

HMS ORCHESTRA IS “GOLDEN” AT HERITAGE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

**By
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They came from far and wide. The best and brightest young musicians were assembled on Saturday, May 17 to compete in the Heritage Music Festival of Anaheim. They came from places familiar, like Seattle Washington, Calgary Canada, Redwood California, and Phoenix Arizona. They came from small towns we have never heard of—places like Tooele Utah, Lebanon Oregon, and Duvall Washington. And in the end, there was only one that stood above the rest—Huntington Middle School of our very own San Marino. Yes, the Huntington Advanced Orchestra, under the direction of Rob Folsom, has done it again! They took the first place prize in a scintillating performance at nearby Fullerton College. The Wind Ensemble, directed by Dr. Bill McDaniel, and the Jazz Band, directed by Terry Federoff also received top honors.

With Disneyland’s Thunder Mountain as the impressive backdrop, the judges announced the winners late Saturday night. Amidst a roar of approval from orchestra members, friends and family, it was truly an evening of triumph for Huntington Middle School. "When we heard the string orchestra play from Redwood Middle School," confessed Mr. Folsom, "I was very impressed. I suddenly realized that we were up against some very serious competition. I got a little nervous." The anxiety must have provided the proper motivation, however, because the Advanced Orchestra also received the Adjudicators Award—the top prize given to the group with the highest scores in the overall orchestra category.

To top off the evening, their performance of Tchaikovsky’s “Excerpt from Swan Lake” and Mozart’s "Overture to the Marriage of Figaro" was truly deemed “golden.” The Orchestra is, in fact, one of a select few to also receive the GOLD AWARD, which includes an invitation to play in the “Festival of Gold.” This is an annual, national competition that provides an opportunity to perform in one of the finest concert halls in America. Among the choices for next year is The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington D.C. This festival will be held in May of 2009.

You, fortunately, do not have to travel so far nor wait so long to hear our “golden” treasure. Come enjoy the orchestra on June 6, at 8:00pm for “A Night under the Stars.” This final concert of the school year will be held in the lovely outdoor setting of the Huntington School Library Courtyard. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided.