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Orchestra

Georgia Music Educators Association
In-Service Conference



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The background of the entire page is a faded photograph of a brick building. On the left, there is a tall brick tower with a white clock face. To the right of the tower, there are large trees with green and some autumn-colored leaves. In the foreground, there is a brick wall and a paved walkway.

The Harrison High School Chamber Orchestra

Kennesaw, Georgia

The 2025 Annual Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference

Oconee River Room
The Classic Center
Athens, Georgia

Saturday February 1, 2025
11:15 AM

February 1, 2025

Dear Parents and Friends:

The Cobb County School District is proud to be represented at the 2025 Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference by the Harrison High School Chamber Orchestra. Our community is pleased and excited that these fine young musicians have been invited to participate in such a prestigious event.

At a time when many music departments in public school systems across the country are fighting for their existence, we in the Cobb County School District recognize the importance that music plays in our students' lives. As our students move on into the world, their involvement with music will bring creativity and imagination to their work. Their experience will help them move on with many of the skills they will need to be successful in their future careers.

Koji Mori is to be commended for his first-rate leadership and instruction he is providing to students at Harrison High School. Under his direction, students show great commitment and dedication while reaching new levels of musical excellence.

On behalf of the Board of Education, staff, students, parents, and community of the Cobb County School District, I congratulate them and thank GMEA for this opportunity.

Regards,



Chris Ragsdale
Superintendent



Chris Ragsdale
Superintendent
Cobb County School District



Christopher M. Ferrell
Supervisor of Music
Cobb County School District

February 1, 2025

Dear Parents and Friends,

The Cobb County School District is fortunate and proud to have such an outstanding performing arts program at Harrison High School. It is indeed a wonderful honor to be selected to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference. This performance will be an event to remember for parents, students, friends, and faculty. The orchestra program at Harrison High School has had a long-standing tradition of musical excellence. The dedication of students, faculty, administrators, and parents to go beyond the "status quo" will be demonstrated by the performance today.

A commitment to music making is almost a way of life at Harrison. Under the leadership of Koji Mori, the orchestra continues to be a model program for Cobb County and the State of Georgia. We are extremely proud of the quality and professionalism displayed by these young musicians.

We hope that you all enjoy this musical experience. We also thank the GMEA Executive Board for their tremendous support of fine music programs across the state.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Ferrell
Supervisor of Instrumental Music



Harrison High School
Cobb County School District
"One Team, One Goal: Student Success"

Principal: Jeff Milton, Ed.D.

Assistant Principals: Wesley Ellis, Amie Howard, Shaleen Kappel,
Lucia Poole, Matthew Staruch.



2/1/2025

On behalf of the faculty at Harrison High School, I am delighted to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Harrison High School Orchestra, under the exceptional direction of Mr. Koji Mori. Being selected to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association Conference in Athens is a significant honor and a well-deserved recognition of the orchestra's outstanding talent and dedication. We take immense pride in the numerous accolades our orchestra has achieved, as well as the individual accomplishments of our students, which highlight their exceptional musical abilities.

Mr. Mori, along with the orchestra staff and students, works tirelessly to maintain a program of exceptional quality. The invitation to perform at a state-level conference stands as a testament to their unwavering commitment, remarkable talent, and passion for excellence in music.

Harrison High School's orchestra program boasts a long and proud tradition of excellence. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and congratulations to our dedicated teachers, clinicians, supportive parents, and the entire community. Your collective efforts have created an environment where our students can thrive and showcase their talents on such a prestigious stage. This achievement is a reflection of the hard work, collaboration, and support that define our school community.

Sincerely,



Jeff Milton, Ed.D.
Principal
Harrison High School



Jeff Milton
Principal
Harrison High School

Cobb County School District

The Cobb County School District is the second largest school system in Georgia and the 23rd largest in the nation. It serves 105,738 students with 112 schools, including 66 elementary schools, 26 middle schools, 17 high schools, one charter school, one special education center and one adult education center. Located immediately northwest of Atlanta, Cobb County has a population of 755,754 making it Georgia's third most-populous county. NAMM Foundation & American Music Conference named Cobb among the Best Communities for Music Education 20 times. 45,000+ elementary students receive music instruction and an additional 40,000+ students are enrolled in music elective programs: band, chorus, orchestra, general music, music appreciation, piano keyboarding, AP music theory, and guitar. Cobb County Schools have more than 200 state and national Invitational Band, Chorus, and Orchestra Concert Performances.

