

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ronald W. LaMar  
Memorial Scholarship Concert*



*June 13, 2015*

*Central Bucks West High School Auditorium*

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I remember being six years old and on the Temple University Diamond Marching Band trips with my family. I remember thinking that I was so cool because I got to sit in the back of the bus with “Ronnie.” I remember being 26 years old and starting my first day in Central Bucks at Holicong Middle School. I remember thinking that I was so cool because I got to teach in the same district as “Ronnie.” I remember being 39 years old and getting that inevitable call from Jennifer Repper. I remember thinking, through all of the pain, that I was so cool because I knew “Ronnie.”

It is with mixed emotions that I welcome you all to Central Bucks High School West, and to the inaugural Ronald W. LaMar Memorial Scholarship Concert. Today’s event would not have been possible if not for the joint effort of the CB music faculty and the incredible LaMar family, whose strength, courage and faith over the course of the last few years has been nothing short of remarkable.

In my mind, I had written, revised and edited this “welcome” numerous times, and yet I still found myself struggling to find the right words. How would I approach this? What should the overall tone be – tinged with sadness or sprinkled with hopeful optimism? How would I convey, in words, emotions and feelings as strong as these? Then, as I was looking through pictures on my computer for today’s program, I realized the answer was literally staring right at me the whole time. I would write this just as Ron would have. Openly, honestly, passionately and from the heart.....

Ron – we miss you. We miss you a lot. Your passing has created a huge void in our daily lives that may not be truly filled again. You were a loving husband, a caring father, a devoted brother and son. You were a trusted friend, an inspirational teacher, and a willing mentor generous with your time and knowledge. No concern was too small if it was troubling someone and no problem was too insurmountable that it could not be solved. You were dedicated, you were passionate and you fought until the very end when you could fight no more. For all of that, and more, we love you and we thank you.

I am 100% certain that each and every one of us here today who knew Ron has similar thoughts and feelings. When he was alive, Ron left an indelible mark on the lives of everyone with whom he came into contact. He championed music education and made his students love music as much as he did. Even in his passing he will continue to do the same, and this is what makes today - and all future Ronald LaMar Scholarship Concerts - so special.

Ron – you are gone but certainly not forgotten. You are not here physically but your presence is felt each and every day. We miss you and we love you. We are all better people just because you were in our lives.

On behalf of the entire Central Bucks Music Department, I would like to thank you for coming today in support of the Ronald W. LaMar Memorial Scholarship. It is truly a pleasure to see Ron’s vision come to fruition, and we are thrilled that you are here to help us celebrate his life and legacy.

Sincerely,  
Joel Chodoroff  
Director of Bands – Holicong Middle School

## *Acknowledgements*

*Melanie, Brian, Christian and Jared LaMar and the entire LaMar family*

### *Central Bucks Board of School Directors*

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Joseph Ohrt, Joe Stellino & Chris Villante, High School Choir Directors  
Jennifer DiVasto & Scott Hensil, High School Orchestra Directors  
Thanks to CB Music staff here today helping with the concert.  
Thanks to all CB music teachers who promoted the scholarship and concert.

### *Technical Crew*

George Tettermer, Sound and Lighting

### *Guest Performers and Student Performers*

Thanks to Larry Werner for his work in assembling and directing the After Hours Big Band

*Thanks to the faculty and staff of CB West for hosting today’s concert.*

*Thanks to the CB Community for generously supporting the scholarship fund.*

## *The Ronald W. LaMar Memorial Scholarship*

### **The goal of this scholarship is to identify and reward a student who:**

- Exemplifies some or all of the 5 pillars of the Ronald W. LaMar Scholarship  
Creativity, Generosity, Leadership, Music, Passion
- Has made a contribution to their community through music (in addition to school ensembles)

### **Applicants must also:**

- Maintain a *cumulative* GPA of 3.0 or better
- Be an active member of at least one CB High School music ensemble during 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Be continuing their education at a college or university

### **The application packet includes the following:**

- Brief cover page detailing required personal information & 3 short answer questions
- 1-2 page reflection by the applicant
- 1 page testimonial from an individual other than a CB music teacher

## *2015 Recipient – Lauren Letherland*

Lauren Letherland is a senior at Central Bucks High School South, where she has been heavily involved in the band program. She has participated in the marching band, symphonic band and jazz ensemble for three years, and for the past two years she has served as drum major of the marching band.

Lauren's musical service has included sharing her talents with children on life support at a pediatric specialty care center. She has also organized multiple service projects in order to give CB South marching band members the opportunity to help others. Lauren collected food items for a local soup kitchen and organized a collection for Operation Eternal Gratitude. In addition, she is currently running a fundraiser where, as a whole, the CB South music program will raise money to donate to cancer research. She has committed to West Chester University where she will be majoring in music education.

In her reflection, Lauren states, "There will always be someone there to put you down and tell you that you can't do something. However, I've learned that true passion and love overcomes all of that. I can't promise perfection, but I will always be able to promise my best self." The evaluation committee felt that, out of the seventeen applicants, Lauren best exemplified the core principals outlined in the scholarship application and embodied the personal qualities that best represent the "spirit" of the award.

