

VERO BEACH HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

THE ANNUAL

Vero "Pops" Concert



World premiere of
Oliverian Fantasy
by Brian Balmages
Commissioned by the
Vero Beach Orchestras
in memory of Oliver Bartel

Thursday, May 6
7:00 p.m.



Program

Concert Orchestra

The Best of the Ballet

arr. Carrie Lane Gruselle

Johnny Appleseed Suite

Robert Kerr

1. Johnny's Planting Song
2. Johnny's Prayer
3. Johnny's Hoedown

Senior Recognition

Possibilities...

Brian Balmages

Philharmonic

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

1. Allegro
2. Adagio
3. Allegro

Oliverian Fantasy *on a theme by Oliver Bartel*

Brian Balmages

Fantasy On A Chinese Theme

Francis Osentowski

1. The Golden Thread
2. Waking the Dragon

Note from the director – Oliverian Fantasy

On November 3, 2020, high school sophomore Oliver Bartel passed away in his sleep and joined God at the tender age of fifteen. Oliver loved playing the cello and made it his goal to audition for Philharmonic after playing cello for only one year. His hard work and dedication paid off. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Oliver started the school year virtually and was never able to realize his dream of playing with the rest of the Philharmonic students.

His parents, Scott and Sybil Bartel, graciously asked for donations to be made to the Vero Beach Orchestra Boosters in lieu of flowers. I knew that the money raised needed to be used in a way that would meaningfully honor Oliver's memory. Buying strings, music, or other supplies did not feel like an appropriate way to use the money.

As a new cellist, Oliver was shy about performing for people, and his parents did not have many video or audio recordings of Oliver playing the cello. They reached out to me in the hopes that I would still have the video he submitted for his Philharmonic audition. As I searched my e-mail, computer files, and Canvas submissions to find anything and everything I could to send to his parents, I came across the melody composition Oliver had submitted during the fourth quarter quarantine of last school year. It was beautiful and a little haunting, and I knew immediately that the best way to honor Oliver's memory would be to commission a new piece of music with Oliver's melody as the basis for the piece. To that end, I got in touch with an amazing composer, Brian Balmages. I have taught many of Brian's works over the years, and I knew without a doubt that he was the right person to write this piece for us.

I am grateful for the time that I had to get to know Oliver. He was an incredibly kind, humble, and dedicated student. He understood that life is not about doing everything perfectly but to instead do your best. He always pushed himself to be the best he could be. His desire to learn new things pushed him to heights that most students do not achieve until later in life. As his teacher, it was a joy to watch him learn and grow as a musician.

Oliver may not be with us in person anymore, but his spirit still lives on. With this performance of *Oliverian Fantasy*, Oliver's dream to perform with Philharmonic is finally coming true. After tonight's performance, *Oliverian Fantasy* will be available for purchase for orchestras around the world. He will be able to connect with musicians everywhere in ways he never thought possible. Through his music, Oliver will live on.



John (JR) Amos, son of Jill and Paul Amos, plays cello in the Concert Orchestra. He attended Gifford Middle and Rosewood Magnet Schools. JR plans to attend Florida State University or the University of Florida to major in Business Administration. His favorite Orchestra memory is going to State MPA in 10th grade, and his favorite Orchestra piece is *Little Apple*. His advice to underclassmen is: “Have as much fun with it as you can, because if it’s not fun, why bother?”



Erika Delgado, daughter of Benito Delgado and Luisa Vergel Evangelista, plays violin in the Philharmonic Orchestra. She attended Oslo Middle and Vero Beach Elementary Schools. Erika plans to attend Indian River State College where her major is undecided. Her favorite Orchestra memory is putting Diego into a tutu before a winter concert, and her favorite Orchestra piece is *Serenade for Strings*. Her advice to underclassmen is: “Try to enjoy everything”



Adina Birnholz, daughter of Jill and Michael Birnholz, plays viola in the Philharmonic Orchestra. She attended Storm Grove and Osceola Magnet Schools. Adina plans to attend the University of Florida to major in Environmental or Chemical Engineering or work for the National Park Service. Her favorite Orchestra memory is dressing up for the Spooktacular every year, and her favorite Orchestra piece is Tchaikovsky’s *Romeo and Juliet*. Her advice to underclassmen is: “Have fun and enjoy the music; it makes all the hard work worth it.”



