

# A Symphony for All

Bringing the Community Together Through Music

By: Morgan Mills

Benjamin Locke, or “Doc” as he is affectionately known by his students, has spent his 41 years cultivating a symphony that is not only diverse in membership but also in their musical repertoire.

The Knox County Symphony is the symphony at Kenyon College that is overseen by Locke. With a mix of traditional students as well as community members, the symphony is a melting pot of talent. The music organized for the fall concert has a mix of traditional and modern pieces. Some noteworthy pieces are Concerto Overture No. 2, written by Florence B. Price, and the Theme from “Cast Away,” arranged by Alan Silvestri.

When asked about his selection of pieces, Locke replied, “I have a big sense of humor, so I try to be entertaining but educational. There still needs to be a sense of seriousness to bring out the beauty that music can provide.”

Locke strives to have a seat available to anyone with a knowledge and passion of performing. He is thankful that students and community members choose to take time out of their busy schedules to perfect their craft, saying, “They are sitting here in the county, and we give them an avenue to continue participating and making music.”

The Knox County Symphony is not the only group that Locke oversees. He also leads the Chamber Singers and the Kenyon Community Choir. To Locke, music has always been a passion project. He has always seen it as a way to connect artists and audiences to the bigger picture, and he explained, “It’s about exposing people to new ideas. I welcome the opportunity to do that.” Locke loves to bring the community together in a way that everyone can benefit from.



The Knox County Symphony will perform in the R.R. Hodges Chapel Auditorium on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

Attendance is free with an MVNU ID.

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# THE VIEWER

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## Changes to Chapel Parking

By Alessia Dugan

On Sept. 16, an email was sent to students at Mount Vernon Nazarene University outlining the regulations for parking in the Chapel parking lot. The email highlighted the rules that have become necessary due to the increase in traffic. According to this policy, only specific students and staff are permitted to park in the Chapel parking lot. This includes students who have classes off the main campus before or after chapel services, commuter students, as well as faculty and staff working in the Chapel building. In an effort to ensure compliance with parking policies, Campus Safety began issuing tickets on October 1st.

According to Ben Cook, director of facilities operations and campus safety, this email did not set new rules in motion but was a reminder of the old ones. “The email was more of a reminder of the current policy; it has been established for more than three years.” The primary motivation behind the recent email was to address the issue of commuter students who were often unable to access the Chapel parking lot due to usage by other individuals.

Most students living on campus agreed that these rules did not affect them very much, but what about the staff and commuters? Morgan Mills, a senior commuter student said, “I like the new parking changes. Sometimes it is hard to try and find a spot because other vehicles without the commuter parking pass are already taking up spots.”

Ashley Mast, a senior commuter student, agreed that it was typically hard to find a parking spot, especially on chapel days, “People started making up their own parking spots, and it was very stressful in the mornings to find an open spot.”

Joseph Rinehart, an assistant professor of communication, agreed with the contents of the email, “The reality, whether it cramps our convenience or not, is that we are a walking campus. Overall, the policy was a good reminder for all of us that 1- we have a parking space issue at times; and 2- we can’t just park anywhere we want.”

Cook noted that most people have been compliant with this policy, and campus safety has only had to issue five citations. To those who were upset about this policy Cook added, “I understand how any kind of change can be upsetting, and we truly want to work with those who have a genuine need to park in the Chapel areas -- we all want what is best for the students and community.”

## Where is the Lit Mag?

By Abby Almodovar

Penmarks, MVNU’s literary magazine, has been a place for students and alumni to showcase their talent. Contributors submit their writings and artwork to be published by those taking the practicum course, and then the community gathers at a reading to see the finished product and hear authors read their pieces aloud. Those familiar with the process, though, may be surprised to learn that there will not be a Penmarks volume this school year.

Head of the English department Dorothea Hawthorne and Professor Kelly Smith decided to suspend the magazine due to low enrollment in the creative writing practicum for the upcoming spring semester. Dr. Hawthorne explained, “It just became clear that, given all the work that students do to solicit manuscripts, edit them, do the marketing and promotion and actually produce the magazine, we just didn’t quite have enough people.”

She continued, “The hope is that this year can be a growing year, a recruitment year, a building year—but we plan to offer it again in spring 2026.”

Naomi Painter, a student who has taken the course, shared, “I would definitely encourage enrollment for next year, because I think it’s a class where you get to apply a lot of practical skills that maybe you would just learn about in other classes.”

Painter also values the community created by Penmarks for those not necessarily in the English or art fields to pursue those passions. The course has been offered not just to English majors, but also to creative writing minors, those in English education or any student who needs their required arts credit.

Penmarks will be returning in the future, and Dr. Hawthorne shared that an event similar to the magazine readings is also in the works for this year. Students can still look forward to sharing their writing with peers in the spring.

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