a



Anna Garziera

fun pair of shorts, but a classy, long dress will always be in the back of my head.

LH: What made you want to pursue fashion, and do you plan to pursue it further after graduating from SOA?

BC: Ever since I can remember, clothing has been my method of self-expression. You can pretty much tell what kind of day I'm having based on what I'm wearing. I feel that the most important thing about fashion is that you feel beautiful in what you're wearing. To have the skills to help someone feel beautiful is a strength - one that I wanted to pursue in the Fashion major here at SOA. I learned so much about fashion, and I am so grateful for the experiences that I have had. I don't plan to pursue an education or career in fashion, but I know that the things I have learned will never leave me, and who knows, you might see my name in a fashion magazine someday.

LH: What advice would you give to future SOA Fashion majors working on their senior theses?

BC: Plan it out, don't get behind, but take risks!

Jillian Lovely

by Gracie Pennington

Gracie Pennington: What inspired you to pursue fashion?

Jillian Lovely: I was interested in the Fashion major when I first applied to SOA, but I have become more interested in pursuing it as a career throughout the past four years as I have gained experience and become better at sewing.

GP: What theme or idea inspired your pieces?

JL: At the end of the year after the fashion show, Ms. Donna comes up with a theme for the next year (this year it is Reach for the Sky). Then, all the students pick a theme that is similar to the overall theme that was given. This led to my choice to make my collection based on sunrises, as it represents positivity and the start of a new day.

GP: What is your favorite piece that you have created for the fashion show?

JL: My favorite piece that I have created for the fashion show is definitely my last look. It is a yellow dress that represents the sun and the final stage of the sunrise when the sun has fully risen.

GP: What were some challenges that you faced while preparing for the fashion show?

JL: Some challenges that I faced while preparing were trying to finish college applications, keeping up my grades, and turning in looks as they were due.

GP: How would you say that the Fashion major is different from the other majors?

JL: I think Fashion is different from the other majors because it is more hands-on instead of just reading sheet music or painting a picture. It also is different because we only have one event for the whole school year, while other majors have a lot of performances during the school year.

GP: What are your plans after graduation? Will you continue to pursue fashion design?

JL: I hope to attend SCAD when I graduate as a Fashion major and eventually work at Disney as a costume designer for movies after I graduate college.

Lilian Thomas

by Giovanni Cusatis

Giovanni Cusatis: What is the theme of your collection and what has been your inspiration for it?

Lilian Thomas: My theme is Monarch Butterflies. I chose this theme because of my love for nature and admiration for butterflies. In a symbolic sense, butterflies represent transformation and hope in many cultures. Butterflies go from defenseless chrysalis to angelic creatures soaring through the air;

this intense transformation takes a lot of strength and force, but they push through and come out on the other end stronger than ever. In my collection, I wanted to highlight this process to show the importance of pushing through any struggle or complex transformation you may face.

GC: Who are your models?

LT: My models this year are Elizabeth Hornig, Julia Dubai, Kalea Vincion, Kaitlyn Pinckney, Leilah Baird, and Linnea Ransford. And then I also have two models from outside of SOA.

GC: Do you have a favorite piece in your collection?

LT: My favorite piece is the dress I am putting on the lovely Julia Dubai. It is a form-fitting dress with leather down the middle and then butterfly printed velvet down the sides of the dress.

GC: Have you faced any challenges while working on your pieces?

LT: One of my biggest challenges while working on my collection was finding fabric with monarch butterflies on it. There are a lot of butterfly fabrics out there, but there are not many with specifically monarch butterflies on the print. Another would have to be working on this collection while applying to colleges.

GC: What are you most excited for regarding the fashion show?

LT: I am most excited about showcasing my collection to my family and friends, and seeing my peers' collections. We have all worked so hard and I am excited to see what everyone has done.

GC: Do you plan on continuing fashion and design after graduation? If not, what do you hope to pursue?

LT: I am not planning on continuing fashion and design after high school. I want to go into medicine and eventually become an OB-GYN.

GC: Do you have any advice for rising seniors looking to complete their thesis?

LT: My advice to rising seniors is to start your collections early, like start having ideas over the summer, so that when the time comes to apply for colleges, you aren't running behind on your fashion collection.

Ellison Holland

by Anna Garziera

Anna Garziera: How are you using the theme of the Fashion Show, "Reach for the Sky," to inspire your collection this year?

