

Hello everyone!

### **Music Hour Recap 2/9/23**

Last week, we were able to hear from saxophonist John Greene! To start off the meeting, we learned about how a saxophone produces sound and how different parts of the instrument affect its sound. The first piece we heard was a jazz blues song called "Sandu," which centers around 3 different chords. Furthermore, the blues scale is built upon the [minor pentatonic scale](#) and a tritone. Switching genres, Zach then played some classical pieces for us: *Tableux de Provence, 2nd mvmt.* by Paule Maurice.

Then we discussed different types of vibrato (the slight and rapid variation of pitch when playing or singing). The German vibrato starts out with a straight tone (i.e. a note without pitch variation), then adds vibrato as a flourish towards the end of the note. The French vibrato has heavy pulsation throughout the note duration. The American vibrato is a combination of the two. Following this explanation, we heard another song in a genre called *bossa nova*. An important technique to this style of music is called "tonguing". This is a temporary stop in sound that helps musicians improve note clarity. Zach also introduced the group to other playing techniques including: "growling" (singing while blowing air into the instrument), "flutter tongue" (flapping/rolling your tongue while playing), "scoops" (sliding up to the note), and "falls" (sliding down after hitting a note). We also learned about a technique called "altissimo," in which the saxophonist manipulates their airflow to bring out overtones of a fundamental pitch. To end our meeting, Zach demonstrated the "slap tongue" technique and played an example of funk music for the group.

### **Tomorrow's Music Hour 2/16/23**

**For this week, we will be meeting at 12:00 PM PT instead of our normal 12:30 PM PT meeting time.**

I am very happy to say that my own high school choir, the Mater Dei Chamber Singers, will be performing! Please look below for our program and bio.

Program:

*Sing Joyfully*, William Byrd (1540-1623)

*Rivers of Light*, Ēriks Ešņvalds (b. 1977)

*Joshua*, Normal Luboff (1917-1987)

*Fly*, Sara Groves arr. Susan LaBarr (b. 1981)

*Fajar dan Senja* (Dawn and Dusk), Ken Steven (b. 1993)

Bio:

The Mater Dei High School Choral and Vocal Program in Santa Ana, California with serves a vibrant and diverse community from all over Southern California. It is made up of 11 ensembles, comprised of 300 students active in all areas of campus including athletics, the arts, ASB, and more! The choir performs a broad range of music, focusing on a cappella literature and large choral works, and has toured extensively in the United States and Europe including performances at venues such as Carnegie Hall and St. Patrick's Cathedral. From the Metropolitan Opera stage to Broadway, alumni are continuing the tradition of artistic excellence instilled in students in the Mater Dei Choral and Vocal Music Program. Most importantly, however, the Mater Dei Choirs work to be open and accepting of all, focusing on equity and diversity in order to serve the campus and beyond and enrich the life of each of its singers.

Have a great rest of your week!

-Hubert :)