Student Essay Winners

What’s Inside?

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- Choral Corner
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NOVA Academy Introduces Mariachi as its First Music Program

Joyous, cathartic yells—or “gritos”—will fill the halls of NOVA Academy Early College High School when mariachi comes to the school as its first official music program.

Mariachi Joya, an electrifying 20-member student mariachi band from Las Vegas High School, performed during the assembly to generate excitement and inspire the student body. The new mariachi program has been made possible through a generous donation of instruments, including 18 guitars, 6 vihuelas and 6 guitarrons from the Guitar Center Music Foundation.

Possessing a unique blend of different musical styles, including Spanish, indigenous, and African influences, mariachi music incorporates diverse sounds and instruments that make it stand out from other types of music.

And for many Mexican Americans, it is a source of pride and community connections. Lancaster believes the new mariachi program will be warmly received by NOVA Academy students, 97 percent of whom are Latino.

Established as a tuition-free charter school serving students grades 9-12 from Santa Ana and throughout Orange County, California, NOVA Academy has long emphasized a rigorous curricu-

SBO+ Mourns the Passing of Former Editor Sidney Davis

Sidney Davis, long-time editor of SBO Magazine, has passed away at the age of 87. Davis started his career at Larkin Publications while in college and stayed with the company as it continued to expand into the trade show market. He became the group publications director and focused much of his time in the music trade industry. He was later awarded the 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Music Conference. He retired at age 78 after 55 years in publishing.

Aside from guiding Musical Merchandise Review from the ’80s through to 2013, Davis was instrumental in the launch of several sister titles aimed at supporting music educators and scholars: School Band & Orchestra (SBO), Choral Director, and JAZZed. His advocacy for the culture of music making also led him to rally several his friends at significant MI suppliers to help launch the SBO Essay Contest, which in its 23-year history, has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to students and many more times that amount in music gear to educators. Davis also served proudly in the United States Army Reserve.

NABBA Crowns Winners

The North American Brass Band Championships named the following bands as section winners in its recent contest.

- Championship Section, Five Lakes Silver Band, Royal Oak, MI
- First Section, Princeton Brass Band, Princeton, NJ
- Second Section, San Francisco Brass Band, San Francisco, CA
- Third Section, Jacksonville State University Brass Band, Jacksonville, AL
- Youth Championship Section, Watson Brass Band, Raleigh, NC
- Youth First Section, Triangle Youth Brass Band, Raleigh, NC
- Youth Open Section, Triangle Youth Academy Brass Band, Raleigh, NC

SBO+ Readers Get Discount for Music for All Summer Symposium

June 24-26, 2023 – Leadership Weekend
June 26-July 1, 2023 – Full Week Symposium
Ball State University, Muncie, IN

The leading summer camp for high school band students and high school and middle school band directors. Brought to you by Music for All, which also presents the Bands of America Championships, the Music for All National Festival, and more!

Save $150 with discount code SBOREADER when you register online by June 1. That’s the lowest possible price!

CADETS Names Vicki Ferrence Ray as Executive Director

Cadets Arts & Entertainment (CAE), the non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that oversees The Cadets Drum Corps, announced that Vicki Ferrence Ray has been named permanent executive director, effective immediately. Ferrence Ray’s appointment culminates a months-long search for permanent leadership following Denise Bonfiglio’s decision to retire as CEO last September.