Ellison Holland: I am using the theme "Reach for The Sky" to inspire my collection by taking inspiration from different animal constellations and using those animals to model my different garments.

AG: Which one of your looks are you most excited for, and why?

EH: I'm most excited for my "Lion" look because I've never done anything like it before, and it uses some very interesting fabrics.

AG: How many looks have you completed so far? Are you on track to finish on time?

EH: I have four looks completed so far and I'm currently working on two, with another two more to go. It's definitely crunch time, but I will be good to go by March 31st.

AG: What are some challenges you have faced while sewing your looks for the fashion show?

EH: The biggest challenge has been staying focused on my work while having so many fun things to do during senior year.

AG: What will you work on once the fashion show is over?

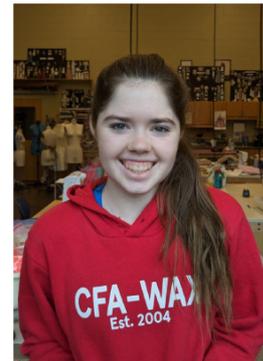
EH: Once the fashion show is over, I think my mom has a whole list of things for me to fix for her.



Anna Garziera



Anna Garziera



Anna Garziera

SOA Athletes Shine for AMHS track team.

by Giovanni Cusatis



Grey Gaidies (second from left) warms up for the high jump. He cleared 9 feet on the pole vault at the Wildcat Classic on March 4,



Nadia Fox and former SOA student Kate Selvitelli get ready to practice hurdles.



Luciano Cusatis prepares to throw the discus at the Wildcat Classic.

Congratulations to SOA's Luke Shackelford for winning the 800 meter run in a stellar 2 minutes and 3 seconds at the Wildcat Classic at West Ashley High School on Saturday, March 4!

Choosing classes for next year?
Sign up for Journalism and become
a part of our staff!

Check out our archive at soa-applause.com to view our publications, dating back to 1999.

High School Theater Majors Succeed in SC Thespian and Palmetto Dramatic Association State Festival

From February 24th to 26th, thirty-five high school Theater Students attended the SC Thespian and Palmetto Dramatic Association State Festival, where they had the opportunity to compete and prepare in individual and duet pieces, as well as a large one-act show. Congratulations to the many SOA Theater students that won awards for their performances!

Individual Event Winners:

In this category, the top rating is Superior and is a difficult level to achieve.

Solo Acting

Law Fox, Ramere Kelly, Ava Borelli, Henry Hipp, Reilly Dukes, Alecia Jenkins, Jordan Dunne, Jolin Pan, and Kenya Hines

Duet Acting

Ava Borelli and Ela Sanyal, and Liv Dewhirst and Marin Morris

Solo Musical

Annika Baran, Avery DeTitta, Jesse Price, Ramere Kelly, Tai'La Wilson, Tyler Caplea, Cody Newman, and Morgan Schatmeyer

Duet Musical

Tyler Caplea and Cody Newman, Morgan Schatmeyer and Avery DeTitta, and Marin Morris and Liv Dewhirst

Showcase Winners:

These students not only achieved a Superior rating, but were also in the top 3%-5% of their Individual Event Category.

Solo Acting

Law Fox and Ramere Kelly

Duet Musical

Morgan Schatmeyer and Avery DeTitta, and Cody Newman and Tyler Caplea

Solo Musical

Cody Newman

**Congratulations,
winners!**

One-Act Play Awards:

The awards in this category refer to the students' performances in the one-act performance of *The Elephants Graveyard*, by George Brant. SOA had the most individual cast members honored, and two of the judges awarded the performance with a perfect score.

Overall Play Rating: Superior
Outstanding Achievement
Outstanding Ensemble

Excellence in Acting
Carsyn Smith and Annika Baran

Superior Acting
Law Fox, Morgan Schatmeyer, Avery DeTitta, RJ Jenkins, and Gilliane Russell

