



# Chorus Lines

## *A Word From Our Co-Presidents...*

### **Welcome to 2011/12 Kennedy Choral League!**

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Kennedy Choral League, welcome to Kennedy High School and the 2011-2012 choral music year! We look forward to seeing our many old friends again after what seems like a very short summer. We are also anxious to meet our incoming freshman students and their parents. Although things may seem a bit overwhelming at first, we assure you, you are in for a four-year musical treat! We are biased, but we can confidently state Kennedy's choral music program is one of the best and most accomplished in the state. Jump in and come along for the ride.

This is the first issue of Chorus Lines, the Kennedy Choral Department's newsletter, which will come to you monthly, filled with timely information about upcoming events and the activities of the choral music program.

As is often the case with a new year, many changes are in store. Our biggest change is Justin Sand's decision to leave Kennedy to direct the Prairie Choral Music program and the addition of Matthew Armstrong to Kennedy. While we are sad to say good-bye to Mr. Sands, we are thrilled to say hello to our new Co-Director Matthew Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong joins us from the very successful Washington High School music program. Mr. Armstrong has great energy and many ideas for enhancing our program. We have already received many excited reports from the Protégé kids! We know we speak for everyone in wishing Mr. Sands great success at Prairie and in welcoming Mr. Armstrong to KHS. Also joining our choral family is, Shelly Armstrong. Mrs. Armstrong will work in the Kennedy Choral Department as an Assistant Director and Accompanist. She has already started working with the female vocalists! It is going to be an exciting year! Lorrie Poland has left the Kennedy Choral program. She had served as our Accompanist, Vocal Music Associate and the Chorus Line editor for many years. We will miss her talents and help immensely. We wish Lorrie well in her future endeavors.

There will be changes in KCL as well. Debbie and I are the new co-presidents of the KCL. There are many new faces on the board that you will have the opportunity to meet at our Meet and Greet event to be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> 2011, 6:00pm in the cafeteria. Please join us. For those of you new to Kennedy, the KCL was formed to serve as a liaison between our directors and parents, to share information, schedules, recruit volunteer help and to support our directors and many choirs. Through the use of technology our parents and students now receive information from our directors directly through CHARMS on the Internet. Last year the KCL conducted a self-analysis of our role in promoting our core choirs, show choirs and small group choirs. The parents involved agreed that KCL could better meet its goal of supporting our directors and choirs if it was better organized structurally and maintained better continuity year to year. As a result several new committees were formed, committed and experienced committee chairs were recruited and we are now actively recruiting parents to serve on these committees. This year KCL will refocus its attention and efforts on fund raising, volunteer recruitment, marketing, and promoting all choirs within the Kennedy community, to our alumni and to the community at large.

Already Mr. Ziegler, Mr. Armstrong and many parents have been working over the summer selecting music, conducting camps, sorting, mending and purchasing new costumes, repairing and maintaining equipment, developing props, making plans for our Raise the Roof Show Choir competition and organizing committees to help make this year better than ever. We wish to extend a big thank you to Kennedy staff and the many parents who have worked throughout the summer in support of our kids. We also wish to encourage all parents to become involved. Ask the parents of sophomores, juniors and seniors who have volunteered in the past. Imagine the satisfaction you will feel supporting our kids when they finally master that difficult song or dance step, when choirs win a competition, give an incredible performance or volunteer together to address a community need. All our volunteers will tell you of the new friends made, the fun had, and the rewards they have experienced supporting their students in their pursuit of choral music. We welcome all parent volunteers.

We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions for better ways of supporting our directors and our choirs. Feel free to contact us with your ideas and suggestions! And now, let the music begin!

Sincerely,

Jim & Debbie Craig

# Humming Along With Happiness

Here we go again!!! Happiness is well on their way to having yet another great start to another awesome show choir season! It's just starting to get to that time of the season where things get very busy with costuming, making props and kids running from choir room to black box to practice the new moves they've just learned. Very shortly, all those pieces will come together and we'll have a show!

Pam and I have been working hard to get everything organized and ready for Mary Kay Brandt who has been measuring kids and ordering the costumes that we will have before you know it. Once they arrive, we will be looking for some moms to come in and help kids try them on for fit as well as make any alterations that they may need. Tom Day is busy working with a group of parents and students that volunteered to help with the props this year. It looks like we will have a quite a few of them to travel with this year. The changing curtains that the kids use back stage are being redone this year. They have had several years of use and they've needed a little repair work for some time now. Nikki and Todd Prouty have volunteered to take on this task and Thank them for their efforts. Can't wait to see what they come up with! And finally, Mr. Ziegler and the kids are looking forward to their next camp and learning the remainder of the choreography.

This summer we started a new journey for the Kennedy choir kids...Giving Back to the Community. This new goal has many valuable outcomes. We are hoping foremost to be able to give back to the people who have supported our choirs for so many years. Additionally, we are hoping to raise an awareness for the one language that we all understand...music, as well as the efforts that we put forth each year to make our programs a success. Our students have already had a couple opportunities to volunteer but our goal is to have at least one opportunity a month for them to go out in our neighborhoods and give back. These opportunities may include walks for a charity, flash mobs at a business in town, caroling at a nursing home or raking yards. Stay tuned for many more details to come in the near future. We want to thank the kids however, for the great work they have done so far. We have received many thanks from the people whose lives they have already touched.

