been a finalist in the TMEA State Honor Orchestra process and performed at the 2011 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. She is an active adjudicator and currently serving as Secretary for TMEA Region 23. Susan is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, and the Association of Texas Professional Educators. Susan is married to Brenden Steber, Director of Bands at Beck Junior High in Katy ISD. They have a five year old son, Joey. She enjoys reading, scrapbooking, and spending time with her family.

About the Ensemble

The Beckendorff Junior High School Orchestra program began in 2004 with the opening of the school under the direction of Matthew Porter. Since that time the program has grown from 64 string students in 2004 to their current enrollment of 240 string players from grades sixth through eighth. The orchestra program is composed of three beginner orchestra periods, four performing groups and the full orchestra which meets outside of the school day. Most orchestra students begin their string instruction in sixth grade however about ten percent of incoming sixth graders enter the classroom with prior string instrument instruction. Beginner students are taught in predominately homogeneous classes that include violin, viola and cello/bass. During the first year of instruction students are taught the basic fundamentals of theory, tone production and technique. The first year students have approximately five major performances throughout the school year including concerts and festivals.

Second and third year orchestra students audition for placement in one of four performing orchestras at BDJH. These ensembles begin the year with emphasis on tone production, reading skills, instrumental technique and ensemble performance. Students in performing ensembles generally attend one section rehearsal per week during which students focus on instrumental technique, tone and specific needs of the section.

Every orchestra from Beckendorff has earned the sweepstakes award at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest since the school's opening. The varsity orchestras from Beckendorff have been selected twice by the Foundation for Music Education as a National Winner in the Mark of Excellence/National Orchestra Honors Project. In addition the Honor orchestra from Beckendorff has placed in the finals for the TMEA Honor Orchestra Competition the last three years running most recently winning 2nd runner up.

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TEXAS MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION 2012 CLINIC/CONVENTION

Beckendorff Junior High Symphony Orchestra

Matthew Porter & Susan Steber, Directors

Shaun Hillen, Assistant Director

FEBRUARY 8–11, 2012 HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Beckendorff Junior High Symphony Orchestra

Violin
Sid Ahuja
Xiao Cai
James Chen
Saku Gopinath
Nicole Kwan
Minjung Lee
Andy Liu
Angela Liu
Jenny Qin
Jaron Quirante
Roger Shui
Ted Wang
Ashley Xu
Allan Yu
David Yuan
Angel Zhang
Helen Zhou
Stephanie Zhou

Viola
Brandon Chang
Moniish Elanchezhian
Ritu Mukherjee
Maria Rodriguez
Wendy Rojas
Melissa Zhang
Cara Zou

Cello
Eva Alten
Sarah Campbell
Katherine Li
Alice Liang
Diego Maceda
Lia Ospina
Clio Sun
Thomas Xiong
Jun Yi
Emily Yu

Bass
Ignacio Duarte
Samir Epili
Sophia Guerrero
Hunter Hewitt
Alexander Robins

Flute
Maggie Chen
Abby Fraher
Erica Lowery
Wan Lin Qin
Karen Tai

Clarinet
Keon Woo Ahn
Kelsey Hu
Amber Park
Alice Wang
Melinda Wang

Oboe
Isabel Alonzo

Bassoon
Teja Pati

Bass Clarinet
Ravi Shekhar

French Horn
Claire Buss
Abbey Elifritz
Meghan Nightingale
Brittany Porier

Trumpet
Raj Chhabra
Noelle Fremin
Aubrie Harper
Emily Mudra

Trombone
Michael Baratta
Camilla Broman
Laura Broman
Megan Creager
Tara Nayak

Euphonium
Rohit Gupte
Steven Park

Tuba
Reagan Minear

Harp
Cathleen Zhang

Piano
Aaron Liao

Percussion
Natalie Camille
Tanmaya Shrivastava
Camilo Villamizar
Rhea Sage
Evan Brooks

About the Directors

Matthew W. Porter graduated cum laude from Texas Tech University School of Fine Arts with a Bachelor of Music leading to teacher certification. Mr. Porter studied cello with Dr. Alexander Ezerman and conducting with Mr. Gary Lewis. While pursuing his undergrad degree Mr. Porter apprenticed violin repair with Dr. George Robinson for two years. He has performed with several professional orchestras in Texas & New Mexico including principal cellist of the Southwest Symphony of New Mexico.

In 2004, Mr. Porter was hired as the first orchestra director of the newly opened Beckendorff Junior High School in Katy, Texas. Since that time the Beckendorff orchestra program has grown from 64 to 240 string players. Orchestras under his direction have consistently earned top honors and awards each year. Most recently the Beckendorff Symphony won an invitation to perform at the 65th annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago. In addition, the Honor Orchestra (string orchestra) placed 2nd runner up in the 2012 Texas Honor Orchestra competition and has been named a finalist three years running. In 2006, Mr. and Mrs. Porter started the annual Katy ISD Summer Orchestra Camp to provide enrichment opportunities for Katy ISD string students. Mr. Porter is an active freelance cellist, clinician and adjudicator. In addition to his teaching, Mr. Porter serves as Junior High Orchestra Coordinator for TMEA Region 23, Fine Arts Chair for Beckendorff JH and is a member of Texas Orchestra Directors Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association and the professional music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Mr. Porter currently resides in Katy, Texas with his wife Bryanna and their three girls Madeline, Kendall and Molly all of whom he considers to be his greatest achievement.

Susan Steber is Director of Bands at Beckendorff Junior High School in Katy, Texas. A fifteen year veteran, she began her career in the Katy Independent School District as an assistant band director at Beck Junior High School prior to opening Beckendorff in 2004. Ms. Steber attended middle school and high school in the Lewisville ISD where her directors were Kathy Johnson and Dick Clardy. She graduated from The Colony High School as a three-time member of the TMEA All State Bands and Orchestras on French horn. She received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas. Bands under Mrs. Steber's direction have consistently earned superior ratings in at U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Contest as well as Best in Class awards at various music festivals in Texas.

Beckendorff students have earned high-ranking chairs at All-Region Band and Orchestra Auditions. Susan is the co-director of the Beckendorff Symphony Orchestra which has twice

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1. Land of the Rising Sun *TRN Music Publisher, Inc.* . . . . . Mark Lortz 3:56
2. They Led My Lord Away *TRN Music Publisher, Inc.* . . . . . Adoniram J. Gordon/arr. Fred J. Allen 2:53
3. Warrior Legacy *FJH Music Company* . . . . . Soon Hee Newbold 4:54
4. Huapango del Oso *RBC Publications* . . . . . Gabriel Musella 3:43
5. Dreaming *FJH Music Company* . . . . . Brian Balmages 4:49
6. Safari Echoes *RBC Publications* . . . . . Mary Alice Rich 5:27
7. Symphony No. 5 *Highland/Etling Publishing* . . . . . Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky/arr. Richard Meyer 6:56

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Beckendorff Junior High Symphony Orchestra

Matthew Porter & Susan Steber, Directors

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Matthew Porter & Susan Steber, Directors
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