Our mission is One Team, One Goal: Student Success.

Our vision is a school district of excellence where all students succeed.

Harrison High School

Harrison High School was established in 1991 and has over 2,000 students in attendance. Harrison is located in West Cobb County, Kennesaw, and north of the city of Atlanta. According to the U.S. News & World Report, Harrison ranks in the top 5% of schools nationally. We attribute this to the strong work ethic of our students, the dedication of our teaching staff, and the support from our community. With 70% of our teachers having more than 10 years of classroom experience and 78% having earned a Master's or Advanced degree, we laud our staff as one of our greatest assets. In addition, Newsweek has listed Harrison as one of "America's Top Public High Schools." Statewide, the Georgia Department of Education has denoted Harrison an AP Honor School and has recognized Harrison in the following categories: AP Humanities School, AP Merit School, AP STEM School, and AP STEM Achievement School. Harrison has also earned an A from the Governor's Department of Student Achievement and been named a Georgia School of Excellence. We are a CCSD Certified, Cognia accredited STEM school and one of the top schools in the Cobb County School District. Locally, Cobb Life Magazine has named Harrison "Best of Cobb" in the Public High School category two years in a row.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Amie Howard, *Assistant Principal*
Shay Kappel, *Assistant Principal*
Lucia Poole, *Assistant Principal*
Matt Staruch, *Assistant Principal*

Feeder Schools

Durham Middle School – Susan Goudreau and Matt Segars
Lost Mountain Middle School – Catey Bitinas and Logan Lysaght
McClure Middle School – Kim Alfano

Harrison Orchestra Boosters

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Cello: Jessica Messere
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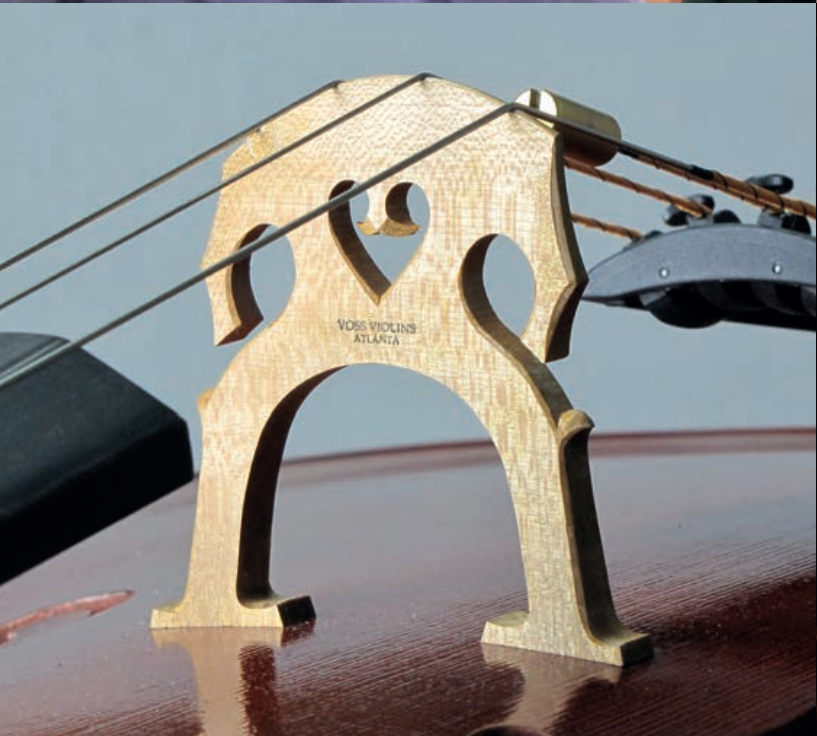
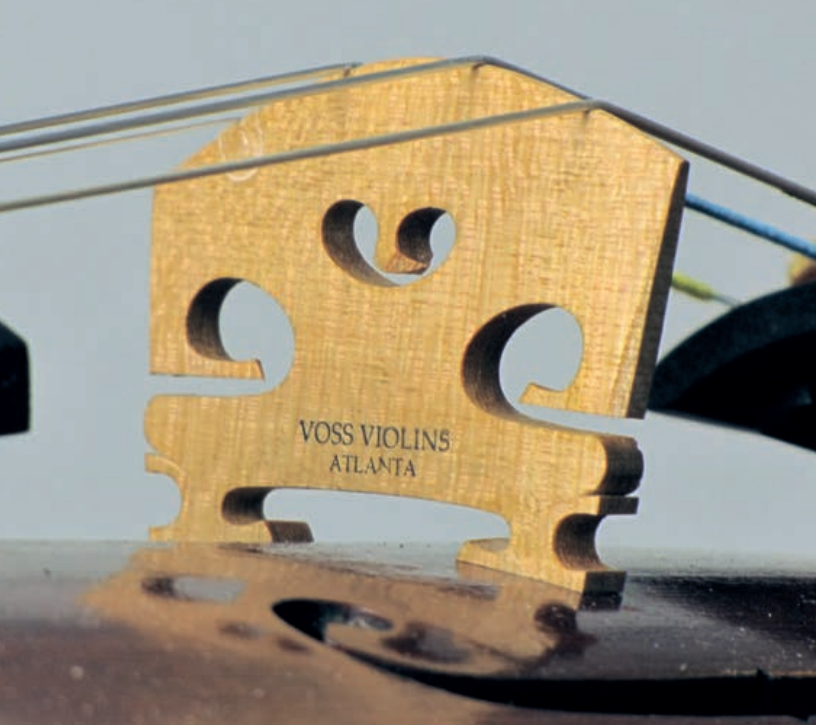
About the Harrison Orchestra Program

