

DHS music groups hit all the right notes

By THOMAS OIDE
HUB Staff

Over the years, DHS and musical excellence have become synonymous.

This excellence is proven by Grammy Awards, students playing in distinguished bands and competitions in places like Disneyland and Canada.

But therein lies the question: where does all of this perennial success come from?

"We have a really fantastic feeder program from our elementary and junior high schools," orchestra director Angelo Moreno said. "We have a huge amount of community support, a great parent booster program and really strong support from our school board and administrators."

Band director Thomas Slabaugh also cited the community support for the string of success of DHS music, but he also credited both students and teachers.

"We have a community that values [music], students that are smart and work hard and great teachers. Put all three of those together, and you're going to have a great program," Slabaugh said.

Both Moreno and Slabaugh pointed to the fact that Davis has voted on several extra taxes to keep the Davis music program afloat.

"[The taxes] basically give us a longevity for the music program from year to year," Moreno said. "It gives us a consistency of funding so that every year we don't have to come up with \$230,000 for the music program to exist. The community support is the most important thing for the music program to survive from year to year."

And the DHS music programs are taking full advantage of their existence. Last year, the DHS band went to Disneyland, but also stopped to work with two members of the UCLA faculty before



Band director Thomas Slabaugh works with the Symphonic Band in the Richard Brunelle Theater on May 7. The band has gone to Disneyland and Canada to perform and work with music professionals at different universities.

playing in the park.

This year, the bands went to Victoria, Canada, making a stop at the University of Washington, Slabaugh's alma mater, to work with one of Slabaugh's former instructors.

"Whenever you get a chance to work with someone different, you get a different view into both the academic and artistic side of music," Slabaugh said. "There's never an issue, in my mind or any of my colleagues, of someone else adding their ideas, their thoughts and their input: it just gives the students more opportunity to grow."

The music program also has many opportunities to learn that other high schools don't have because of the Mondavi Center, a venue that attracts many top-flight musicians in the nation.

The DHS Baroque Ensemble recently had world-renowned violinist Rachel Barton-Pine perform a benefit concert as a fundraiser for their upcoming trip to Italy. Barton Pine was touring with the Sacramento Philharmonic.

The admission for the concert was free, but the Baroque Ensemble raised \$4,000 from donations from people who attended the

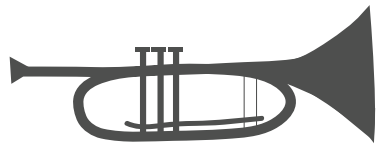
concert.

Even with all of this success, both Slabaugh and Moreno see room for growth in their respective programs.

Both want to raise their enrollment numbers in the coming years, but Moreno has an idea that he hopes to put in place.

"The success for me is seeing the educational opportunities continuing to grow," Moreno said. "If there were a fourth orchestra to be created, my next vision for the program would be a string rock orchestra which would focus just on rock and pop music outside the classical realm."

Artist of the Month



Senior Garek Najita turns his passion for the trumpet into his future

By MICAELA EVERITT
HUB Staff

Playing trumpet is not just a hobby to fill free time for senior Garek Najita. For this senior, jazz is a college major and a career. Najita will be attending CSU Northridge and will be playing jazz in one of the best music programs in California.

The senior began his music career as a fourth grader playing viola, but switched to trumpet the next year. "I wanted something louder and I just stuck with it," Najita said.

Now Najita is in the DHS jazz band for his third year and is also in a jazz combo, called California Sixstep, that he started with some friends. "My best memory with music was during my sophomore year when the jazz band went to New Orleans and we played on the streets," the senior said. "A few of us were invited to some random birthday party [and] after 10-15 minutes we made \$189 off of tips, and it was sweet."

When he is not playing, the trumpet player listens to fellow jazz musicians like Wynton Marsalis, Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band and Doc Severinsen.

"After college I plan to become a live performer and stu-



Senior Garek Najita poses playfully with his trumpet. He has been playing the instrument since the fourth grade.

dio musician, and if I do well I may travel and perform all over the world, fingers crossed," Najita said. The soon-to-be Northridge freshmen would play in Japan if he had the chance or closer to home in Yoshi's Club in Oakland.

According to Najita, a musician needs to practice if he wants to improve. "The most annoying thing is when others take class time to work on something easy with the teacher."

The trumpeter also plays the ukulele on the side just for fun. The best part about playing trumpet in particular though, according to Najita, is making all different kinds of noises and playing all different genres of music.

"I would encourage people to start an instrument to have something fun to do," Najita said. "You meet a lot of awesome people and when you perform, applause is a really good feeling. Plus, it's nice to be able to show off a little bit," Najita said.



DANIELLE NEWMAN / HUB PHOTO

THE WAY WE SEE IT

ZOE JUANITAS & YRENLY YUAN

Sky High

For our last issue of The Way We See It for the year, we wanted to do something really exciting. Skydiving? White water rafting? These all came to mind, but we decided to ask all our friends for an idea just as fun--just one that was a bit less extreme for us scaredy-cats. So what did they all recommend? Sky High. A huge warehouse full of trampolines that they all said was super fun when they went as children.

But that's the point: they were children when they went. That's why they thought it was fun. As you can probably tell, we didn't have the best experience there when we went.