Corbin Douglas, son of Jill Clickner and Scott Douglas, plays bass in the Philharmonic Orchestra. He attended Gifford Middle and Beachland Elementary Schools. Corbin plans to attend the University of Miami to major in Entrepreneurship. His favorite Orchestra memory is the Busch Gardens trip in 2019, and his favorite piece is *Orange Blossom Special*. His advice to underclassmen is: “Show some respect.”



Jariel Evaristo, son of Ryan and Licille Evaristo, plays violin in the Philharmonic Orchestra. He attended Gifford Middle and Osceola Magnet Schools. Jariel plans to attend the University of Florida or the University of Central Florida to major in Mechanical Engineering. His favorite Orchestra memory is going to New York and competing there, and his favorite Orchestra piece is *Triptyque* by Akutagawa. His advice to underclassmen is: “Mistakes and bad days are crucial to grow. Yes, criticism hurts, and being wrong is just as bad. But, some things can only be seen by others, and it is the things that hurt that stick more than anything else.”



Steven Kehoe, son of Susan and John Kehoe, plays violin in the Philharmonic Orchestra. He attended Storm Grove Middle School prior to VBHS. Steven plans to attend Florida Atlantic University to major in Personal Finance/Financial Advisor. His favorite Orchestra memory is Erika beating up Diego before symphony rehearsal, and his favorite piece is Bach’s *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3*. His advice to underclassmen is: “Do your dynamic stretches.”



Bethany Johnson, daughter of Joy Johnson, plays violin in the Philharmonic Orchestra. She attended Storm Grove Middle and Osceola Magnet Schools. Bethany plans to attend Florida Atlantic University to major in Health Sciences. Her favorite Orchestra memory is going to Tampa for state MPA in 9th grade with Philharmonic, and her favorite Orchestra piece is Tchaikovsky’s *Romeo and Juliet*. Her advice to underclassmen is: “It’s a MUST to love yourself, or you’ll never be happy.”



Alex Lambert, son of Linda and John Lambert, plays violin in the Philharmonic Orchestra. He attended Storm Grove Middle and Liberty Magnet Schools. Alex plans to attend Indian River State College and then the University of Florida to major in Microbiology. His favorite Orchestra memory is Erika beating up Diego before symphony rehearsal, and his favorite Orchestra piece is Bach’s *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3*. His advice to underclassmen is: “Bass cases make good sleeping bags.”



Grace Murphy, daughter of Michele and Christopher Murphy, plays cello in the Philharmonic Orchestra. She attended Gifford Middle and Osceola Magnet Schools. Grace plans to attend the University of Florida where her major is undecided. Her favorite Orchestra memory is performing in New York, and her favorite Orchestra piece is *Fantasia On A Theme by Thomas Tallis*. Her advice for underclassmen is: “Have confidence, and don’t be afraid to ask questions.”



Maheen Raza, daughter of Syed Ahmer and Marvi Raza, plays violin in the Philharmonic Orchestra. She attended Gifford Middle and Glendale Elementary Schools. Maheen plans to attend the University of Denver to major in Political Science. Her favorite Orchestra memory has always been the concerts because she loves performing after working on the pieces for so long. Her favorite Orchestra piece is *Rosin Eating Zombies from Outer Space* when all the classes played together. Her advice for underclassmen is: “Enjoy high school while you can. Time goes by way too fast to stress over it.”



