

TOUCH OF CLASS NATIONAL TOUR OF CHINA!



The nationally recognized string group, **Touch of Class** From **Neenah High School**, has been invited to perform across China as part of a cultural exchange/musical performance tour put on by the League of Astonishing Strings from March 22-April 1, 2018.

Touch of Class, directed by Philip Smyth, is an ensemble of 14 violinists, 3 violists, 4 cellists, a bass player, and a drummer between the ages of 14-18. Their performances highlight the talent and musicianship of the finest string players from the Neenah High School Orchestra programs. **Touch of Class** mixes warm classical playing with the energy of Celtic reels, and a little bit of jazz and rock and roll for a lively and inspiring musical performance experience. Upheld by a strong classical music background, this vibrant approach to music making appeals to audiences of all ages.

The goal of the League of Astonishing Strings National Tour of China is:

- 1) Perform for real audiences, in world class halls in a "professional" format
- 2) Cultural exchange between participants
- 3) Opportunity to work with international string educators, Dean Marshall and John Crozman.
- 4) Collaboration with international artists and ensembles such as the *Vancouver Island Choir* from British Columbia Canada, and the internationally touring vocalist Ken Lavigne <http://www.kenlavigne.com/>.
- 5) Performances in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Keqiao, Suzhou, Xuzhou, and Beijing.

Touch of Class is honored to represent our school district, community and the state of Wisconsin throughout China.

In order to cover expenses **Touch of Class** must raise approximately \$3,000.00 per student. This brings our total to over **\$65,000**.. In an effort to help cover these costs, we are offering several levels of sponsorship:

Presenting Sponsors: \$5,000 – \$10,000 or higher
Platinum: \$3000 - \$4,999
Gold: \$1000 - \$2,999
Silver: \$500 - \$999
Bronze: \$200 - \$499
Friend: \$50-\$199

For our Gold, Platinum, and Presenting level sponsors, We would like to set up a performance of some kind at your place of business (or an event) if possible as both a token of our appreciation as well as a chance for members of your organization or business to see the show that we will be taking to China. Please e-mail philip.smyth@neenah.k12.wi.us directly to set up a performance.

For an easy way to donate, we have a donation link set up through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation here. http://www.oshkoshareacf.org/donor_d.cfm?fid=915 Your contribution is 100% tax deductible. Your contribution will be displayed on the **Touch of Class** website, the NJSD music department webpage as well as announced and displayed at all **Touch of Class** and Neenah High School orchestra performances during this school year.

You may also mail your contribution to:

**Touch of Class attn. Philip Smyth
Neenah High School
1275 Tullar Road
Neenah, WI 54956**

Thank you in advance for your assistance in bringing this opportunity to **Touch of Class** and for helping us continue the tradition of excellence that is the Neenah High School orchestra programs.