**Blair Beasley Award of Excellence
Scholarship**
Carsyn Smith

LEON
STAVRINAKIS
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSE

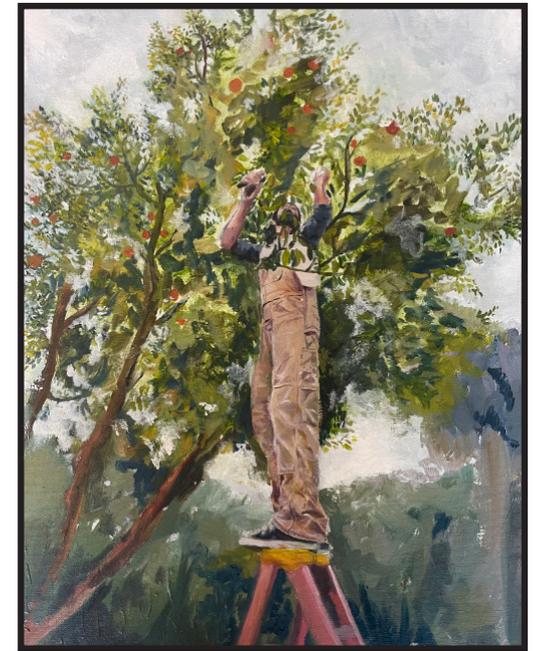




"Fish Face"
by Cesar Ramirez-Pulido, 9th grade



"Untitled"
by Evyn Angelos, 8th grade



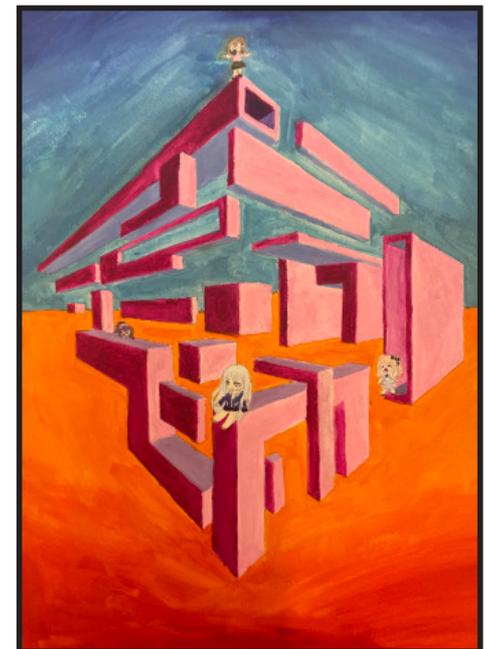
"Dad"
by Amelia Counts, 9th grade



"Gun Control"
by Abby Short, 12th grade



"Señor Don Gato"
by Emily Apostolico, 12th grade



"Untitled"
by Audrey Cen, 7th grade



"Home"
by Rory Gregory, 12th grade



"Erosion"
by Jaidon Richardson, 9th grade

Contemporary Movie Review: *Everything, Everywhere, All At Once*

by Gracie Pennington

I can't really write anything. No words can describe how much *Everything, Everywhere, All At Once* truly feels unless you go and watch it yourself. I'm going to try to put my thoughts down in writing as vaguely as possible because this movie is most definitely best experienced blind.

The movie begins in a whirlwind of chaos, and doesn't offer any safety belts whatsoever. Evelyn Wang, played by the incredible Michelle Yeoh, is a Chinese-American laundromat owner in American suburbia. Her life is packed with responsibilities and torn relationships; her marriage to her husband Waymond is on the brink of falling apart, and her relationship with her daughter is strained due to generational differences. This is all weighed down by her grandfather's overwhelming expectations, along with her troubles with the IRS. All of this plays out in front of our eyes at a lightning pace. In the exposition you meet the characters, setting, and situation all at once. It's one thing after another, after another—rapid fire introductions of characters and conflicts appear left and right. It's chaotic and overwhelming, executed beautifully. We feel as if we are standing directly in the main character's shoes and witnessing her life firsthand.

The film draws you in during the first fifteen minutes only to masterfully subvert every expectation of the story you ever had. Underneath its slice-of-life exterior lies an edge-of-your-seat thriller of inter-dimensional travel and exciting, incredibly choreographed fight scenes. Evelyn is thrown face-first into the rift, her only instructions being to connect with versions of herself from the parallel universes to destroy a malevolent being that transcends space and time.

Everything, Everywhere, All At Once is a beautiful amalgamation of thriller, martial arts, science fiction, and surreal humor wrapped up into one, but at the center of it all lies a heartfelt and relatable story about the importance of family. I easily cry at movies—like, incredibly easily. Heck, I teared up during *The Lego Movie*. Out of all the movies I have seen in my lifetime, however,



Everything, Everywhere, All At Once is the one that made me cry the most. It's a subversive masterpiece that will likely change your viewpoint on life.

Contemporary Movie Review: *Winnie The Pooh: Blood and Honey*

by Z'Nyah Nelson

Winnie-the-Pooh: Blood and Honey (2023) is the newest movie from Rhys Frake-Waterfield. The story follows Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet as they take a bloodthirsty vengeance on humanity in retribution for Christopher Robin when he returns to the Hundred Acre Wood from college.

