

## **BITTERSWEET EVENING OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC**

*review by Carolyn Grill '75*

The Wilson Instrumental Music Department held their final concert of the year on May 24 under the direction of **Paul Jolstead**. It was an event filled with beautiful music.

The evening started, as usual, with the **Chamber Orchestra** and their interpretation of Serenade in E, Op. 22, by Antonin Dvorak. This is a beautiful piece of chamber music that was done well by the small group. **Andy Grill** on cello played the solo pieces. Two solos followed, the first by **Maia Hoffman**, the **2012 OSAA State Champion on Viola**. She played Suite No. 5 in C Minor by J. S. Bach. It is no wonder she was state champion. The music was superb. The piece demonstrated the rich tone of the viola. The second solo was by **Jordan Wu** on violin. He played Partita for Solo Violin No. 2 in D Minor, also by Bach. It provided a good contrast with the viola. Jordan had impressive bow work and showed wonderful musicality. It is hard to believe these two musicians are teenagers! Neither had accompaniment, but the auditorium was filled with their beautiful sound. The orchestra finished their part of the evening with two movements from Serenade in E Minor by Edward Elgar. The group qualified for state competition for the first time since the early 1990's; and they played this piece in the competition. It was a soothing, well blended piece that demonstrated how well the group plays together.

The **Jazz Band** took the stage next. They started with Groovin' Hard by Don Menza. The saxophones and trombones stole the show with this one. I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart by Ellington, Mills, Nemo and Redmond was next, starting with a wonderful piano solo by **James Markin**, quickly joined by **Kevin Rawls** and **Samantha Mick** on tenor saxophone. **Jake Souza** on trombone also played a great solo. The clarinet, played by Samantha Mick, was a wonderful addition to the group. Next they played Four by Miles Davis. They sounded just like the Tonight Show band with Doc Severinson! There were two solos, Kevin Rawls on saxophone and **Matthew Foran** on trumpet. The "Mystery Encore" completed their program. It started with a great drum solo. The piece was not named, but was immediately recognizable as the theme from Shaft. This time, Samantha Mick added a flute to the mix, which was marvelous. Solos were by **Aaron Schilling** on saxophone, Jon Diaz-Hui on trumpet and Kevin Rawls on saxophone.

Next up was the **Concert Band**, the members of which will, with luck and talent, move up to Symphonic Band next year. They started with four movements from the Hebrides Suite by Clare Grundman. Each movement was different, but the group transitioned well between them. The first movement had a good bass part that sounded great. In the second movement, **Jake Souza** on trumpet played an impressive solo. The clarinet section was strong, with crisp, clear notes. The second piece was the Prelude and Fugue in D Minor by Bach. (A lot of Bach at this concert!) This sounded more like an orchestral piece, but the band did a great job with it. At one point, it was like a round, with the clarinets starting, then other sections joining in one by one, then dropping out to leave only the clarinets again. The group demonstrated good synchronization throughout their performance. They have improved a lot since last fall, and that is saying a lot, since they were pretty good then! It bodes well for the future of band music at Wilson.

The premier group, the **Symphonic Band**, completed the evening. They played two pieces, the first of which was the Finale from Symphony No. 1 in G Minor by V. Kalinnikov. The band also qualified for the state competition and this is the piece they played. It was an ambitious work, but the band played it well. The clarinet section was particularly good, along with the percussion section. They alternated well between the piano and forte phrases. The solid finish was impressive! The band ended with evening with a nostalgic piece, Themes from "The Wizard of Oz" by Arlen and Harburg. It was fun medley of tunes familiar to most of the audience, if not the musicians. During the If I Only Had a Brain, the tubas held the spotlight to perfection. It was great to hear those wonderful deep notes from those great instruments. All that was missing were Dorothy and Toto!

It was a bittersweet evening, marking the final concert for seventeen seniors. They will be missed, but there will still be a lot of talent with which Mr. Jolstead can work his magic next year. **Good job to all the musicians this year! Good luck to all the graduating seniors!**

*Wilson High School, Portland, Oregon*