The Harrison Orchestra Program is a part of the Cobb County School District's Fine Arts program. The program consists of three orchestras – Concert Orchestra, Classic Orchestra, and Chamber Orchestra. Students meet every day for 90 minutes and through the generous support of the Harrison Orchestra Boosters, students have the opportunity to work with a faculty of outstanding professional musicians on a regular basis. The Harrison Chamber Orchestra is Harrison's most advanced string ensemble and typically performs 6 concerts per year. The Chamber Orchestra combines twice a year with the top players from the Harrison Wind Ensemble to form the Harrison Symphony. All of the Harrison Orchestras consistently receive superior ratings at the annual GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluations.

The orchestra performed at the Kennesaw State University Orchestra Invitational in 2021 and 2022. In 2025, the orchestra will perform at the Music for All National Concert Festival in Indianapolis, IN, the American String Teacher's Association (ASTA) National Conference in Atlanta, GA, and are honored to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in Athens, GA.

Furthermore, the program maintains a chamber music program in association with the Tri-M Honor Society. Individual students in the Harrison Orchestra have been recognized as members of the: Georgia Governor's Honors Program, GMEA District 12 Honor Orchestra, GMEA All-State Orchestras, Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestras, Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra, Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra 2, and other various youth organizations.

In Cobb County, students begin orchestra in the sixth grade. Most students attending Harrison High School come from: Durham Middle School (Susan Goudreau, Director and Matt Segars, Assistant Director), Lost Mountain Middle School (Catey Bitinas, Director and Logan Lysaght, Assistant Director), or McClure Middle School (Kim Alfano, Director.)



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~Program~

Symphony No. 6 "Spirituelle" in G Major, Op. 38 Asger Hamerik (1843-1923)

II. Allegro molto vivace

Asger Hamerik composed his "Symphonie spirituelle" (Symphony No. 6) in 1897 near the end of his long tenure as director of the Peabody Institute in Baltimore (1871-1898). Scored for string orchestra, the work is similar in texture and tenor to that of a string serenade. Symphony No. 6 in G, Op. 38 'Symphonie Spirituelle' was written for string orchestra in 1897, just a few short years before his return to Denmark.

Adoration Florence Price (1887-1953) / arr. Tyler Merideth

Composed two years before her death, Price's "Adoration" was originally written for organ. As the title suggests, the brief 3-minute work channels a sacred devotion common with liturgical hymnody. The form is ternary, beginning with a long meditative melody accompanied by a bed of harmony. A responsorial section leads to a richer, slower section that rises and falls in melodic contour, reaching its expressive peak. The work ends returning to the opening melody, cadencing the musical prayer in Amen.

Where Falcons Fly Adrian B. Sims (b. 2000)

Inspired by falcons soaring high in the sky, this wonderful original work embarks on an adventurous journey through wind, storms, and rugged terrain. Modest technical demands combine with complex yet approachable harmonies in a cinematic showcase that is as innovative as it is thrilling!