As a child, Christopher met a group of anthropomorphic creatures including Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet. He became friends with them, but as he grew older, he began college and left them behind. The main character is Winnie-the-Pooh (Craig David Dowsett), along with Piglet (Chris Cordell), Christopher Robin (Nikolai Leon), and his wife, Mary (Paula Coiz).

The movie focuses on terrorizing a group of young university students who rent a cabin in the woods. Rhys Frake-Waterfield illustrates how Pooh Bear and Piglet become hostile to every human, especially Christopher. Later on, in the movie, they start killing people who are in the Hundred Acre Wood because of their hatred towards humanity. In my opinion, *Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey* is a cheesy movie and definitely not my type of horror movie, but so many others consider it a favorite cheesy movie of the year.

Props to the director, Rhys Frake-Waterfield, and producer, Scott Jeffrey, and the entire crew for making this adaptation of *Winnie-the-Pooh* what it is. *Winnie-the-Pooh: Blood and Honey* is rated R for intense violence and terror, which could include strong language and drug use. It has a 5% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and a 3.9 on IMDB. But if you have a strong stomach, and you enjoy a cheesy (and slightly terrifying) take on some classic children's characters, this movie is for you.

Classic Movie Review: *Coach Carter*

by Eliana Gross

Released in 2005, *Coach Carter* is the true story of the Richmond High Oilers from Richmond

High School in California, starring Samuel L. Jackson as Ken Carter and directed by Thomas Carter (no relation). In the movie, Ken Carter returns to his old high school as a coach to change the players' lives for the better. In 1999, Carter made headlines for suspending basketball practices and games due to low academic scores.

Originally the students were rude to each other and Carter and couldn't work together, but with time, (and a contract he made them sign if they wanted to stay on the team), they eventually turned into a great team with a full season win streak. As the movie progresses, you learn about the team's personal lives and why basketball and Coach Carter had such an important role in keeping them in school and safe.

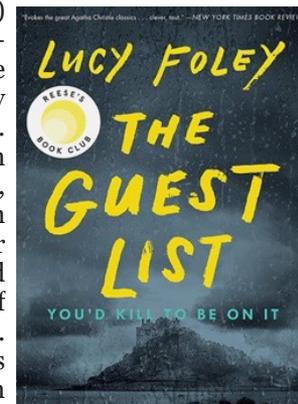
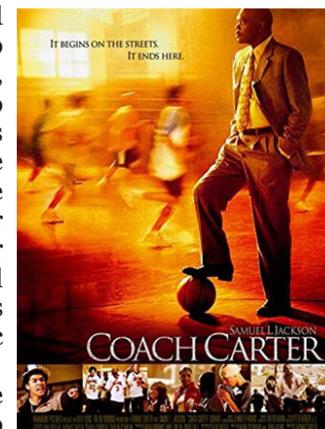
It's a heartwarming, inspirational, and surprisingly true story, according to the real Ken Carter, who said that it was 98.5% accurate to real life events. It was received well and opened number one at the box office with a Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Weekend total of over 29 million dollars.

Contemporary Book Review: *The Guest List*

by Beatrice Criscuolo

The Guest List's cover, a rainy photo of an island in the sea, perfectly matches the story behind it: a dark mystery full of twists, turns, and uncovered secrets. The novel begins with a murder on the night of a wedding, but you don't find out the victim's identity until the end, leaving you with a cynicism that lasts throughout the book.

Julia (Jules) Keegan and Will Slater—a couple of the year—are eager to escape celebrity life for their wedding. They book a venue on a remote Irish island, Inis an Amhlóra, run by wedding planner Aofie and husband Freddy, with hopes of an intimate wedding. However, it promises to be anything but with the arrival of Will's rowdy school friends, strange pranks, and freshly-disclosed relationships. The story jumps forward and backward in time as well as between characters



to reveal new information about each member of the wedding party, including bridesmaid Olivia, plus-one Hannah, and best man Johnno. Each person has a secret, and as these secrets are revealed, the mystery gets messier and messier.

Lucy Foley is on a mission: to deliver a timeless murder mystery, detectable in the juxtaposition between slim novel and meaty plot—and she has succeeded. *The Guest List* has what every timeless murder mystery has: not only twists and turns, but in-depth character development and captivating suspense. It's easy to get lost in all of the narratives mixing together, so the best way to read *The Guest List* is all in one go—but it won't be hard. The pages practically turn themselves.

