



Kettering Concert Band Receives Division I Ratings

March 31, 2003, Waterford, Mich. -Two Kettering concert bands, the Wind Ensemble and the Wind Symphony/Concert Winds, received Division I ratings at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) District 4 Band Festival last month. A Division I rating is the highest rating given by the MSBOA. The band now qualifies for State Band Festival, to take place on Saturday, May 3.

Each event, 23 in total, is a solo or small ensemble played for an adjudicator that specializes in that particular instrument from another area of the state. The soloist or ensemble is rated on how well they presented their music in a total musical performance. The rating system is Division I for excellent performance, Division II for good performance, Division III for an average performance. In order to qualify for State Solo & Ensemble Festival, the bands must earn a Division I rating at District 4 Solo & Ensemble Festival.

Twelve (12) of the 23 events earned a Division I rating and ten (10) of the 23 events earned a Division II rating. This is the second straight year earning a Division I at State Solo & Ensemble for Melissa Lane, flute and Lindsey Powell, violin; Tasha Miner, violin; Elise Woolcox, viola; Katlin Gaddy, cello as a string quartet. This is the third straight year for the Waterford Kettering Chamber Orchestra to earn a Division I rating. Mr. R. Scott Adkins is the Director of Bands and Mr. Merlyn D. Beard II is the Director of Orchestras at Waterford Kettering High School.

The Kettering Bands consist of four concert bands, two jazz bands, one jazz combo, the Marching Captains, and several chamber ensembles. The bands will perform together next at Walt Disney World, Florida, where both groups are a "Disney's Featured Performer." The marching band will perform a Futureworld March at the Epcot Center, and the combined concert bands will perform a special performance on the Tomorrowland Stage for a large audience. The concert bands were selected by competitive audition to perform as a Featured Performer, where part of their performance will include a special guest performance by a

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Disney professional trumpeter, who will play selections from "The Mask of Zorro" along with Kettering's concert bands.

The bands performed in October for the George W. Bush rally in Waterford and made an appearance on national TV in November during the "America's Thanksgiving Day Parade" in Detroit. The Director of Bands at Kettering is R. Scott Adkins and the Assistant Directors are Merlyn Beard and Casey Rakowski.

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