

Beloit Community Orchestra

38th Season

1711 North Walnut
Beloit, Kansas 67420
Michael Harbaugh - Conductor
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I hope you are looking forward to the 2018-2019 orchestra season as much as I am. Rehearsals are too few and too short, we must make the most of each opportunity! An orchestra cannot perform or rehearse well with members missing. Please try to attend each rehearsal. Service learning hours will be awarded to Beloit High School students for rehearsals and performances you attend.

The Beloit Community Orchestra has been an important and necessary part of our instrumental school music program. Beloit has much to offer that sets it apart from other communities of the same size, the NCK Tech, a Community Concert Series, and a Community Orchestra. Thanks again for doing your part to continue this noble tradition!

Orchestra rehearsals will begin at 2:00 PM again this year. Please be in your chair and tuned by 2:00 PM. Here is a list of our rehearsals for this season. Please keep this list handy.

Our concert will be held on Sunday, February 3, 2019 and our season will again include a Beloit Community Christmas Concert on December 16th sponsored by the Orchestra and the Ministerial Association. I will try to choose selections that you will find enjoyable and will sound good with minimal rehearsal.

Please let me know right away if you will not be able to make the commitment this year. Our performances make a great impression of our community, school system, and our own dedication.

Rehearsal	November 4	2:00	Sunday	BJSHS Band and Orchestra Room
Rehearsal	November 25	2:00	Sunday	BJSHS Band and Orchestra Room
Rehearsal	December 2	2:00	Sunday	BJSHS Band and Orchestra Room
Rehearsal	December 9	2:00	Sunday	BJSHS Band and Orchestra Room
Rehearsal	December 15	2:00	Saturday	Beloit Municipal Building
Concert	December 16	3:00	Sunday	Beloit Municipal Building
Rehearsal	January 6	2:00	Sunday	BJSHS Band and Orchestra Room
Rehearsal	January 13	2:00	Sunday	BJSHS Band and Orchestra Room
Rehearsal	January 20	2:00	Sunday	BJSHS Band and Orchestra Room
Rehearsal	January 27	2:00	Sunday	BJSHS Band and Orchestra Room
Rehearsal	February 2	6:30	Saturday	Beloit Jr Sr High School
Concert	February 3	3:00	Sunday	Beloit Jr Sr High School

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Some of the information compiled in this letter was printed in the "*Kansas Magazine*, 3rd issue 1984".

Impetus for the Beloit Community Orchestra came from the Post Rock University, the free adult education program operated through Manhattan's University for Man program in the Beloit area. In 1980, Helen Lukens Hodler, coordinator of the Post Rock University convinced Cleo Riley, 31 year music teacher in the Beloit school system before his retirement in 1977, to form the Orchestra. Riley and his wife Velva, a fine musician in her own right, convinced the musicians to pick up their long forgotten instruments and again perform in public. The musicians became an Orchestra in March 1981 and made their debut as the Beloit Community Orchestra. Today the Orchestra is an integral part of the community. Members range in age from 12 to "retirement age" and include secretaries, teachers, administrators, funeral directors, ministers as well as music teachers and students. Musicians come from as far away as Sylvan Grove and Superior, Nebraska to play.

Christmas and spring concerts are presented annually. Admission to the concerts is free but donations and memorials are accepted to help defray the cost of the new orchestra music.

Michael Harbaugh, 41 year Orchestra and Instrumental Music Instructor in the Beloit School System, took over the baton from Cleo Riley in 1988 and continues as the conductor and musical director of the Orchestra. Kathy Thompson serves as the treasurer.

Ensemble groups have formed from the various sections of the Beloit Community Orchestra including the Beloit String Ensemble, Beloit Brass Ensemble, Clarinet Trio, Flute Trio, and The Sound Choice Swing Band. The Beloit String Ensemble has performed for Beloit Chautauqua, River Festivals, Community Easter and Christmas Cantatas, Jr. Miss Program, Kansas Medical Society, NCKL League Band Program, Chamber of Commerce Christmas Openings, and has provided Christmas music for several Beloit merchants during the holiday season.

Community support for the Orchestra continues to be strong with good attendance at concerts. The Beloit Jr.-Sr. High School has helped by providing rehearsal and concert facilities and music in the early years. The Beloit Community Orchestra is an integral part of the string program in the Beloit public schools providing exceptional students with a Symphonic Orchestra experience.

Current Charter Members:

Michael Harbaugh, DeeAnn Harbaugh, Kathy Thompson, Andra Lampert, and Charlie Mears.

The Beloit Community Orchestra provides the full "symphonic" orchestra experience that is missing in the curriculum of our school music program. Students are encouraged to participate in the Community Orchestra to round out their orchestral background.

High School music students who are successful in competing for state-wide honors like KSHSAA State Solo Performances, KMEA State-Wide Festival group auditions, and University Scholarships are most often students that have participated in the Community Orchestra through their High School years. These outstanding students are the "winners" that make our school and community successful. Their dedication and perseverance are also reasons for their success. These traits will serve them well in whatever career they choose.

Beloit High School students are now required to complete community service hours. Participation in the Beloit Community Orchestra rehearsals and performances will count as community service.

New members are always a critical need for the Beloit Community Orchestra to continue. I would like to invite you to join the Beloit Community Orchestra and share afternoons of music with us. Rehearsals are usually scheduled on selected Sundays October through February beginning at 2:00 PM and ending at 3:15 PM at the Beloit Jr.-Sr. High School. ***Our first rehearsal will be November 4th at 2:00 PM. Please contact me and let me know if you are interested and I will prepare a folder for you! If you were a BCO member last year please let me know as soon as possible if you will not be performing with us this year.***

Sincerely,
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