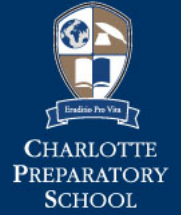


# Fine Arts



October 2011

Dear CPS Parents and Staff,

Our Charlotte Prep community is one that is enriched with performing and cultural arts. Our students love to perform on stage, and our parents love a great performance. In an effort to introduce Charlotte's performing arts scene to our students, I am organizing group sales for staff and family members to get together at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center and see some terrific shows!

Some of the shows playing in the 2011-2012 season at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center are *West Side Story*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Spamalot*, *Jersey Boys*, *Stomp!* and *Bring It On!*

Attached are descriptions for each show, as well as information about child-appropriateness for your discretion. If you are interested in attending some/all of these shows, please complete the attached sheet and return it to Ms. Stefanini no later than Friday, October 21. NO MONEY IS DUE AT THIS TIME. Once I receive your order, I will contact you via email for final payment.

If you have any questions, please email me at [astefanini@charlotteprep.com](mailto:astefanini@charlotteprep.com).

Sincerely,

Angela Stefanini  
Director of Fine Arts



CHARLOTTE  
PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL

## Musical Theater Group Ticket Sales 2011

- To obtain group rates, we must have a minimum of 15 attendees per show.
- All tickets will be purchased at the lowest rates possible, which are Rear Balcony Seats
- Parents are encouraged to research productions in order to make the best viewing decisions for their individual children.

### □ *West Side Story*, Friday - November 4, 8 pm, Belk Theater

#### **\$20+ tax per person**

##### What Is *West Side Story* Like?

Considered a great groundbreaking musical, *West Side Story* has remained a poignant, provocative and emotionally devastating piece of theater for over half a century. Dark in tone and content, the show is flush with many of legendary composer Leonard Bernstein's most famous compositions, offering a richly layered score played by a full orchestra—a rare find, even on Broadway, these days. Factor in recreations of original director and choreographer Jerome Robbins' equally iconic choreography, and the production becomes an electrifying piece of musical drama. Despite *West Side's* difficult themes, the show also offers some of the biggest, brightest crowd-pleasers in theater history, including uber-ballad “Tonight,” the chirpy "America" and the hilariously macabre "Gee Officer Krupke." The show may be a rollercoaster of emotions, but it offers something for every taste.

##### Is *West Side Story* Appropriate for Kids?

The show deals with adult themes: violence, murder, rape and bigotry all get their turn in the spotlight, as do bad language, sexual innuendos and racial slurs. Please be advised that parental guidance is strongly advised. Nonetheless, *West Side Story* is a valuable experience for theater buffs and newbies alike. Those who can handle the Academy Award-winning film will be well prepared for what will play out on the Broadway stage. (Blumenthal's content warning for this show states: “Please be advised that there is strong language, violence and some sensitive subject matter that is true to the story and plot. Parental guidance is suggested.”)

### □ *Million Dollar Quartet*, Friday, December 2, 8 pm, Knight Theater

#### **\$18+ tax per person**

##### What Is *Million Dollar Quartet* Like?

While the show doles out plenty of rock 'n' roll history during its 90-minute running time, but info is served along with exuberant rock hits by each of the four artists, ensuring that Million Dollar Quartet is more musical spectacle than college course. The production is light on plot, breezing through career highlights to get to what matters most: the music, which is performed with reckless abandon live onstage by the cast. Audiences with an affinity for classic rockabilly will be hard-pressed not to be drawn in by stars the stars, who embody their respective characters down to the very last pelvic gyration or piano pounding.

##### Is *Million Dollar Quartet* Appropriate for Kids?

This show is a kid-friendly celebration of music that the entire family can enjoy. While definitely not a show made especially for children—the production aims for the hearts of those who grew up twisting and shouting, and adults can drink alcohol in their seats—the production's up tempo numbers come in rapid succession and the plot is easy to follow. There is some sexual innuendo, smoking and drinking, but the show is almost as clean as The Ed Sullivan Show. This one is an excellent primer for future music junkies.

□ ***Spamalot*, Friday, February 17, 8 pm, Knight Theater**

**\$18 + tax per person**

**\*This occurs during Winter Break and the MS Ski Trip\***

***What Is Spamalot Like?***

Monty Python's *Spamalot* is a musical comedy "lovingly ripped off from" the 1975 film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Like the film, it is a highly irreverent parody of the Arthurian Legend, but it differs from the film in many ways, especially in its parodies of Broadway theatre. Eric Idle, a member of the Monty Python team, wrote the musical's book and lyrics and collaborated with John Du Prez on most of the music. Idle explained the title in a February 2004 press release: I like the title *Spamalot* a lot. It comes from a line in the movie that goes: "we eat ham, and jam and Spam a lot." The original 2005 Broadway production, directed by Mike Nichols, won three Tony Awards, including the Tony Award for Best Musical of the 2004–2005 season and received 14 Tony Award nominations.