## *LaMar Scholarship*

Development of Scholarship—Frank Bolkus, Joel Chodoroff, Jim Glaser, Jennifer Repper & the CB music staff

Treasurer— Jason Morehouse

Final Scholarship Committee Chair—Mark Appiotti

Thanks to Tim Blessington, Harry Bower, Arthur Chodoroff, Chris Horn, Christian LaMar, Melanie LaMar, Ian Sanchez & Jessica Tosti for your time and efforts.

*Special thanks to Dr. Nancy Silvius for her leadership and advice in the development of the scholarship criteria.*

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### **2015 CB All-Star High School Choir – Joe Stellino, director**

Ubi Caritas	Ola Gjeilo
And So It Goes	Billy Joel/arr. Bob Chilcott
Elijah Rock	Moses Hogan

### **Guest Performance – Karen Burgman, piano**

### **2015 CB All-Star High School String Orchestra – Scott Hensil, director**

Serenade for Strings, Op. 20 (mvts. 1 & 2)	Sir Edward Elgar
Crystallize	Lindsey Stirling/arr. N. Pileggi

### **Presentation of 2015 Ronald W. LaMar Memorial Scholarship**

### **Combined Choir and Orchestra – Arthur Chodoroff, director**

The Ground	Ola Gjeilo
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## *INTERMISSION*

### **2015 CB All-Star High School Jazz Band – Jim Glaser, Director**

Sun Goddess	arr. Mike Tomaro
Come Sunday	arr. Mike Tomaro
Chameleon	arr. Alan Baylock

### **Remarks – Chris Horn**

### **Guest Performance – Ron LaMar After Hours Big Band**

## *CB All-Star String Orchestra Personnel*

<u>Violin 1</u>	<u>Violin 2</u>	<u>Viola</u>	<u>Cello</u>
Emily Cid	Sarah Betancourt	Liam Brown	Alec Beljanski
Allison Fell	Halle Brennan	Booker Fariior	Savannah Bourke
Nuri Ha	Paige Bruckner	Joshua Gittelman	Ariel Hannum
Vivian Hu	Rylee Cassell	Brandon Goll	Aaron Heo
Zoe Hu	Annie Collipp	Alekhya Gunturi	Seth Kempke
Anahita Iyer	Tyler Gittelman	Joshua Kohut	Torin Li
Srihaasa Kompella	Alexa Kaminski	Catherine Lynch	Andrew Maxwell
Avyay Kuchibotla	Michelle Karn	Caleb Woo	Beth Vandersall
Brendan Leary	Kirena Manivannan	Alex Zhang	Tristan Weiss
Maggy Simon	Paul Motter		Joy Zhao
Cassie Sullivan	Jacqueline Rajavong		
Gillis Wang	Maddie Robinson	<u>Bass</u>	
Rachel Zhang	Sanjana Shah	Charlie Hannum	
Lisa Zolotnitsky	Carlos Velez	Andrew Maxwell	
		Jenna Wohlpart	

## *CB All-Star Jazz Band Personnel*

<u>Alto Sax</u>	<u>Trumpet</u>	<u>Trombone</u>
John Morris	Nick Sowden	Evan Bunce
Stephen Bolton	Paul Hutchings	Jake Staub
Samantha Walsh	Evan Becker	Noah Miller
	Brendan James	Matt Moretti
	Julia Fravillig	
<u>Tenor Sax</u>		<u>Bass</u>
Aaron Hochberg		Mike Coppola
Eric Weiner	<u>Piano</u>	Andrew Maxwell
	Nick Mason	
<u>Bari Sax</u>	Max Naar	
Daniel Bolton		<u>Drums</u>
		Noah Dunn
<u>Vibes</u>	<u>Guitar</u>	Ashwin Nair
JT Maclin	Alden Braverman	
	Nick Goodyear	

## *CB All-Star Choir Personnel*

<u>Soprano</u>	<u>Alto</u>	<u>Tenor</u>	<u>Bass</u>
Rebecca Boyle	Emily Ballentine	Cole Bryan	Luke Andersen
Samantha Canale	Justina Bernard	Andrew Cohen	Stephen Burdsall
Katie Cummings	Julie Coleman	Tyler Gittelman	Jayce Coleman
Julia Formicola	Maria Corr	Ben Harris	Ben Fortier
Carolyn Kirshe	Rebecca Houck	Brian Kennelly	Nicholas Goodyear
Brett Korona	Anahita Iyer	Brendan Leary	Seth Kempke
Sarah Marchesini	Cameron Keller	Tyler Lonergan	Bo Louderback
Chase McPherson	Lauren McKeown	Nate Myers	Patrick Love
Alyssa Myers	Maddie O'Brien	Daniel Tamondong	Dan Paradiso
Chelsea Sattler	Brynn Parkin	Aaron Wasser	Tyler Pursell
Annalee Tomanelli	Jackie Parzanese	Jack Weimer	Joey Recupero
Samantha Walsh	Rachel Ventresca	Matt Whalen	Jonathan Samson