Video Game Review: *Valorant* Agent Tierlist

by Madison McDonald and Yatawee Petchsuriya

Cypher

Yatawee's Take: Cypher's ultimate ability allows him to locate all remaining foes by targeting a deceased enemy. He can also utilize a "cage," which has a similar function to a smoke by blocking visibility. He can install a camera in which he can easily gather information on enemies camping corners. However, the camera can be shot down, and Cypher must access it at the expense of his character being unable to move as the camera view takes up the entire screen. The character may be more difficult to master, as he requires extra familiarity of the maps and enemy locations. When Cypher is played correctly, he can become a versatile character and provide clever plays, giving him great potential.

Madison's Take: Cypher is still one of the lower ranked agents, despite his massive buff. He used to be dead last. His cages are good: they can be moved, they are versatile, and can be used for one way. His camera has a lot of potential, but due to its ability to be shot, it can be very hard to use. His tripwires are unfortunately very easy to see and his ultimate is generally underwhelming.



Brimstone

Yatawee's Take: Brimstone is absolutely overpowered, no question. His molotov? It's iconic, and everyone enjoys throwing around the hot sauce. Enemies that step in this ability take damage, so make sure to not step in it yourself. Overall, his molotov is really good for holding places on the map. His ultimate is Orbital Strike, where everything within range is immediately blasted with fire. With this ability, enemies caught rapidly have their HP drained very quickly, and if they survive, they are only a few shots away from being defeated. However, if your own teammates are affected by these two abilities, they will also be injured.

Madison's Take: Brimstone is another interesting character, as his abilities can either be super useful or super useless. His stim beacons can provide a significant boost while attacking, increasing one's firing speed. He has three smokes, which are really useful in any situation. His molotov and his ultimate are incredibly conditional because enemies can see them both coming and can move out of range. He is great with planting and defusing denial, but he will also have to rely on sound cues and timing to get things right.

Phoenix

Yatawee's Take: Phoenix is an interesting duelist, as he summons walls and a molly (short for molotov) in which he can touch to heal himself. Phoenix's walls can work to cut sites on the map in half. These abilities do not discriminate against other teammates or enemies as they take damage when they come into contact with the summons. While his flash has become insanely difficult to dodge, it is also quite excellent...at blinding teammates and Phoenix himself.

His ultimate gives him a short window of time where he can be revived from where he first activated the ability when he gets shot, making it highly offensive. Players can charge into enemy held sites. Overall, Phoenix provides a real flashy gameplay for the entire lobby.

Madison's Take: In theory, Phoenix seems like he would be a great pick. He can heal himself, he has a wall that can be curved (and it hurts enemies), a molly, two flashes, and he can revive himself (sort of) with his ultimate. Unfortunately, Phoenix is known for flashing his teammates (sometimes purposefully), burning his teammates (sometimes purposefully), and having his angry teammates leave his respawn point unattended, allowing the enemy to kill him in an incredibly embarrassing way (usually purposefully). At best he is a selfish duelist, at worst he is a hindrance to his team. Usually, he is just kind of useless unless played by a pro.

See the Fashion Show on March 31st!



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Horoscopes

by Cate Traywick



Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Happy Birthday Pisces!! You're my favorite (don't tell Sagittarius), so I've come to you with a few tidbits of wisdom to help you out in the coming month. First, don't take advice from anyone with a name starting with A. Second, if you receive a text from an unknown number, don't ignore it. And third, wear blue next Wednesday. Trust me, it'll pay off.



Aries (March 21 - April 19): Spring is upon us, Aries! But I didn't need to tell you. Judging by your dry throat and constant sniffles, I'm sure that you already know that the seasons are changing. Oh, Aries, the pollen has hit you harder than anyone else, and I pity you. You have been finding yourself blowing your nose and holding in coughs all throughout class, and you're probably a little embarrassed. It's okay Aries, it'll pass. Probably.



Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Taurus! It's time to be accountable for your actions. Stop blaming every mistake you make on your zodiac sign. And don't try to deny it; I watched you miss a question on a Blooket game in Spanish and then scoff while saying, "That is such a Taurus question to mess up on!" No, it isn't, you just don't know what the present progressive form of comer is (it's comiendo, by the way).



