

News Release

Everett Public Schools
April 13, 2007

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H.M. Jackson wind ensemble to perform at Carnegie Hall

[\(Read front-page story in Enterprise, April 20, 2007\)](#)

Those who have heard H.M. Jackson High School's wind ensemble perform, will not be surprised to learn the group has been selected as part of the Carnegie Hall guest concert series on May 25, 2008. Although some of Jackson High's students have performed at Carnegie Hall in the past, this will be the first time that an entire ensemble will be on the New York stage.

Lesley Moffat, Jackson High's director of bands and percussion, submitted a wind ensemble performance CD to MidAmerica Productions earlier this year. In early April, Moffat learned that, on the basis of that CD, her students were selected as one of three groups to perform at Carnegie in May next year. The 53-member wind ensemble is an honors level, audition-only performance group at Jackson High. The popular group frequently performs regionally; the young people are highly regarded as talented musicians.

Local music lovers may have heard the students perform Peter Tchaikovsky's *Finale to Symphony No. 4* on March 8, 2007 with the Everett Symphony. That selection and *Italian in Algiers* were the recordings Moffat submitted for the Carnegie audition. She comments, The interesting audition choice of Tchaikovsky's piece is that for the opening night concert of Carnegie Hall on May 5, 1891, Tchaikovsky conducted the very first performance on that stage!

Following the ensemble's March performance with the Everett Symphony, students thanked the Symphony for sharing the stage and reflected upon what it meant to play with professional musicians. Among the students comments were:

"â€œThank you for giving us the chance and for showing the importance of music within the school. Someday I hope to be a part of a symphony like this, but I know I will need to practice, practice, practice." *Stacy, grade 12, French horn*

"That night was so amazing! Before this, I had never performed with a symphony, but had definitely wanted to. I will always remember this night; so will my family." *Evan, grade 11, alto sax*

"After the concert, my parents asked me what it was like playing with you. I answered that it was much like a roller coaster (sounds funny), but I said that it's like when your heart starts racing as you get to the very top and you can look down and see what's next. Then the music starts, and you get the thrill of playing and enjoying the ride. Once it's all finished, you cannot get the feeling out of your mind. Thank you again for the opportunity for our wind ensemble to play with you." *Leah, grade 10, trumpet*

The thrill and experience of their concert with the Everett Symphony are good foundations for what lies ahead in New York next year — as is the advice of other HMJ students who have already performed at Carnegie. Besides arranging Carnegie's guest concert series, MidAmerica also runs the National Youth Symphony Orchestra. Over the years, a dozen of Moffat's Jackson High students have individually auditioned and been selected for the symphony and orchestra groups. As selected members of the national groups, those students rehearsed for five days in New York with other high school and college musicians and performed a concert at the end of the fifth day.

In order to raise the funds necessary for the Carnegie Hall performance and the rest of the band and percussion students' performances with the Heritage Music Festival in New York City, the Jackson High School Band Boosters are putting on the 3rd annual [Par-Tee Fore Band Golf Tournament](#). It will be held on Monday, May 14 at the Mill Creek Golf and Country Club. More information is also available from Brad or Deanne at 425 -385-3838.

