

State performance earns musicians rave reviews

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The orchestra that is open to all Dublin City School District students in grades 4-12 performed for hundreds of music educators and professionals last week at the Ohio Music Education Association annual conference in Cincinnati.

“It’s kind of like our state championship,” said Director Matt Hawley, also a music teacher at Karrer Middle School.

Hawley, who directs the group with Davis Middle School music teacher Michael Brosius, sent a tape to the OMEA for a chance to play the conference.

“Four (groups) were selected from the state of Ohio,” Hawley said.

“It’s cool to see the other districts and show them what’s going on in our orchestra program,” Brosius said.

The Dublin Youth Strings Orchestra, also known as DYSO, has played the conference two times before, so the directors knew what to expect, especially when planning a program.

“We spent hours discussing what type of program we wanted to put together to showcase DYSO,” Brosius said.

“One of my consistent themes is to expose them to different types of music,” Hawley said.

The result was a 10-song show that ranged from classical to quirky.

One song even incorporated special effects with bows while another was over the top.

"Middle schoolers are ho-hum on things, but they love epic," Brosius said.

DYSO has been around since 1999 when Hawley established the group for students who loved music and wanted more outside the classroom.

"The depth of this group is amazing," Hawley said.

"We try to choose music that features our students."

The first year about 10 students were involved, but the group has grown over the years and currently has about 90 members.

Grades 4-9 play in DYSO while older students in grades 10-12 volunteer and take on leadership positions.

"They get some leadership experience," Hawley said. "They do some teaching, are librarians or take attendance."

An audition is required to get into DYSO and this year the group was big enough to split into two: DYSO Green and DYSO Gold. The green group hosts the younger students, and the gold has the older, more experienced students.

The DYSO Gold group traveled to Cincinnati last week and got a little more than music on the trip.

Along with playing the conference, students got to visit the Natural History Museum and Newport Aquarium.

The group ended the day back at the conference where they saw the OMEA All-State Orchestra performance.

"I try to pack as much educational stuff in as I can," Hawley said.

Along with the honor of playing at the conference, Brosius was given the Young String Teacher of the year award.

Brosius said he was surprised by the award and nominations he got from Hawley, Davis Principal Tracey Deagle and other colleagues.

"I felt so blessed," Brosius said of the award. "I had no idea."

The DYSO meets from October to spring break, with practices once a week. Performances are normally in conjunction with school concerts. The next audition for the DYSO is June 2.