

Carson City Schools

Presents



13th Annual CHOIRPALOOZA

Monday March 23rd, 2026 6:00 PM
Carson High School, Morse Burley Gymnasium

Carson City Schools 13th Annual “CHIORPALOOZA”

Thursday March 23rd, 2026 6:00 PM

Carson High School, Morse Burley Gymnasium

Program:

Elementary School Choirs

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS Arranged by Audrey Snyder

Directed By: Dominick Van Orman—Seeliger Elementary School

Little Birch Tree, Arranged by Mary Goetze

Flute: Christina Bourne

Directed By: Ashley Cosens—Fremont Elementary School

It’s Only a Paper Moon, Arranged by Mac Huff

Directed by: Cassidy Paul—Fritsch Elementary School

Middle School Choirs

Piano Accompaniment: Sue Kinney

Together We Are Better (When We Sing) by Greg Gilpin

Directed By: Briana Valley – Carson Middle School

Congas: Jon Brill

Ad Astra (To the Stars...) by Jacob Narverud

Directed By: Jon Brill – Eagle Valley Middle School

High School Choirs

Directed By: Andy Sonnemaker

Choir I / II Combined

Niño Precioso, Arranged by Rosephanye Powell

Instrumentalist: Lilly Barker, Chase Boholst, Jaden Wright

Chamber Choir

Blackbird by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, Arranged by Daryl Runswick

Soloist: Lilly Barker

Concert Choir

Shout Glory! Words and Music by Byron J. Smith

Soloists: Lilly Barker and Chase Boholst

Combined School Choirs

Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World, Arranged by Roger Emerson

Ukelele: Dominick Van Orman, Bass: Andy Sonnemaker, Congas: Jon Brill

Directed By: Christina Bourne—Mark Twain Elementary School

Please be courteous by turning off all electronic devices so that they will not disrupt the performance. Please show respect for the performers by not talking whistling or yelling during or after each group performs.

Meet the Directors:

Dominick Van Orman—Seeliger Elementary School

Dominick Van Orman is the Elementary Music Specialist at Seeliger Elementary School. He graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a Bachelor's of Music in Music Education in 2017 and from Colorado State University, Fort Collins with a Master's in Music Education with Kodály certification in December 2023. Along with his Kodály certification, Dominick has also completed Level I of Orff-Schulwerk. He is currently in his 8th year of teaching at Seeliger Elementary School and is happy to call it his home!

Ashley Cosens—Fremont Elementary School

Ashley Cosens is the music specialist at Fremont Elementary School where she teaches K-5 general music, choir, and band. Mrs. Cosens has taught elementary music for 17 years in the northern Nevada area, both in the Carson City School District and Washoe County School District. She holds a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Music Education from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Mrs. Cosens has lived in Nevada for almost as long as her home state of Ohio ("Go Buckeyes!") and she loves to sing, play piano and spend time outdoors with her family.

Cassidy Paul—Fritsch Elementary School

Cassidy Paul is thrilled to be conducting again at this year's ChoirPalooza! She is a graduate of UNR that is now in her 7th year teaching. She is very much enjoying her first year as the music teacher at Fritsch Elementary School! Cassidy is certified in Orff-Schulwerk and uses it heavily in her classroom. She is also passionate about playing trumpet all over Carson City and Reno.

Christina Bourne -- Mark Twain Elementary School

Christina Bourne, Music Educator at Mark Twain Elementary School was born and raised in Carson City, NV. She graduated with honors from Carson High School in 1997. She received her Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Nevada in 2001, obtained her Masters in Music Education in 2007, and has her National Board Certification. Christina has been teaching general music, band, and choir for the Carson City School District for 22 years. She was a Finalist for the Nevada State Teacher of the Year in 2021, was Carson City School District Teacher of the Year for 2009, and Mark Twain's teacher of the year for 2017. Christina enjoys volunteering her time for various community organizations, spending time with her family, and singing professionally in her free time.

Sue Kinney—Piano Accompanist

Sue started accompanying the choirs at Carson High School shortly after moving to Nevada from the Chicago suburbs 15 years ago. She accompanies various choirs in northern Nevada, including the Northern Nevada Honor Choir. She was the most recent conductor of the Tahoe Community Choir, which unfortunately disbanded during the pandemic. She is also the organist at St. John's in the Wilderness Episcopal Church in Glenbrook, NV. Sue's other passion is musical theater. She is the principal keyboard player for the Western Nevada Musical Theater Company and has played in and music directed many productions in the area, most recently "The Spitfire Grill" for Black Ice Theater Co in South Lake Tahoe. You can visit her in the pit for "Newsies", which opens at the Carson Community Center this spring.

Briana Valley – Carson Middle

Miss. Briana Valley grew up in Carson City participating in local Theatre programs at the Brewery Arts Center and Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company. She moved to Reno to obtain her Bachelor of Music Education from UNR. While at UNR, she enjoyed being a part of the University of Nevada Chamber Choir and other music ensembles. While in Nevada Chamber Singers, she was excited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City, New York, and at the National MENC convention in Milwaukee. She graduated with her Masters in Music Education through Kent State University in 2022. Miss. Valley is happy to be back at Carson Middle School (her own middle school) teaching musical theatre and choir. While back in Carson She has been working as the Musical Director for Youth Theatre Carson City, where they have provided high level youth theatre performances for over 10 years. At YTCC, she has been involved in the production of shows such as "Annie Jr.", "Cinderella", "Shrek the Musical" and "The Little Mermaid Jr". Miss. Valley also started performing again with local performing arts groups such as the Western Nevada Musical Theater Company associated with Western Nevada College. She was last seen performing in their musical revue "Home Again", "Mamma Mia" and "Mary Poppins." She has also performed in shows like "Les Miserable" and "The Pajama Game".