***Is Spamalot Appropriate for Kids?***

One note to families — it's a good idea to leave young children at home. Because of foul language and sexual innuendo, the show is recommended for age 12 and up.

□ ***Jersey Boys*, Friday, March 9, 8 pm, Belk Theater**

**\$35 + tax per person**

***What is Jersey Boys Like?***

Upbeat, slickly produced and fast-paced, *Jersey Boys* appeals to diehard fans of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and audience members less familiar with the group's extensive catalogue of hits. Unlike most jukebox musicals, the show boasts heavy emphasis on storytelling, which adds to its universal appeal.

***Is Jersey Boys Appropriate for Kids?***

Although *Jersey Boys* snaps along at a pace easy for younger audiences to follow, it is not really a show for young children: they won't get the heavy nostalgia factor, and parents may find themselves cringing at sexual innuendo ("Oh, What a Night!" indeed), infidelity, the (offstage) death of a child, enough swearing to make a truck driver on the Jersey Turnpike blush and other behavior you might expect from four tough guys touring from sold-out concert to sold-out concert.

□ ***Stomp!* Thursday, April 5, 7:30 pm, Belk Theater**

**\$18 + tax per person**

**\*This occurs on the night before a holiday weekend\***

***What Is Stomp! Like?***

Not big on speaking real words, the cast limits all communication between each other and the audience to grunts, nods and facial expressions. (The closest they come to using a formal language is by shouting, "Yeah!") In addition to its innovative drumming, the show works in some very funny sight gags. The charming cast also knows how to work a crowd, often poking fun at latecomers and front-row attendees, then helping the entire room embrace their latent percussive tendencies. Amazingly, that alone adds up to a swift, intermission-less, 105-minute show. But keep in mind: Toward the end, the performers bang on bigger and bigger objects, and the noise level gets louder and louder. Those with sensitive ears and heads may want to pack earplugs and Advil, just in case.

***Is Stomp! Appropriate for Kids?***

Yes, yes, yes indeed. The only moment when this super-engaging show even hints at something possibly inappropriate comes after four kitchen sinks filled with water are used in a funky jam. (The male players empty the sinks, you see, and the running water looks as if they're relieving themselves.) Ultimately, this is totally harmless, and fully-loaded with the kind of tiny yet world-rocking discoveries that kids never forget. ("You mean that trash-can lid is a musical instrument!?!") Just don't be surprised when you get home and the kitchen gets raided by aspiring tin-can composers.

□ ***Bring It On!* Friday, April 13, 8 pm, Belk Theater**

**\$18 +tax per person**

***What Is Bring it On: The Musical Like?***

Torrence's whole life revolves around competitive cheerleading. She has just been elected captain of her squad, the five-time national champions, and it seems as though her senior year will be everything she dreamed of. But then one girl on the squad is out with a broken leg. And then real disaster strikes -- it turns out that their award-winning routines were stolen from another squad, black cheerleaders who could not afford to go to the national competitions. Torrence has to face challenges of ethics, leadership and romance to sort all of this out before the nationals.

***Is Bring it On: The Musical Appropriate for Kids? (This was taken from a review about the movie.)***

*Bring it On* strikes just the right note, respecting Torrence's commitment and sportsmanship, but not taking any of it too seriously. The opening and closing cheers are the show's high point, the first one mocking the cheerleader ideal and the one that accompanies the closing classic 80's *Mickey* song by Toni Basil. The issue of the white appropriation of black culture (going back at least to Elvis and Pat Boone) is an important one for kids to understand.

# MUSICAL THEATER GROUP TICKET SALES

**YES!** I would like to reserve tickets for the following shows:  
(enter the ticket quantity in the column below)

Date	Show	Quantity
Friday, November 4, 8pm	<i>West Side Story</i>	
Friday, December 2, 8pm	<i>Million Dollar Quartet</i>	
Friday, February 17, 8pm	<i>Spamalot</i>	
Friday, March 9, 8pm	<i>Jersey Boys</i>	
Thursday, April 5, 7:30pm	<i>Stomp!</i>	
Friday, April 13, 8pm	<i>Bring It On!</i>	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Homeroom teacher \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY PAYMENT NOW**

Once we determine the number of people attending each show,  
I will distribute individual invoices for payment.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE CHANGES,  
PLEASE EMAIL MS. STEFANINI AT**

[astefanini@charlotteprep.com](mailto:astefanini@charlotteprep.com)