



Elexa Bocchino, left, and Kyle Callahan perform as part of the evening's closing number, "Route 66." In the background are percussionists TJ Chciuk, left, and Mike Mastellone.

HANOVER TWP. - The Whippany Park High School instrumental music program was showcased several times in recent weeks as students performed at three separate end of year concerts.

In addition to the annual spring concert in mid-May, students in extra-curricular jazz bands performed at the jazz concert in late May.

The final concert of the year was the annual Chamber Concert, held on Thursday, May 30, featuring 17 small group performances by members of the school's Wind Ensemble. According to band directors Peter Sciaino and Carl Sabatino, the work that went into the concert was done almost entirely by the students themselves.

Sciaino said, "The students were charged with the task of self-preparation, while rehearsing in their chamber groups once a week during band time. Many groups scheduled additional practice time as well."

He continued, "Mr. Sabatino and I checked in with them twice during the process, which began in late February, to listen and give feedback. Then we were able to spend some time with the groups during the dress rehearsal as well."

All of the student groups were assigned, as was much of the music, which included a variety of styles from classical scores, to Disney tunes, to percussion pieces.

"We are really pleased with how this concert has developed," Sciaino stated. It is tough to coordinate, as things can break down with even one absence in these small groups, but the students feel a great sense of responsibility to their group mates in making sure the music is prepared and rehearsal time is spent appropriately.

In addition, the small group experience really speeds up the musical maturity process as the players are exposed and asked to take carry more of the musical load. You can't hide in a group of three or four the same way you can in a group of 180. You really need to know your part and spend time shaping phrases, articulating well, and doing all of

things that go in to a successful performance. This is the fourth year of the program and it really has started to take shape."

The evening concluded with the entire Wind Ensemble coming together to play Sciaino's own arrangement of "Route 66."