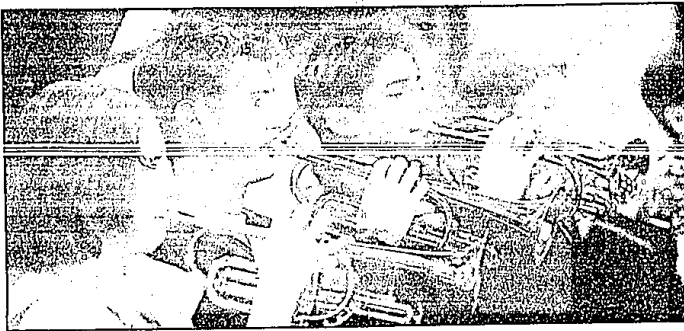


Sounds of success

School bands, orchestras hit the high notes



In harmony: Elizabeth Schmu, Aaron Weiss, Jimmy Wolk and Brian Rosenbaum make up part of the cornet section.

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

The sound of success was in the air as Farmington Public Schools bands wowed judges with their performances at Michigan State Bands and Orchestra Association festivals recently.

Farmington middle and high school bands and orchestras all did well this year, according to the various band and orchestra directors.

'We had rehearsals after school and (there was) basically a lot of hard work on the part of students.'

Jack Hawkins
Warner band director

The highest. Each group played three selections, including a march, a required selection and a piece chosen by the group.

Warner Middle School band director Jack Hawkins said practice was key to his bands' success. Both Warner bands earned I ratings. Hawkins directs the seventh- and eighth-grade bands.

"We had rehearsals after school and (there was) basically a lot of

hard work on the part of students,"

Hawkins said. The bands will head to Toronto in May for a musical festival/clinic at the University of Ontario.

Harrison High School music director Mark Phillips and assistant director Janine Benson led the school's four instrumental groups to division I ratings. About one out of every five Harrison students is involved in instrumental music, according to Phillips.

"It was a good chance to play for some adjudicators and get comments about the things we do," Phillips said. "All the kids worked real hard."

The school's concert band, wind ensemble, symphonic band and orchestra all performed Saturday.

MSBOA adjudicator Gregory Reed of Williamston heaped praise on the school's symphony band.

"Congratulations to all of you and also to your fine director that put it all together," Reed wrote. "You are an excellent, well-trained group of young musicians."

Benson said parents deserve almost as much credit as the students.

"We're really proud of what we did," Benson said. "We had a lot of support from the parents."

North Farmington's Class C band earned all I ratings as did the symphonic winds band and the symphony orchestra. The Class B symphonic winds

the students have done," said Carl Gippert, who directed the symphony orchestra, winds and concert bands.

East Middle School also did well, with the seventh-grade varsity band and eighth-grade symphony band receiving I ratings. The eighth-grade concert band received a II.

After school sectional practices and a pre-festival critiqued concert all helped, said band director Dave Drake.

"The major purpose is to make music happen," Drake said.

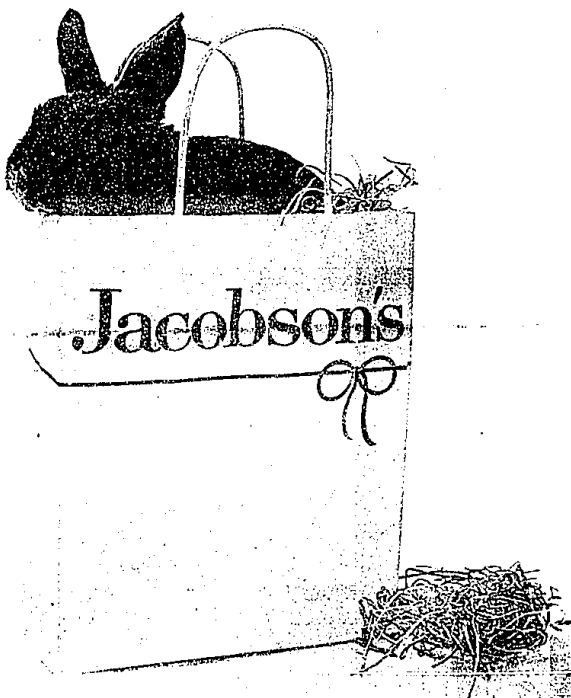
Three groups were sidelined by snow March 6, including the Dunckel Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade orchestras and the Warner Middle School seventh/eighth-grade orchestra. The groups' early playing times prompted the district to keep the students home rather than risk driving in the snow, said Paul Barber, music coordinator for the district.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DECKER

Hom: Brian Eisenberg plays tuba during a rehearsal at school.

(Now we know what he does before the big day.)



Pre-Easter Clearance
25-50% off*

merchandise throughout the store!

Better hurry, before the best eggs end up
in someone else's basket!

*Savings off original prices of selected styles. No adjustments made on prior purchases.

Jacobson's

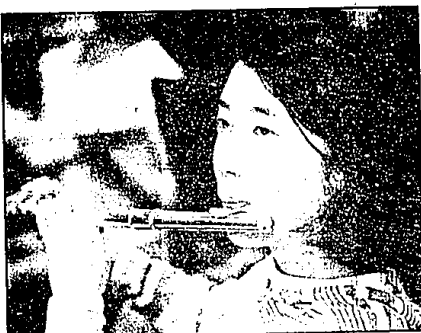
Birmingham • (248) 644-6900 Livonia • (734) 591-7696 Rochester • (248) 651-6000

SHOPPING HOURS • MON-SAT 10-9 • OPEN SUN AT NOON

Gift Certificates

Complimentary Silver Gift Box

Jacobson's Charge



In key: Jane Paul concentrates while playing the flute.

And the winners are:

Here is a roundup of how all Farmington bands and orchestras scored at the Michigan State Bands and Orchestra Association festivals March 5-6 and March 12-13:

■ Dunckel Middle School seventh-grade band: I

■ Dunckel Middle School eighth-grade band: I

■ East Middle School seventh-grade orchestra: II

■ East Middle School eighth-grade orchestra: I

■ East Middle School seventh-grade varsity band: I

■ East Middle School eighth-grade concert band: II

■ East Middle School eighth-grade symphony band: I

■ Power Middle School varsity band: II

■ Power Middle School concert band: I

■ Warner Middle School seventh-grade band: I

■ Warner Middle School

eighth-grade band: I

■ Farmington High School concert band: II

■ Farmington High School symphonic band: I

■ Farmington High School symphony orchestra: I

■ Harrison High School wind ensemble: I

■ Harrison High School symphony band: I

■ Harrison High School symphony orchestra: I

■ North Farmington High School concert band: II

■ North Farmington High School symphony band: II

■ North Farmington symphonic winds band: I

Because of snow conditions, Dunckel Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade orchestras and the Warner Middle School seventh/eighth-grade orchestra did not attend the festival.