

# LCS Band Program Promotes Professional Music Education Opportunities for Local Students

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

LANIER COUNTY, Georgia – Lanier County Schools (LCS) Music Director Matt Elder helps grow our local budding musician's appreciation and knowledge of music and music performance. LCS Students were given an opportunity to attend a Broadway professional level performance of Disney's Aladdin Musical at the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center in Orlando last week. This was at least the second year that Elder offered the opportunity to LCS students.

Last year, LCS students had an opportunity to see the Broadway musical Wicked. It was also performed at the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center in Orlando.

Elder, who is both a performing musician as well as a music education teacher, understands the benefits of attending music performances. He knows that students can learn a lot from a live concert setting!

First and foremost, LCS students were given not just a fun entertainment experience, but they were given a learning opportunity. In Disney's Aladdin Musical, they saw firsthand how story telling is enhanced by the combining of a live orchestra, dance, acting and vocal music program.

Having the opportunity to hear expert musicianship helps our LCS students develop a strong ear for music and pitch. Developing a musician's ear for music can provide a helpful comparison to the recorded music that citizens hear daily which may be highly edited into perfection.

Students listening to live performances help educate

how an artist may perform during a live performance compared to how the musician plays when the music is recorded. There may be differences between the two mediums such as more or fewer instruments, and use of types of instruments. Even a known music piece can be performed in a different key than the key it was recorded in.

In live performances, even a professional musician can come in 'late' with their musical contribution during a piece. They might play the wrong note. Noticing these types of differences also gives up and coming music student's insight as to how to recover from an error or mistake. This type of music education teaches our budding musicians that flawed music can still be beautiful and enjoyed.

Often live performances create an opportunity for increased inspiration. Personally, I sat next to Assistant Middle School Principal Brian Sirmans and his family. His young daughter was so enamored with the performance she was inspired to literally dance in her seat at every opportunity!

It is not uncommon for children exposed to live performance be motivated to sing a little more, create their own performance and become more eager to be a part of a live performance! Personally, I had this aspect instilled in me as a youth because my mother was both an elementary music teacher as well as the neighborhood piano teacher! I can remember going to the Tulsa Symphony concerts and in my mind's eye visualizing a choreographed performance to the symphonic music!

Those performances were a family affair as well as my great uncle had both helped found the Tulsa Symphony as well as played his trumpet, along with my cousins, during Tulsa Symphony Concert performances.

Often, budding musicians aspire to practice to improve their music skills because they have been inspired by an expert performance, instead of reacting to practice as a chore.

Often live performances contribute both fun for the whole family as well as break from routine. A planned family outing to a live venue often evolves into a highly special evening making memories together and enhancing family relationships through a shared positive experience!

Discussing the family's experience together afterwards, helps music listeners into thinking deeper. It can grow a family member's ability to communicate thoughts about music which can extend into other subjects.

My grandparents did something similar to Music Director Matt Elder's approach as well. My grandfather owned a music appliance store and my grandmother was both the church organist and a local piano teacher. They were known to support their local community's youth in their music education by transporting them to live symphonic performances in their state capitol and arranging transportation and programs for performing youthful musicians.

Thank you Mr. Elder for helping to inspire and educating our budding Lanier County musician's music knowledge!

# Lanier County News

Covering Lanier & Northern Lowndes Counties

"Serving our community and protecting our freedoms according to His Word since 1913"

Greetings,

Thank you for considering LCN as a way of distributing your message, business offerings, products and the like. Below you will find information concerning the scope of our reach and the readership of our products. We have multiple venues that we can promote by.

## (1) Lanier County News E-Edition

A broadsheet-formatted e-edition that is distributed by paid e-edition subscriptions only. Currently we show 299 E-Subscription accounts.

## (2) LCN's Online

www.laniercountynewsonline.com showing traffic for the last month of 34,867 sessions and 33,509 users.

## (3) LCN's Facebook Page

The overview of the LCN Facebook Page for the last 28 days shows the following information.

- **2,054 Page Followers**
- **1,500 Page Likes**
- **14,164 Post Reach**

(The number of people who see any of your posts at least once. Reach is different from impressions, which may include multiple views of your posts by the same people.)

- **11,831 Post Engagement**

(The number of reactions, comments, shares and clicks on your posts.)

- **36 New Page Likes**

(The number of new Page Likes in the last 28 days.)

Considering the demographics of our local area are as follows

Lakeland, GA population = 2,691

Lanier County, GA population = 9,817

Total population of Lakeland/Lanier = 12,508

Total adult population of Lakeland/Lanier = 8,177

We are proud of our ability to blanket the local area with news, announcements, business advertising and the like.

We look forward to assisting you with your message needs.

**Contact us at**  
**webmaster@laniercountynewsonline.com**