Gemini (May 21 - June 20): It's only March, but you seem to already be checked out for summer. I hate to break it to you, Gemini, but we're still two and a half months away, and as much as you'd like to deny it, your schoolwork is still very much there. But I guess I'll allow it. We've only got a month until Spring Break, so you might as well stop working now.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Cancer, I couldn't help but notice that you have been shying away from confrontation. Stop it. The things that you need to deal with (socially speaking) have been piling up, and now is the time to check those boxes. I know that it usually isn't your style Cancer, but don't be afraid to stir the pot!



Leo (July 23 - August 22): This month, you may find yourself lacking the fire that people normally associate with your sign. Maybe you feel overwhelmed or maybe you're sick or maybe you're just exhausted. Don't worry, Leo! It's hard being the smartest and funniest and most charismatic person all the time, don't be afraid to take a breather. Actually, you know what? Take a nap, Leo, you deserve it.



Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Virgo, as much as I'd like to give you big news, I can't. There will be absolutely nothing interesting happening to you in the coming months. Maybe it's a good thing? Use this drama-free downtime to catch up on the long list of movies you've been meaning to watch. Just avoid Adam Sandler, Baz Lurhmann, and any 21st century *Indiana Jones* movies.



Libra (September 23 - October 22): Keep practicing all those obscure and unhelpful skills, Libra! Maybe the fact that you can recite the alphabet backward will help you pass your English test. Maybe your weird talent of unsticking Lego bricks from each other will help you get into college. Keep at that Marge Simpson impression; it may come in handy one day!



Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Scorpio, it's time to play catch up. You have so many lists of things to read or watch or listen to, and you need to just do it. That stack of books on your nightstand that's been plaguing you for months? Read them. That queue of podcast episodes that sits, collecting dust in your Spotify? Listen to them. The movies and TV shows that have been piling up on your Netflix watchlist? Watch them all. You got this, Scorpio!



Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Sagittarius! St. Patrick's Day is coming up, and you know what that means. You'll get relentlessly bullied for being part Irish and vaguely leprechaun-like. So it looks like there are two options for you. The first is to take the teasing and hang your head low in Irish shame. OR, my dear Sag, you could own it and pinch everyone you see. The choice is yours.



Capricorn (December 22 - January 20): Oh Capricorn, you'll truly do anything if it means that you won't have to do your work. It's almost as if you have a to-do list of internet games to play before you even consider paying attention. Wordle, Contexto, New York Times Mini, and you've even been dabbling in Sudoku! Don't worry Capricorn, there's no judgment here. Who needs to be good at algebra? Your time on last Thursday's Mini was twenty-three seconds!!



Aquarius (January 21 - February 18): I don't know what you did Aquarius, but your birthday wish came true! Finally, grilled cheese is a regular item on the lunch menu and I don't know a single person who isn't over the moon about it! Twice a month we get a delectable meal of poorly melted American cheese between two pieces of overly buttered and strangely crisp bread and it is entirely to your credit! Cheers to you, Aquarius!

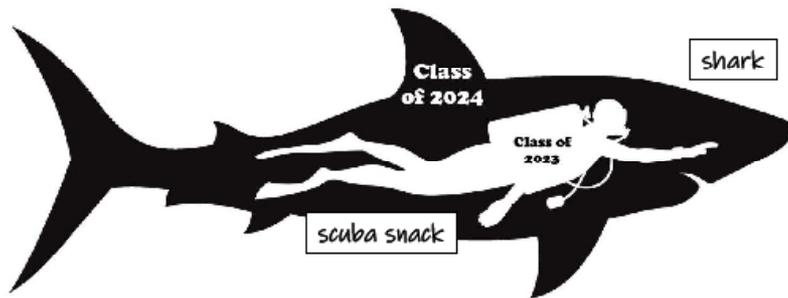
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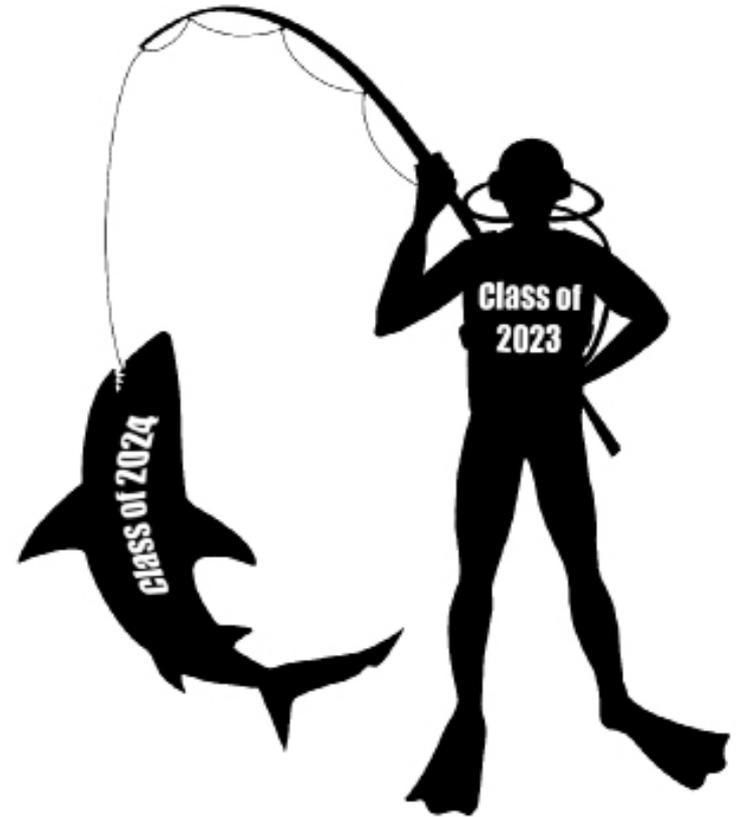
swim... swim... splash... scream... chomp



