

# Clef Notes

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we reflect back on 2020, we were greatly impacted by loss, hardships, and isolation but we also experienced moments of hope, compassion, resiliency and faith. As we moved forward, we all needed to adapt in new ways with determination and creativity, and I can proudly say the Monterey County POPS! did just that.

The POPS! is committed to serving our community by "Making a Difference Through Music" and remains dedicated to presenting pops and patriotic concerts free-of-charge. Even though we were unable to present our usual 4<sup>th</sup> of July concert, we pivoted to live streaming of the concert on AMP TV and on our website and is now available on YouTube. When schools went to remote learning, our biggest challenge was how do we reach our underserved youth. The POPS! created an interactive, bilingual online version of Peter and the Wolf that has been met with extraordinary support from our local schools throughout Monterey County. We also created an online virtual classroom, POPS! Pros Teach, taught by our principal orchestra members for middle and high school students and streamed on AMP TV and our website.

None of this could have been possible without the continued support of our donors and for that we owe you a huge *Thank You* and a promise that we will continue to evolve and serve our local community. Please enjoy our latest edition of *Clef Notes*.

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*Dr. Carl Christensen, Music Director and Conductor*

In spite of the Pandemic, this winter has been a busy time for the Monterey County Pops! A major focus has been fulfilling our commitment to the youth of Monterey County by creating broadcast and on-line programs to support music education for youth in our area. We created **three free programs** in pursuit of this goal.

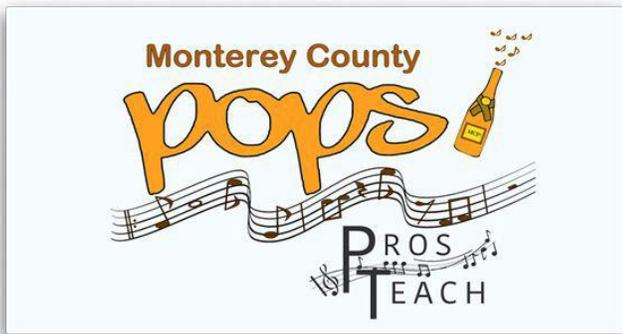
**First**, we recorded a series of instructional programs for weekly broadcast over AMP Television. Titled *Pops! Pros Teach*, this is a series of eight 30 minute episodes created by our principal players devoted to the basic principles of playing flute, clarinet, sax, trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. It is targeted at middle and high school students and is currently being broadcast three times per week on AMP Comcast 24 TV. We are now planning to create a new series devoted to the string family and to pop/jazz instruments.



The program is being presented, free of charge, in county elementary schools via a live-streamed Zoom session with the musicians who demonstrate their instruments, combined with a “screen sharing” of the video followed by an interactive question and answer session. Oboist Peter Lemberg comments, “in the live instrument demonstrations prior to showing the video, the students seem to really enjoy seeing the instruments very close up.” The wildly successful program has been presented more than 25 times, often in remote schools such as Big Sur, Soledad, Greenfield, and Bradley.

**To schedule a performance: (831) 484-5511 or [carl.christensen@montereycountypops.org](mailto:carl.christensen@montereycountypops.org)**

**Third**, we are offering free one-hour instrument clinics by Pops! professional players via Zoom. These free, interactive, coaching sessions are being presented in several county high schools.



**Second**, we created an on-line version of the symphonic fairy tale for children, *Peter and the Wolf*, where the narrator tells a children’s story, while the orchestra illustrates it. We filmed two versions, English and Spanish, of the piece.

