

Samantha Dennis

On-Campus Review

Academy of the Arts Choral/Vocal - Junior Year, Semester One

Instrumental Music Winter Concert

Led by Mr. Troy Trimble, the FUHS Instrumental Program recently put on their Winter Concert featuring Jazz Ensemble, Concert Band, Colorguard, and other featured soloists and small ensembles. On December 4, 2019 in the historic Plummer Auditorium, these high school students, accompanied by the Beechwood Advanced Orchestra and Advanced Band, played to the best of their ability to perform in a smooth and professional show. Overall, the show featured many different types of music and focused on the holidays through multiple traditional and fun Christmas pieces.

One of my favorite groups was the Jazz Ensemble, which opened the show with five different holiday pieces. Out of these five songs, “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” was my favorite. I loved drawing parallels between our own choral concert with the instrumental concert and how we do similar holiday songs, yet there are always differences. I love that in instrumental concerts, there are so many different instruments and factors that come together to form one cohesive product. Additionally, there were multiple featured solos throughout the concert, of which my favorite was Chelsea Yun playing Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas on the piano. She gracefully and craftily created a beautiful rendition of the song that kept me captivated the entire time. She utilized amazing dynamics and unique runs throughout the piece that added dimension and made it one of the best songs in the concert.

With special guests from Beechwood, the concert as a whole became more inclusive of orchestras, as FUHS does not offer an orchestra class. Under the direction of Mary Louise Uys, the advanced orchestra was able to showcase their talents in a wonderful venue. I believe having a junior high perform with the high school is very beneficial, as it not only allows the junior high students to gain experience and possibly choose to attend Fullerton, it also allows high school students to adjust quickly to a new sound they might not be used to.