



Michelle McCann and Arty Perez, Class of 1987



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JAGUAR BAND BEGINS 2014 SEASON AND HONOR ALMUNI

Brendan Korey
Staff Writer

Following a season in which the hymns of Les Miserables had provided them the US Bands National Trophy alongside the acclaim of various audiences, the Jackson Memorial Jaguar Band aspires to once more capture the interest of their audience. In a band now totaling over two hundred student-musicians, the meticulously constructed musical pieces of the show consisting of “The Tiger of San Pedro,” “MacArthur Park,” “Sophisticated Lady,” and “It Don’t Mean a Thing If I Ain’t Got That Swing” all constitute the 2014 show “After Hours.” Thus, the band travelled to Brick Memorial High School to apply the techniques instructed since the summer, and for some, March.

Prior to their arrival at Brick Memorial High School, the band had received the scores in

March of last year, often in rehearsals intended to generally define the music they had been tasked with eventually memorizing. Students were tasked with interpreting every detail of their music, such as producing the Latin flair of “Tiger of San Pedro,” or entrancing the audiences in the tranquil, dream-esque “MacArthur Park.”

With various solo pieces arranged into the tunes, often lasting no greater than a few measures, those chosen to perform solos are given the responsibility of providing the musical perfectionism that only one’s musically-synchronized mind can interpret and convey. “After Hours” also utilizes the groupings of instrumentalists in a quintet, composed of two alto saxophones, two tenor saxophones, and a double bass to create sounds redolent of those in the nightclubs of the

early 1900’s, around the quintet, a white-dressed dancer. Accompanying the demanding music is the elaborate marching to further illustrate the tonality of music, referred to as marching drill, with accelerated footsteps in the fast-paced “It Don’t Mean

Alumni fled back to Jack Munley field from as far as Colorado to watch the band perform “After Hours.”

A Thing,” contrasting with the mild, alto-graced pace of “MacArthur Park.” The Jaguars are pleasantly ambitious with the musical and marching responsibilities now demanding to be applied to yield the National Championship once more, with that effort beginning at Brick Memorial.

After traveling to Brick Memorial High

School, the students congregated in preparatory blocks to refine the elaborate marching techniques applied throughout the show. After the practice, all 200 students, with the freshman in all their curious splendor at their first competition, integrated into

a music-honing arc. Hours were occupied by revisiting individual phrases of the pieces innumerable times, clarifying to near-quarters of a second. The Jaguars marched onto the field of Brick Memorial with the simple cadence, or tapping of a drum to keep the band in step, with discipline polar to the expressional flair of the music they played.

Returning home with the captions of best visual, best colorguard, best percussion, best music, and overall effect, Jackson Memorial was given a 72.975 out of 100.

Though the Jaguar Band is not eligible to compete in their home competition, they certainly put on quite a show for their exhibition performance. In honor of fifty years of JMHS, the Jaguar Band invited back all of their alumni to be honored and have a track-view of the field show. Alumni fled back to Jack Munley field from as far as Colorado to watch the band perform “After Hours.” The excitement built as drum majors Dylan Sidali and Dylan Thomas were escorted in a 1940 white Ford and a 1969 Chevelle respectively. It was certainly a spectacular show to honor the fifty years of Jackson Memorial High School.

Jackson Memorial's Resident Pianist

Sophia Samuel
Editor-in-Chief

Jackie Du, a junior at Jackson Memorial, is a force to be reckoned with. Not only is he a stellar student, but he is also a gifted long-time pianist. In his own words, Jackie reflected on his career as a pianist:

I have been playing piano for eight years now, since I was eight years old. I started because I wanted to compete with another student and kept playing because I began to enjoy the feeling of performing in New York every winter. My parents definitely had a profound impact on my playing. They don't play any instruments themselves, but they always want me

to keep improving and achieve a perfection that is unsurpassed. However, the majority of my playing has been because I enjoy classical music and I like the way a good Chopin piece sounds on a snowy night. I practice a total of around nine hours a week and my greatest amount of time practicing was three hours a day for a week before a major Carnegie Hall performance last winter. My getting to be a pianist involved a great deal of practice, a lot of which was relatively boring but fundamental nonetheless. The person with the biggest influence on me is my piano teacher Ronn Yedidia. He always tells me to

strive for perfection and to keep improving. I don't think I would be as skilled as I am without his guidance. Most people are usually surprised when they hear my playing, as I try to start a song relatively awkward and then slowly transition to a fluid dynamic. My awards in piano include: first place in the M.A.M.T.G music competition, Young Maestro Competitions Gold medalist, Rondo Young Artists Festival, National Young Musicians Showcase Gold Prize, and second place in Crescendo Competitions.



The best moment of my piano playing was probably when I completed my most difficult song, Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata third movement, which I had to perfect and practice until there was not a single error and all the tunes were absolutely perfect. When I play piano, I create a story or a movie in my head. The music flows and syncs with the story going on in my mind.

Everything outside is tuned out and I just listen to the sounds, and see the music. My personal reward for playing is the music I get to listen to, the people I get to meet at the competitions, and the rush I get during a heated performance. It takes a lot of motivation, a great deal of appreciation of the art, and a love of performing to be a true pianist.



Mohamed Abdelmottlib, Pearl Polito, Grace Guippone, David Fox, Evan Kargr (back row) Kayla Bagley, Tiffany Taruc

HALLOWEEN AT JMHS



Dylan Sidali, Kayla Simon, Sophia Samuel, Larissa Scanlon, Wenting Sun, Dominique Santos, Meilin Lu



Briana Jensen, Dylan Miller, Sean Vanderwood, Erin Downey, and Eric Fernandez



Erin Muzikowski, Deanna Sparling



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