Happiness practices are on Monday nights from 6:30 – 9:00 but soon we will add Thursday nights at the same time. Our next choreography camp with Damon Brown is October 8<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure that you are continuing to check the Charms calendar for all show and core choir details. If you are having problems using Charms, please let us know!

One final reminder to please continue to check your emails. It's our easiest way to communicate with everyone.

Hope you all had a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

Teresa Solorio and Pam Wilson

# Protege Prattle

Hello Protege families! Wow, what a year we have had already. The kids have already learned choreography for at least half their show during camps with Damon Brown and Ben Schrank. They worked extremely hard. As you all know, we have another camp coming up September 2 and 3 with Marie Gutierrez from California. What a privilege!! Mr. Armstrong and I have been searching out costume ideas and I think we have things pretty well figured out. It will be exciting! Soon we will need help with getting things ready for the show. Watch for future emails! Remember to check Charms for dates, times, and events.

> We welcome Mr. Armstrong to Kennedy High School. He is doing awesome! > I am excited and anxious for this year. I am glad to be your Protege mom. If there is anything I can do to help make things smoother, please let me know. I love working with the group. Let's have a GREAT year! Before you know it, we will be @ our first competition!

> Chae Rice, Protégé Mom

## Chanteurs Corner

Who knew high school could be this much fun?! We're off to a great start this season as everyone gets to know each other and this year's songs. We've already had our first practice and measurement session and we get the rest of our ensemble after fall auditions August 30. Our first choreography camp is early this year - September 1. We are very fortunate to have Marie Gutierrez from John Burroughs High School in Burbank, CA. choreographing our first song, Disturbia. John Burroughs is the nationally known show choir that performed on Oprah. Please make sure we have your correct email address so that we can keep you informed. Also, be sure to check CHARMS if you ever have a question about a rehearsal or show date or time. Let the fun begin!!!

## Raise the Roof Show Choir Competition

2012 Annual Show Choir Invitational "Raise the Roof" - hosted by KHS/KCL scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Mark the dates on your calendar now. More information coming later!!!! Submit suggestions/questions to: Co-Chairs Tom and Laurel Day.

## Matthew & Shelly Armstrong joined the Kennedy Vocal Department in 2011

Matthew is very excited to serve as co-director of choirs with Mr. Ziegler and Shelly at the piano and with female voices. Previously, they taught at Muscatine High School, Coe College and Washington High School, where they had choirs selected to perform at national and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association. Graduates of Wartburg College, the Armstrong's both served a year as president of the Wartburg Choir under the direction of Dr. Paul Torkelson. Matthew earned his MME from VanderCook College of Music, where he studied with Dr. Robert Sinclair. Shelly also holds a BME from Wartburg, in addition to being a board-certified music therapist and an ASCAP song writer for Peck Music Group. Matthew and Shelly enjoy singing and recording with The Marshalls, a vocal trio that performs inspirational music with contemporary, jazz, and country flavors. Their two children, four-year-old Norah and three-year-old Gabriel, also love to make a joyful noise.

## It's Simply Charming...

A reminder that we will be using the CHARMS student information program as the main tool to share and acquire information. You can view calendars, your student's account, and much more on the site. Just click this link: [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com) Click on "Enter" and then "Parent/Student Login" and enter the code: **jkennedychoir**. Then use your child's six-digit Kennedy student ID number to login to your child's account. We hope that you find this to be an easy and simplified place for all of your vocal music information needs.





## PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON FUNDRAISING

We have a few opportunities for students to fundraise for their individual accounts. We will kick off a new food sale, Century Fundraising on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Students will have until September 26<sup>th</sup> to sell and get their orders turned in. For those of you familiar with the Club's Choice fundraiser we have done for years, this will be similar products, but higher quality. Yummy!

The on-going items that your student can sell all year long are the Hy-Vee Coupon books and World's Finest Chocolate candy bars. The Hy-Vee coupon books cost \$5.00 with the first coupon in the book being \$5.00 off your grocery purchase. \$4.00 for each book goes directly into your student's account. The candy bars are \$1.00 each, with 50% going directly into your student's account.

**We are continuing our Fair Share policy this year as well. This policy is explained in detail in the Choir Handbook that you can find in the handout section on Charms. In short, the first \$25 of profit that each student raises goes to support the operation of the vocal music program. After that \$25 obligation is met, 100% of all future profits stay with the individual student.**

Feel free to call Mr. Ziegler if you have any questions regarding fundraising.

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### KENNEDY CHORAL LEAGUE

#### Minutes of meeting of the KCL Board, July 31, 2011

Present: Jim Craig – Co-President, Debbie Craig – Co-President, Joel Otto – Treasurer, Renee Riffey - Secretary, Matthew Armstrong - Director, KevinMcCoy- Assets and Acquisition Management Chair, Bridget Castelluccio – Chanteur Mom, Laurel Day – Raise the Roof Chair, Tom Day – Raise the Roof Chair. Absent: Teresa Solorio – Happiness Mom, Chae Rice – Protege` Mom, Storm Ziegler - Director, Judy Goldberg – President Elect, and CT Ling – Marketing Chair.

