

HOMEMADE MUSIC

Music Department works together to overcome barriers and find ways to make music together

Square boxes stared back at directors as students played behind muted screens. A single glitch on someone's computer was enough to throw them off from the rest of the group.

Playing in an ensemble became challenging as students played together virtually from their own homes. Music directors experimented with a variety of options to bring students together.

"Kids not being able to hear each other was a huge setback, especially for a music program like BHS where the ensemble is king," Choir Director **Zack Carlson** said.

Collaborating within a music ensemble was crucial to the group's performance. The blend of the instruments relied on each individual's ability to listen to those around them.

"We've had two months of not being in an ensemble." Band Director **Scott Rabehl** said. "When we come back, we'll be a band of sixty individuals and we will have to work together to create the

cohesion of playing while you're listening to everybody else."

Despite these obstacles, music students found ways to make the best out of their Distance Learning experience.

"On [Flipgrid], our playing examples can be the traditional scales and exercises," **Ella Lichtenberg '21** said. "But they can also be song sections that we are proud of or need help on."

Music students have found ways to look on the bright side, and make the most of their distance learning.

"You get to work more individually, so you're at your own pace, and you're able to work on more solo pieces instead of music for ensembles," **Clara Holmberg '21** said.

"When you're at home playing, and doing something really awesome, nobody else gets better because of that," Rabehl said. "But when we're all in the same room, you make the person to your left and right better."

-Claudia Staut



Daily Dad Joke Keven Kirkendall '21 laughs at Band Director Rabehl's tradition of joke-telling. "Rabehl started it at the beginning of the year to share a joke with the band," Kirkendall said. Photo by Emily Fuchs



Giving Thanks Inspired by Instagram, Wren Drennan '23 joins band students in a gesture of appreciation for Director Mike Knutson. "I wanted to show him how much we appreciate all of the hard work he put in, and to make sure it didn't go unnoticed." Photo courtesy of Erica Kyllonen

Insane Instruments Practicing the clarinet, Amy Weston '21 learns more instruments in her free time. "I started to play tenor [saxophone] because I wanted to be in Jazz I, and I chose to learn clarinet because I want to play in pit orchestras later in life and the clarinet is necessary and thought now was a good time to learn," Weston said. "Clarinet was a lot harder to learn than expected. I was expecting it to be similar to a tenor saxophone but it for sure wasn't." Photo by Claudia Staut



Bigger Production Playing along with the BHS Concert Orchestra, Aunne Nyquist '22 enjoys her first year playing with an ensemble. Nyquist had previous experience with playing violin. "I took lessons when I was younger and have been to a couple summer camps," Nyquist said. "One big reason I transferred was so that I could play [violin] in school." Photo by Emily Fuchs



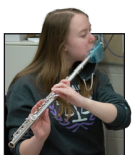
Perfectly Possible Practicing singing, Sophia Hanson '24 takes lessons with BHS Choir Director Zach Carlson. "You can always improve with singing," Hanson said. "I've found they've been really helpful and very informative." Photo courtesy of Sophia Hanson



Double Duty Playing the cello in Concert Orchestra, Caden Uecker '22 splits time in between his choir and orchestra classes. "I like playing both my instrument and singing," Uecker said. "I like that I have the option to experience both of them at the same time." Photo by Emily Fuchs



Fitting Attire Singing in choir, Grace Green '21 tries out the new homemade choir masks. "The normal masks were really hard to sing in," Green said. "The new masks were much easier to sing in because we could project our voices and had room to actually sing." Photo by Claudia Staut



ABIGAIL BERTSCH '22

"You put [the flute spit guard] on the head joint, it bends and acts as a shield so we can be safe while playing the flute."

Photo by Claudia Staut