Emily Raya, daughter of Maria Viera and Luis Raya, plays violin in the Concert Orchestra. She attended Oslo Middle and Rosewood Magnet Schools. Emily plans to attend Indian River State College and then the University of Central Florida to major in Health Science. Her favorite Orchestra memory are the daily Orchestra quotes, and her favorite Orchestra piece is the *St. Paul’s Suite*. Her advice to underclassmen is: “Listen to Mr. Shuping.”



Izabella Remy, daughter of Gloria Remy, plays violin in the Philharmonic Orchestra. She attended Storm Grove and Treasure Coast Elementary Schools. Izzy plans to attend Valencia College where her major is undecided. Her favorite Orchestra memory is the last performance with Mr. Stott, and her favorite Orchestra piece is *Marche Slav* by Tchaikovsky. Her advice for underclassmen is: “Everything happens for a reason.”



Brielle Serovich, daughter of Amy and John Serovich, plays violin in the Concert Orchestra. She attended Gifford Middle and Beachland Elementary Schools. Brielle plans to attend the University of Florida to major in Nursing. Her favorite Orchestra memory is playing *African Bell Carol* because she never expected to be able to open up a concert like that. Her favorite Orchestra piece is *Dragonhunter*. Her advice to underclass is: “Practice doesn’t make perfect but makes things permanent. ‘Have fun, don’t fall in, and remember to flush and wash your hands.’”



Matthew Villafuerte, son of Christie Butler and Daniel Villafuerte, plays bass in the Philharmonic Orchestra. He attended Gifford Middle and Beachland Elementary Schools. Matthew plans to attend the University of Florida to major in Computer Science. His favorite Orchestra memory is having a snowball fight in Central Park during the New York trip, and his favorite Orchestra piece is the Barber *Adagio for Strings*. His advice to underclassmen is: “Practice music that you think is too hard for you. You’ll learn quickly if you’re forced to play at a higher level.”



David Vazquez, son of Alma Morales and Jaime Vazquez, plays violin in the Concert Orchestra. He attended Oslo Middle, Indian River Academy, and Citrus Elementary Schools. David is undecided on where to attend college but plans on majoring in Finance and to continue making music. His favorite Orchestra memory is going to State MPA freshman year, and his favorite Orchestra piece is the Barber *Adagio for Strings*. His advice to underclassmen is: “Don’t be lazy and be a procrastinator like me. Finish everything ASAP.”



Cameron Wehunt-Smith, son of Cheryl and Brian Smith, attended Oslo Middle School prior to VBHS. Cameron plans to attend the University of Central Florida to major in Biomedical/Mechanical Engineering. His favorite Orchestra memory is walking around Times Square during the New York Trip, and his favorite Orchestra piece is *Fantasia On A Theme by Thomas Tallis*. His advice to underclassmen is: “Don’t wait to do something. Get it done.”



Dalton Wiebke, grandson of Delores and Max Wiebke, plays violin in the Concert Orchestra. He attended Oslo Middle School prior to VBHS. Dalton is undecided on where to attend college but plans to major in Nursing. His favorite Orchestra memory is playing on the football field for the winter concert, and his favorite Orchestra piece is *Tam Lyn*. His advice to underclassmen is: “Practice.”



Makayla Yoblonski, daughter of Brian Yoblonski and Chrissy Ginotti, plays violin in the Concert Orchestra. She attended Oslo Middle and Citrus Elementary Schools. Makayla plans to attend Indian River State College to major in Nursing. Her favorite Orchestra memory was this year’s Orchestra Christmas party, and her favorite Orchestra piece is *Tam Lyn*. Her advice to underclassmen is: “Have fun.”



Daniel Williams, son of Claire Meshot and Larry Williams, plays cello in the Concert Orchestra. He attended Gifford Middle School prior to VBHS. Daniel plans to attend Florida State University to major in Marine Biology/Sports Medicine. His favorite Orchestra memory is going to State MPA, and his favorite Orchestra pieces are *Little Apple* and *African Bell Carol*. His advice to underclassmen is: “If you really want it, go and work for it.”