



Orchestra Competition: Students' Perspective



The Chinese Orchestra was awarded the grade of "Excellent" in the 2015 National Student Competition of Music.

By BRIAN PENG

Kang Chiao students from our two orchestras, ranging from grade seven to eleven, recently entered the National Competition of Music held in the Jungli Arts Hall on March 10.



The competition featured the top orchestras from various schools throughout Taiwan. The orchestra earned a score of 91.3, an improvement over last year's score of 90.3. The score is the equivalent to an excellent A+ grade and was second only to the orchestra from Dongshan Senior High School.

The orchestra performed the assigned song of L.v. Beethoven: Overture to "Fidelio" and the elective song of Shostakovich: Symphony No. 10, 2nd mvt. in the competition.

The team came into this competition aspiring to win the championship. To achieve this required an extensive amount of practice. Thus, the preparation for this event began during last year's summer vacation. The students had after-school practices each week and sacrificed their winter vacation for further preparation. In addition, the orchestra went to Tokushima, Japan, for an exchange performance.

According to Bryan Ku, a participant from 11B, the purpose of entering this competition is that it is one of the orchestra's traditions and the desire to prove the capability of the Kang Chiao orchestra. However, the students did not value the team's success in the competition too much.

"Successes were never our priority in past competitions," Bryan Ku said. "Our goal was to improve each year and the competitions were opportunities to prove that we did."

Josh Tsuo, the leader of the wind section of the orchestra, from 11B, echoed Bryan Ku's sentiment.

"Success doesn't mean anything to us," Josh stated. "What you learn from the practice and competition is the most important thing."

The students shared similar opinions on their positions in the orchestra team

as well. None of the students interviewed believed that he or she is a particularly significant part in the team; rather, each of them believed that each member in the orchestra is equally important.

As Josh put it, "There is

students and teachers work well together. The school reported that students in the orchestra "displayed a high level of cooperation when working with the other members." The school attributed the high score the team earned in the competition to the excellent cooperation between teammates.

The competition and the preparation that students have gone through have different meanings for each participant.

Hannah Hsu of 9D believes that joining the orchestra and competing as a member of the orchestra added important life experiences and carried a lot of importance in her life.

Josh thought of it as "a self-evaluation," in which "you can freely express on the stage and show how much you got."

Despite the fact that the orchestra competition carries different meanings and importance for each individual,



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no one who contributed more or most. Every single student and teacher put all of their effort into it."

Kang Chiao seems to recognize the fact that the

one thing is for certain: the students value the process much more than the result, and the experience they gained is what matters the most to students.



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