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Homeschool ensemble to perform with Ann Arbor Symphony at TCA

Thu, 01/22/2015 - 1:19pm [MARY KAY McPARTLIN](#)



Among students performing are (l-r) Seth Blake, Isaac Weiss and Katheryn Noel. Photo by Jim Lincoln.

By [MARY KAY McPARTLIN](#)

Local music will be in the air on Sunday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m., at the Tecumseh Center for the Arts when the National Homeschool Music Ensemble (NHME) performs with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Homeschool students from the area have been practicing regularly at the Grange Hall on Burt St. and are looking forward to sharing time on the stage with professional musicians.

“The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra is providing an educational opportunity in the form of a side-by-side concert with students from National Homeschool Music Ensembles of Lenawee and Washtenaw County,” said NHME Director Donald S. Dobrosky.

NHME is the homeschool music program providing band, choir, string, and percussion education. The program is 15 years old and is rated as a first division music program. The students have played with such prestigious groups as the Straits Concert Band in Mackinac City and the current concert with the Ann Arbor Symphony.

The concert on January 25 will be directed by Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra conductor Arie Lipsky.

Dobrosky is a local musician in Tecumseh and has been a supporter of music his whole life. He started NHME after being asked to by local parents who wanted music as part of their children’s homeschool education.

Students start in a beginner class for the first year on their instruments, and then are immediately placed in the advanced class, regardless of age. Dobrosky’s youngest student, Chana Weiss, started playing at age four and is now seven.

Students in NHME participate in regular band and orchestra activities like Band Festival and Solo and Ensemble. The difference is their preparation for these activities also included joint rehearsals with Eastern Michigan University students for Solo and Ensemble, and assistance for Band Festival from John Pasquale, director of the University of Michigan Marching Band.

“We have people come in all the time,” Dobrosky said. “NHME does things other music programs don’t do.”

Dobrosky’s love of music inspires the students and he, in turn, is inspired by their enthusiasm. “These are literally the leaders of the next generation,” he said.

The non-profit organization has concerts like the performance at the TCA to give the students experience and raise money for NHME, but also performs free community concerts as part of its mission. The next free concert is in May.

Students pay tuition to participate in NHME, and the organization is always happy to accept donations of money and instruments to continue its outreach to the community.

The upcoming concert has the NHME students excited. “There will be a fun mix of music,” said Dobrosky. “The students’ favorite piece is ‘Pirates of the Caribbean.’”

Whether the students are on stage or practicing at the Grange, Dobrosky is proud of their accomplishments and happy to support music in Tecumseh. “I’m 76 years old, and I’m doing what I love,” Dobrosky said.

More information on NHME can be found at www.nhme.org. To purchase tickets for the January 25 concert, call the TCA box office at 423.6617.

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