

Instrumental Music Winter Concert Review

The Instrumental Music Program, led by Mr. Trimble, put on their Winter Concert on December 7, 2018 in Plummer Auditorium. It featured Jazz Ensemble, Concert Band, Color Guard, and other featured soloists and small ensembles, as well as special guests Beechwood Advanced Band and Advanced Orchestra. Each group brought a unique sound to the audience and often performed well-known Christmas or holiday songs.

Jazz Ensemble performed first, with each of their three songs featuring soloists. This group put a jazzy twist on the classical and popular ballet The Nutcracker in “Nutcracker Swing” which featured soloists on the guitar, alto sax, trumpet, and drums. The entire ensemble came together with a good blend and started off the show with three very entertaining numbers. They were followed by five instrumental soloists, as well as a flute trio. The flute trio performed a Nightmare Before Christmas Medley, bringing together the most iconic songs from the popular Disney movie into a cohesive and entertaining piece.

Following intermission, the FUHS Concert Band performed five pieces with some accompanied by Beechwood’s Advanced Band. One of my favorites from this set was “Up on a Haunted Housetop” with Mr. Hedgecock as the narrator. Through collaboration between programs, Mr. Hedgecock was able to enhance the instrumentalists’ performance and make it a very memorable piece, as he spoke with animation and suspense. The show concluded with the FUHS Combined Bands performing “Sleigh Ride” as a fun and upbeat piece to leave a lasting impression on the audience. I enjoyed watching all of the different instruments come together to make this piece come to life and end the show well.