Powderpuff Game, March 10th, 2023,
or, for the Junior Class, dinner time



Go where
the food is...



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SOA 2022-2023 Powderpuff Game

Friday, March 10th

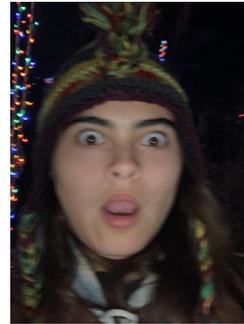
Senior vs. Juniors

Women's History Month Trivia

by Gracie Pennington

1. Which popular singer won the Grammy Award for Album of the Year the most times (three times)?
2. Which influential woman's activism sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
3. Who was the first female US Secretary of State?
4. Who was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame?
5. Which author wrote the classic novel Frankenstein?
6. Who is the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate who advocated for the education of women and children?
7. Who was the first female US Supreme Court justice?
8. Which influential American woman is the most well known Underground Railroad conductor?
9. Who was the first openly transgender woman to appear on Time Magazine's cover?
10. Who was the first female pilot to operate a transatlantic flight?

Aryana Chinn, 12th grade Visual Arts



Provided

4/10

1. Beyoncé
2. Rosa Parks
3. Uhm... (I don't know)
4. Britney Spears
5. It was a woman...?
6. Malala Yousafzai
7. Ruth Bader Ginsberg
8. Harriet Tubman
9. Uhm... (I don't know)
10. Amelia Earhart

Aidan Penna, 12th grade Creative Writing



Gracie Pennington

8/10

1. Taylor Swift
2. Rosa Parks
3. Madeleine Albright
4. Janis Joplin
5. Mary Shelley
6. Malala Yousafzai
7. Sandra Day O'Connor
8. Harriet Tubman
9. Caitlyn Jenner
10. Amelia Earhart

Answers

1. Taylor Swift, 2. Rosa Parks, 3. Madeleine Albright, 4. Aretha Franklin, 5. Mary Shelley, 6. Malala Yousafzai, 7. Sandra Day O'Connor, 8. Harriet Tubman, 9. Laverne Cox, 10. Amelia Earhart