Jon Brill – Eagle Valley Middle School

Jon Brill has been a cornerstone of the Eagle Valley Middle School Music Department since August 2001. A Reno, Nevada native, earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1999 and later completed a Master's Degree in Music Composition in 2017. Mr. Brill maintains high expectations for his students, many of whom have earned spots in local and state-level honor ensembles, with some continuing their musical journeys at the collegiate and professional levels. His ensembles have consistently achieved excellent and superior ratings at regional music festivals. In 2007 and 2025, he was honored as Eagle Valley Middle School Educator of the Year. Beyond teaching, Mr. Brill is an active composer, writing for band, orchestra, choir, percussion ensembles, and various chamber groups. Several of his works are published through GPG Music, including his piece In the Dark Shadows of the Moon, which was featured in the 2016 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic new music reading session in Chicago. As a percussionist, Mr. Brill frequently performs with the Reno Wind Symphony and serves as the drummer for the band "Drinking with Clowns." He is a member of ASCAP, Percussive Arts Society, the National Association for Music Education, ACDA, Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Golden Key Honour Society. In his free time, he enjoys the outdoors, loves to run and hike, and is an avid San Francisco Giants fan. Most of all, he loves spending time with his two amazing Black Labs, Thor and Roscoe, especially playing fetch with them.

Andy Sonnemaker -- Carson High School

Andy Sonnemaker is very proud and excited to see ChoirPalooza as a yearly tradition for CCSD since the days when it was merely an idea in his head during his first couple of years teaching CHS. Andy holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Earlham College and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Oklahoma. As a music educator in his thirty-fifth year of public music education, he taught at elementary, middle school, high school and university levels in Indiana, Oklahoma, and Nevada. Currently, he is delighted to be teaching Choir I, Choir II, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, Musical Theatre, Guitar, and Digital Media at Carson High School. In addition, he adores working with students on all of the extras like the Northern Zone Nevada Music Educators Association Honor Choir, the Nevada American Choral Directors Association All-State Choir, Regional and National ACDA Honor Choirs, not to mention the Carson High School Musicals. In his free time, Mr. Sonnemaker loves hiking and seeing the world with his dear wife, Rhonda Holloway, and has been known to spend a bit of whatever spare time there is after all the above hunting for, restoring, and selling vintage fountain pens and related ephemera.

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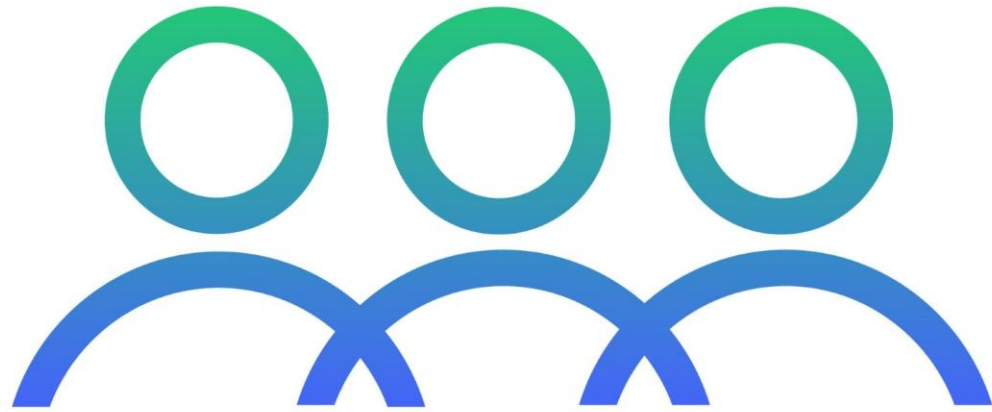
Concert Etiquette

What Is Good Concert Etiquette?

It is the behavior that is considered appropriate and polite, while enjoying or performing a live musical performance. Good concert etiquette shows respect for the conductor, performers, other audience members, and the music that is being performed.

What Should I Do as An Audience Member?

- 1.** Sit quietly and wait for the concert to begin. You may talk softly while you are waiting. Do not talk or make noises during the performance. It can be very distracting to the performers.
- 2.** Applaud after each full piece of music has been completed.
- 3.** Sit quietly during the performance. When a performing organization presents a concert, they are putting forth their best effort; and they should expect the same from those in the audience.
- 4.** Keep concert programs quiet during the performance.
- 5.** If you must get up to leave during a concert, do so only at the end of a group's performance or between pieces. It is best if you stay for the entire concert.
- 6.** Cell phones should be turned off or to mute. Using electronic devices for texting or playing games during the performance is impolite to the performers and those around you.
- 7.** Please use discretion in taking photos. Flash photos during a performance are extremely distracting for all.
- 8.** Parents should keep small children seated with them and not allow them to move around during the concert. If very young children become restless and disrupt others' ability to listen, please take them from the performance area until they are quiet.
- 9.** Be polite even if it is not your child performing.



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