Sakura Sakura Traditional (Edo Era ca.1600-1800) / arr. Larry Clark

さくら さくら (*Sakura Sakura* = Cherry Blossom) is perhaps the most famous Japanese folk song outside of Japan. This arrangement combines the truly Japanese characteristics of the song, as it would be played on a traditional bamboo flute called *shakuhachi* and a traditional Japanese string instrument called *koto*, with modern harmonies, creating a juxtaposition of East and West to form a beautiful melodic landscape. Finger picks are used for pizzicato sections to resemble the sounds of the *koto*.

Lyrics to the song (translated):

*Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms,
In fields, mountains and villages
As far as the eye can see.
Is it mist, or clouds?
Fragrant in the rising sun.
Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms,
Flowers in full bloom.*

*Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms,
Across the spring sky,
As far as the eye can see.
Is it mist, or clouds?
Fragrant in the air.
Come now, come now,
Let's go and see them.*

Summer (from Kikujiro)**Joe Hisaishi (b. 1950) / arr. Perry Holbrook*****Camilla Craig, Piano***

Joe Hisaishi's *Summer* from the film *Kikujiro* is a beautifully melodic and evocative piece that captures the warmth and nostalgia of summer. Known for his work as a composer for Studio Ghibli films, Hisaishi blends simple, lyrical themes with rich orchestration to convey both innocence and emotional depth. The piece's flowing piano lines and gentle strings create a sense of wistful longing, while moments of playful lightness evoke the carefree nature of childhood. *Summer* remains one of Hisaishi's most beloved compositions, with its tender, heartwarming qualities resonating deeply with listeners.

Concerto Grosso for String Orchestra**Vittorio Giannini (1903-1966)****I. Allegro**

The first movement of Vittorio Giannini's *Concerto Grosso* is an energetic Allegro that channels the spirit of the Baroque while incorporating modern harmonic and rhythmic elements. It features lively interplay between the string sections, with the thematic material passed and developed throughout the ensemble. The movement is marked by rhythmic drive, sweeping phrases, and bold contrasts, creating both tension and release. Giannini's use of the concerto grosso form results in a dynamic and engaging opening that blends tradition with innovation of Neo-Classical techniques.

October**Eric Whitacre (b. 1970) /arr. Paul Lavender**

October is Eric Whitacre's favorite month. "Something about the crisp autumn air and the subtle change in light always makes me a little sentimental, and as I started to sketch I felt that same quiet beauty in the writing. The simple, pastoral melodies and subsequent harmonies are inspired by the great English Romantics (Vaughn Williams, Elgar) as I felt that this style was also perfectly suited to capture the natural and pastoral soul of the season."

The Four Seasons Recomposed: Winter**Max Richter (b. 1966)****I. Allegro non molto*****Eugenie Lim, Violin***

Max Richter's *Recomposed: The Four Seasons* is a reimagining of Vivaldi's iconic work, created for Deutsche Grammophon's *Recomposed* series. Unlike previous contributors who worked with existing recordings, Richter rewrites Vivaldi's score, blending contemporary elements such as electronics and modern rhythms with the original composition. His approach seeks to recontextualize *The Four Seasons* for today's audience, making it both accessible and innovative while respecting the integrity of Vivaldi's music. The result is a hybrid piece that explores the relationship between past and present, offering a fresh, dynamic interpretation of a beloved classic.

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



VIOLIN I

Francesca Alfieri
 Gabriel Bravo*^a≠
 Camilla Craig
 Emma Holland≠
 Caleb Holloway≠
 Caleb Kiernan
 Anslee Larsen≠
 Mason Lewis≠
 Eugenie Lim ¢≠
 Samantha Schubert
 James Webb ^a

VIOLIN II

Emma Bragg
 Emily Burgess≠
 Gabriel Bravo*≠
 Knox Herndon
 Caeden Hunt
 Charlotte Kelley
 Caleb Kiernan
 Chole Kitchens
 Mateo Latorre
 Kaylee Long≠
 Elliott Mann ^a
 Danika Melby≠
 Isabella Parrenas
 Andrew Soltani
 Stephanie Wang
 James Webb*
 Helena Yeomans



PIANO/HARPSICHORD

Camilla Craig
 Mateo Latorre

PERCUSSION

Emily Burgess≠
 Chloe Kitchens
 Kaci White≠

¢ Concertmaster

* Principal

^a Assistant Principal

≠Senior



VIOLA

Oluwateniola Awe
 Hollis Birch≠
 Addison Culbreth
 Luke Dunehew≠
 Danielle Franklin≠*
 Anthony Malatia
 Kira Olson≠
 Daniel Osborn≠
 Vincent Pagelsen≠*