**Opening:** Jim Craig opens the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Introductions were done.

**Approval of minutes:** No minutes were provided from the last KCL Board meeting.

**President's report and documents received:** Jim Craig gave an overview of the goals from the retreat. The following are the main goals: More structure. Committees to spread work load: Fundraisers, Marketing, Asset Mgmt., Event Planning, Volunteer Coordinators, RTR. More clear cut goals. Need to reach community beyond Kennedy both for fundraising and entertainment. Involvement at Kennedy as well. Replicate the results. The goal for tonight's meeting is to identify committee roles. Not to step on toes, but bring structure to each committee. To make sure before we take action, that all are onboard. Binders for each Board member were distributed containing the KCL constitution, overview of KCL committees, KCL board meetings schedule and due dates for Chorus Line.

**Treasurer's report:** Joel noted that the Treasurer is responsible for cash flow for operation of the choir. One item that is being reviewed is the scholarship money. Today there is a \$2000/year in scholarship money, year to year. The goal is to get it to be a renewable 4 year scholarships.

**Director's report:** Matthew introduced himself and provided his background. He grew up in a small town near Ames and attended a 2A school. They had a great choral program. He started at Coe and then transferred to Wartburg. Met his wife, Shelly. They have two children ages 4 and 2. He spent a year at Wapsie Valley HS and moved to Florida for a year. He then came back to Iowa and was head choral director at Muscatine HS for 3 years. They moved to Marion to be closer to family and was at Washington HS the last 7 years. He started a booster group while at Muscatine. Shelly's role will be accompanist for starters. Eventually she will help facilitate as she is an accomplished pianist and singer.

**Committee Reports:** Marketing—not in attendance.

Finance—contacted 4 upper classmen to draw in younger classes. Joel has introduced what he is looking for and working on identifying key members.

RTR—first meeting scheduled for Sept. 20. All committee chairs are appointed and some have already met. Have job shadows setup and meeting with already. Note: many committees do not have shadows yet.

Event Planning—Judy Goldberg, chair, not in attendance. Debbie noted that brainstorming was done in April. Plan is to do more vents in the community.

Volunteer Committee—Renee Riffey will be chairing. Have two women (Seniors) already on committee. Recording how this all gets done, need to put in notebooks.

Assents & Acquisitions—Kevin McCoy, chair. Need avenue to get rid of costumes and props. Envisioned to recruit parents from all the co-chair groups to facilitate. Damon wanted to use every prop for the last 5 years for this show.

**Choir concerns/requests:** Not in attendance.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Debbie noted the scheduled board meetings are typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in the IMC. It was noted that Band meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month in the IMC. A question was raised if two groups can meet in the IMC at the same time? One in the upper area and one in the lower area. Laurel Day commented that Tuesday nights worked well last year for the RTR committee. Chorus line due dates – Lori Poland will not be doing this fall. Secretary assistance is coming from main office. The goal is to send to the community and alumni. Any committee that has something to benefit from the newsletter can submit.

**Committees:** Volunteer committee – Do we need one for RTR and this committee? Remove RTR from this as RTR has their own. Add chairs will recruit the committee under RTR. Thank you card was signed and will be sent to Alan Harms for serving as registered agent. Judy Goldberg will be new registered agent. Need designated Choir rep from each choir – to vote. All requests or concerns should be directed to appropriate choir rep.

Action list KCL meeting, dated 31 July 2011				
Item no.	Action	By	Deadline	Status
073111a	Each committee chair to review outline of each committee.	DC	TBD	
073111b	Need to have branding for music programs.	DC	TBD	
073111c	Do we need volunteer committee for RTR and volunteer committee for KCL?	DC, LD, RR	TBD	
073111d	Each committee chair and the Board to review constitution.	DC	TBD	

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Directors

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### Chanteurs Mom

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### Core Choir Reps

TBA

### Choruslines Editor

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## *Calendar of Events Through December 2011*

- Sept. 6—Moonlight Vocal Jazz Ensemble Clinics—3:00 pm—Choir Room  
Sept. 8—Moonlight Auditions— 3:00pm—Choir Room  
Sept 10—All-State Quartet Auditions—1:00pm—Choir Room  
Sept. 13—Kennedy Chorale League “Meet & Greet” - 6:00pm—Cafeteria  
Sept. 14 —KCL Meeting—6:30 pm  
Oct. 11—All-City All-State Concert—7:00 pm— First Lutheran Church  
Oct. 18—Fall Concert featuring **Concert & Chamber Choirs**—7:00 pm—Auditorium  
Oct. 22—All-State Auditions—West Delaware High School, Manchester, IA—All Day  
Nov. 15—Fall Concert featuring **Kennedy Chorale & Kennedy Singers**—7:00 pm Auditorium  
Dec. 10—Cocoa & Carols—10:00 am, 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm—Auditorium

