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Anderson Band Students compete at Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest

By Cathy Bruce Purdy

While most area students were contemplating the start of summer, or busily trying to learn a few last facts for upcoming exams, some Anderson High School Band students were taking a different kind of final. High school band, orchestra and choir members from across Texas participated in Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest at the UT campus on May 30 and June 1st. Percussion players from across the state competed at Westlake HS.

In early spring, students prepared their solos and formed small ensemble groups to compete in their Regional contests. All participants receive written comments and a score from judges. Soloists who entered a memorized class 1 solo and who received the coveted 'I' scoring from their judge earned the right to advance to State competition. Ensembles who earned the score of I (superior rating out of a scoring range of I-V) on a class 1 piece also advanced to the State level competition.

For much of Saturday and Monday, the hallways of at UT were teeming with musicians waiting their turns. Some students brought sleeping bags and snacks, especially if they came from far away Texas towns. Playing again for a judge, students are scored from I-V (1-5, with 1 being the highest score). Musicians are judged more critically at the State level, and at Anderson, a 'I' at state earns the soloist

their 'letter' in band.

In 2009, Anderson again had record number (24 solos and 12 ensembles) of students qualify to compete at the State level. Congratulations to all of these fine hard-working musicians!

The following students earned a 'I' on their Solo:

Miki Sasaki-outstanding soloist, Scott Smith, Rebecca Teng-outstanding soloist, Katie Malone, Scott Graves

Jordan Kohler, Kristen Chilinski, Christina Teng.

These students earned a 'II' on their Solo: Sarah Clement, Catie Baird, Freddie Earl, Mark Carrion, Michelle Girardot, Jake Clement, Julia Pena, Patrick Brinkman, Lauren Chung, Jake Roach, Lindsey Franz, Jac-Min Jo, Meredith Goodman.

The following Ensembles earned a 'I'.

Percussion Ensemble:
Sarah Clement, Nick Erck,
Scott Smith

Woodwind Ensemble:
Eric Alvarez-Medrano, Lauren Chung, Kelly Milman,
Meredith Goodman, Christina Teng, Katie Young

Woodwind Trio: Catie Baird, Andrew Glenn, Guy King

Brass Quintet: Jake Clement, Manny De Lara, Wiley Greene, Katie Malone, Miki Sasaki

These Ensembles earned a 'II':

Clarinet Choir: David Geyer, Hailey Glaze, Vicky McAlpin, Laura Meitz, Josh Olmos, Zoe Watson, Laura Zeiler

Woodwind Quartet: Katie Panico, Kat Japour, Eunice Lee, Joyce Yager