When we walked into that dust-ridden, humid atmosphere on that fine Saturday morning, we weren't expecting to be the only people there above 10, aside from the parents supervising their children. It was awkward to say the least.

But we shrugged off the uncomfortableness and instead focused on the task on hand. At least jumping on trampolines sounded fun! Well not exactly...

First of all, more than half of the trampoline areas were roped off for those 8 or younger, so it left us with very few options: one trampoline area, one foam pit and one dodgeball arena.

We decided to head for the trampoline area first.

When we stepped onto the first set off trampolines, we felt as if we could fall onto the floor at any moment. We were also the only people on the floor, except for one trampoline supervisor, who did not seem super pumped to be there.

In addition, we felt like the whole place was a breeding ground for disease. They didn't let us wear socks and the thought of everyone's hot and sweaty feet in one place did not sound appealing. Also, when we decided to join the line of five-year-olds to jump into the ball pit, the trampoline supervisor there told us to close our eyes as we jumped in, as there was apparently a layer of dust over the spongy blocks. We know--ew.

When our legs started getting sore after jumping on trampolines that didn't have any bounce, we roamed around the other parts of the building.

Yrenly then decided to waste some money playing a game, in the hopes of winning a Go-Pro camera. Six dollars and a lot of frustration later, we were still empty-handed. We then decided to get Dippin' Dots and that was admittedly the best part of the day.

We then got back into the pits and had a mini-dodgeball fight with a volatile 10-year-old girl. She was out for our blood, so we went back to the big jump pit to jump for another 10 minutes before the really long hour we had paid for was up.

So, this is what we took away from it. Sky High is probably awesome for little kids or even pre-teens. But we'd have rather spent our money buying food at Target, rather than jumping half-heartedly at Sky High for a half hour. At least it would have been clean then!

And to warn all of you out there who still are interested in going to Sky High (even after reading this), Sky High is a very hard place to find. We put the address into Google Maps, then ended up in a back alley somewhere in Sacramento. But we tried again, and it worked in the end!

If you do decide to go, we would recommend either going with a ton of your friends so it will be more entertaining, or taking your little siblings so you don't feel so out of place.

Looking into an artistic future

DHS students plan to pursue a career in the arts

By ELLEN FINN
HUB Staff

Senior Gregory Shilling can't imagine his life without art: he's doodled on every worksheet he can remember, has boxes upon boxes of old drawings and paintings, and is continuously creating more. Shilling and a handful of other DHS students are so passionate about their art that they are considering committing their lives to it. As seniors gear up to go to college, some are deciding to major or minor in art to pursue it as a career later on.

Shilling has taken every art class he possibly could during his high school years: Art History, AP Studio Art for two years, beginning art, ceramics, photography... The list goes on and on. He prefers to use oils, water color, acrylic, and spray paint.

"Because this school is so STEM focused I need a release--I would go insane if I didn't have art every day," Shilling said.

Fellow senior and AP Art student Cristina Puente was influenced by her painter and musician parents, and was also eventually consumed by her love of art. She plans on minor-ing in art in college and combining it with her other passion, social justice.

"In high school I think I've explored art more to give it meaning versus just being aesthetically pleasing to look at," Puente said. She asks, "What is the message behind my art?"

She's interested in art with social and political messages, and recently she has been focusing on consumerism and the negative impacts it can cause on society.

Recently she worked on creating a map of the earth and collaged them with 3D pieces of trash and nature.

"My new thing is using items that I consume for my pieces," Puente said.

Her dream is to use social and political ideas used in inter-national development to correlate it with art to send a mes-sage and make a change.

"A fusion of the two would be really powerful," Puente said.

Rising self-taught artist junior Emme Van Vorhis has al-ways been doodling but recently became more serious with her art when she created a series of water colored pieces to be shown at a local art show. She plans on taking AP Art next year and majoring in art or even attending an art school to further her skills.

"Maybe even owning my own art studio would be fun.



LOW RATES

LOW RATES

Dual Control Cars ● Permit Assistance ● Use Our Cars For DMV Tests ● Meet Your State Requirements Online

We help teens get their driving permit & drivers license



Automatic Shift ● Beginners & Brush-Ups ● Free Pick-Up & Delivery ● Personal/Private Lessons

Rocklin Office: 4157 Rocklin Road, Suite O, Rocklin, CA 95677

DMV #4434 ● Bonded ● Full Liability Insurance

TeenDriversEdOnline.com









FREE OR **\$20 OFF**

Online drivers education with paid six hours behind the wheel instruction

Six hours behind the wheel instruction

Enroll: TeenDriversEdOnline.com
Instructors Are Retired CHP & Educators



Teens **\$20 OFF**
Driving School

Call Now **(530) 753-7200**

Offers Cannot Be Combined

*To receive discount you must have completed drivers education.

Plus, it could make more money than just selling singular pieces," Van Vorhis said.

According to Shilling, "High school is a student's chance to figure out where they want to go career wise."

He's chosen to be an artist, and he will now go to Cal Poly to choose the specific type of art he'd like to study.

"I'm not for sure going to be a painter, although I'd be happy to," Shilling said. "I'm probably going to evolve into some other art form in college, because there's definitely an outlet in college that I haven't found in high school yet, which is what that exploration is all about."