

The MHS Winter Concert

- Linda Fitzpatrick

On January ninth, a Thursday night, at seven o'clock the high school filled with excited parents, friends, and students to watch the musical groups of Marblehead High School shine on stage. With performances by the orchestra, treble choir, mixed choir, and strings, the night filled the ears of the audience members with music of a variety of styles, such as love ballads from Treble Choir, upbeat and lively songs from the Concert Band, two a cappella performances, and impressive songs played by the strings, including this year's new String Quartet, and the Orchestra. The Winter Concert was a beautiful representation of what each musical group at the high school is capable of producing.

To start the night off by demonstrating the rich quality of music that was to come, Treble Choir sang two ballads. Mixed Choir followed with challenging pieces of music that were sung beautifully, clearly showing the audience how capable the musicians were. The Concert Band brought the stage to life when they played two songs that lifted the energy in the auditorium and captured the audience's attention, especially in "Instant Concert" in which ears were on the look out to hear snip-its of songs they were familiar with. A beautiful, calming song was played by the String Quartet. Next came Luminescence and Jewel Tones to delight the audience with one song each. Both groups showed off their immense talents through their songs. The Orchestra then filled the auditorium with a symphony of melodies that brought their musical pieces to life.

For those of you who may not have been in attendance this year, the greatest change in the program was the finale of the concert a performance that included every music group. The singing of "Dry Your Tears Afrika" was a highlight of the show. Since this was the very first year this combination of bands and choirs have performed together, there was a level of skepticism from us musicians would it work? Seeing as we hadn't had much practice time together as one large group, we honestly were left with doubts. But during the actual performance, those concerns disappeared as the piece of music came together. There has been talk of continuing this type of performance in future concerts because of the great reviews.

Being a member of Treble Choir myself, I was aware that heading into the concert many musicians were feeling unsure of how the night would play out. Due to two snow days which extended the winter break, there was less than expected rehearsal time the week prior to the show. Hearing the buzz of enjoyment outside of the theater after the show, it is safe to say everyone in attendance loved, "Dry Your Tears Afrika," as well as the rest of the performances. The musicians were even delighted to receive a resounding standing ovation.

It is rewarding to see the outstanding music program at the high school. Many arts programs in schools around the country are being taken out of the curriculum due to lack of funding. However, here in Marblehead, the program surely allows students to participate in activities that allow them to reach to new heights and let them grow to be that much better in their musical

activity. The Winter Concert was one opportunity, out of many, to witness the talented students in this community blossom on stage.

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