March Playlist

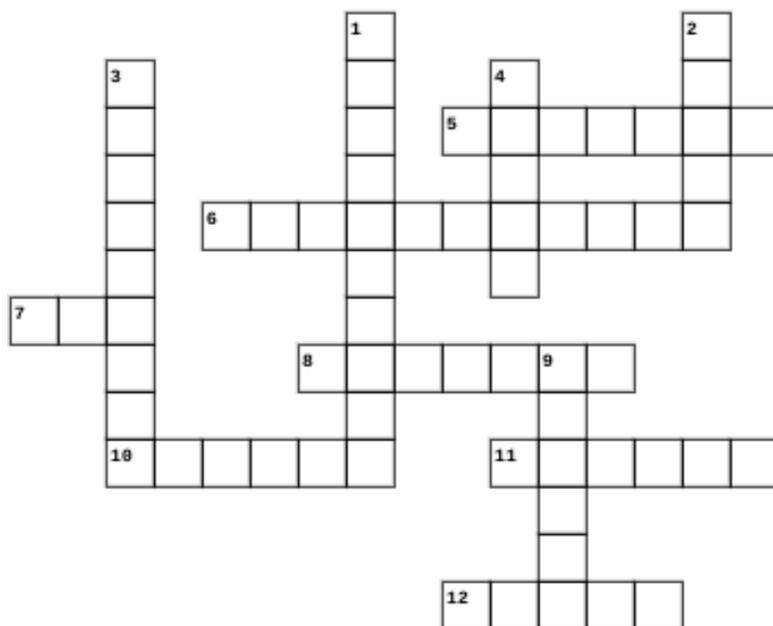
by Beatrice Criscuolo

As I began to create this playlist in February, I thought it was only fair to honor Black History Month along with Women's History Month. Here is a compilation of songs by amazing Black, female artists, from Ella Fitzgerald to Lizzo.



St. Patrick's Day Crossword

by Manny Stavrinakis



Across

5. The country where leprechauns are born.
6. The day St. Patrick's day falls on every year.
7. An Irish dance.
8. The Saint that is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland.
10. The capital of Ireland.
11. A starchy vegetable associated with Ireland.
12. The third month of the year.

Down

1. Figures in Irish folklore who guard hidden treasure.
2. What happens if you do not wear green on St. Patrick's Day.
3. Found at the end of a rainbow.
4. The color of a shamrock.
9. If it has four leaves and is considered lucky.



Strings Word Search

by Manny Stavrinakis

- BACH
- MOZART
- BASS
- PIANO
- BEETHOVEN
- PIZZICATO
- CELLO
- TCHAIKOVSKY
- CHOPIN
- TENUTO
- FORTE
- TUTTI
- HANDEL
- VIOLA
- MODERATO
- VIOLIN

SOA Sudoku

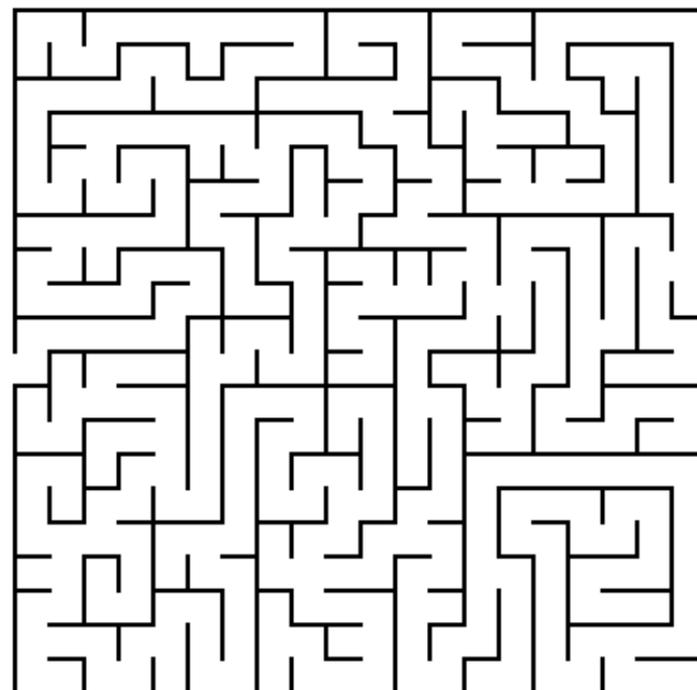
by Manny Stavrinakis

5		1	6		8			
9	4							8
6					2			9
8				5		9	1	
		5				4		
	3	7		2				6
7			1					5
4							6	3
			2		4	8		1



Help Mr. Clark find the beach!

by Manny Stavrinakis





"Legally Blonde or Cars 2"

Helen Traywick, 6th grade Dance



"The Lorax"

Rosilee Hicks, 7th Grade Theater



"Ride Along"

Maddison Logan, 8th grade Theater



"Aladdin"

Ms. Do, Focus Facilitator



"Love, Actually"

Ms. Sullivan, Middle School Social Studies

If you could watch one movie for the rest of your life, what would it be?

by Isis Hanna



"Pulp Fiction"

Ms. Greig, High School Science



"Inception"

Sadie Scozzaro, 9th grade Theater



"The Life Aquatic"

Gavin Lahmon, 10th grade Theater



"Tangled"

Ashley Peterson, 11th grade Piano



"Rush Hour with Jackie Chan and Eddie Murphy"

Capers Tabrizian, 12th grade Strings