CELLO

Karla De La Peña Rodriguez
 Corbin Gaddy≠
 Neel Krishnan*≠
 Lucas Najarro
 Joanna Suhendra
 Justin Stephen≠
 Allison Widner
 Nicolette Yeomans≠
 David Zoblisein ^a≠



BASS

Asa Lee
 Alinah Little*≠
 Jada Whitehead≠
 Allison Widner ^a
 Tyler Wilson≠



SENIORS

Hollis Birch, Gabriel Bravo, Emily Burgess, Luke Dunehew, Danielle Franklin, Corbin Gaddy, Emma Holland, Caleb Holloway, Neel Krishnan, Anslee Larsen, Mason Lewis, Eugenie Lim, Alinah Little, Kaylee Long, Danika Melby, Kira Olson, Daniel Osborn, Vincent Pagelsen, Justin Stephen, Jada Whitehead, Tyler Wilson, Nicolette Yeomans, David Zoblisein



Harrison High School Orchestra Student Leadership Team

President: David Zoblisein
 Vice President: Danika Melby
 Middle School Liaison: Lauren Herold
 Social Chair: Nicolette Yeomans
 Operations Team Co-Captains: Alex Smith & Jada Whitehead
 Chief Librarian: Emma Holland
 Chief Publicist: Anslee Larsen
 Secretary: Hollis Birch & Abigail Holland
 Tech Crew Manager: Gabriel Bravo

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Eugenie Lim - Soloist



Eugenie Lim is a seventeen-year-old violinist who started playing violin at age six and has been studying with Sonja Foster since she was seven years old. Most notably, Eugenie was selected as a 2024 National Finalist in the Music Teacher's National Association Competition as a result of winning the Southern Division Senior Strings. She was also named a winner of the Young Arts National Competition and was selected as a member of Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra 2, touring the Dominican Republic with NYO2. In addition, she soloed with the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra in March 2023, as a result of winning the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition. Eugenie was also selected as concertmaster of the GMEA All-State Orchestra in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Eugenie made her solo orchestra debut with the Atlanta Community Orchestra at age 10 as a winner of the Ruth Kern Concerto Competition. She is a winner of the Gulf Coast Steinway Society Orchestra, the Samuel Fordis Young Artist

Concerto Competition, the Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition and soloed with the Gulf Coast Society Orchestra in 2019, the Georgia Philharmonic Orchestra in 2020, and the Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra in 2020. She was chosen to attend the National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute on a full scholarship and performed in the Kennedy Center in Washington DC; she was also selected as one of the finalists in the Summer Music Institute Concerto Competition in 2022.

Eugenie performed solo at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York as a winner of the American Protege Competition in 2017. She was previously the 1st Place Winner of the MTNA Georgia Junior Strings Division in 2017, 2018, and 2020. She has also won the GMTA Outstanding Performer/Conference Recitalist in Georgia several times and has performed on the Winners recital at the GMTA Conference as a result.

Most recently, she was selected as one of four violinists for the McDuffie Center for Strings Labor Day Festival at Mercer University in Macon, GA.

Koji Mori - Director



Koji Mori has served as the Director of Orchestras at Harrison High School in Kennesaw, Georgia since 2018. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree from Columbus State University, a Masters in Music Education degree from the University of Georgia, and an Education Specialist degree with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction from Berry College. He serves as an adjudicator for GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluations.

Under Mr. Mori's direction, the Harrison Orchestras have received superior ratings annually from the District 12 GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluations. For 2025, the Chamber Orchestra has been invited to perform at the: Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in Athens, GA; the Music for All National Concert

Festival in Indianapolis, IN; and the American String Teacher's Association National Conference in Atlanta, GA. Individual students from the Harrison Orchestra have been members of the: Georgia Governor's Honors Program, GMEA District 12 Honor Orchestra, GMEA All-State Orchestras, Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestras, Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra, Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Mr. Mori was invited to Okayama, Japan in 2016 as a guest conductor for the city's annual "Music Party!" Music Festival. Before arriving at Harrison, he served as the Associate Director of Orchestras at Lassiter High School from 2013-2018 and Assistant Director of Bands at Lassiter from 2013-2015. He was a conductor for the Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps in 2009 & 2008 (World Champion).

During the summers, Mr. Mori is on staff with the Music for All Summer Symposium and remains active as a leadership and conducting clinician throughout the country. His professional affiliations include: American String Teachers Association, Georgia Music Educators Association, and the National Association for Music Education.

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