Four ASD students perform at Carnegie Hall

It is an honour for any musician to perform at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City. Built in 1891, the venue has hosted the most renowned performers of music. Recently, four students from American School of Doha (ASD) participated in a concert featuring Honors Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir at Carnegie Hall.

This concert was the result of a five-day session for the 2014 American High School Honors Performance Series (HSHPBS). Each student was nominated to audition for the performance series, which is equivalent to an “All-American” athletic status.

With over 10,000 singers and instrumentalists auditioning and a video audition process involving months of preparation, only 500 students were selected.

ASD High School Instrumental teacher Mark Seay was eager to point out that, “Only the finest musicians were selected, with odds being less than one in 10 of all those that auditioned.”

Choir Director Bob Krebs noted that it was unusual for one school to have four students selected.

Those chosen included Sen Huang (grade 11, clarinet — Honor Band), Tope Akinade (grade 11, clarinet — Honor Band), Jebreal Samples (grade 11, tenor saxophone — Honor Band) and Marylou King (grade 12, soprano — Honor Choir).

During the visit, the students were put to the test with rigorous rehearsals.

Marylou King said: “For me, as a vocalist, it put a lot of pressure on my voice and a lot of strain... but at the same time it helped build my voice.”

Sen Huang had the special honour of serving as Concert Master; a responsibility that he was very keen to accept, as it meant that his audition landed him the number one seat of all the clarinetists. As Sen reflected on the experience: “I put so much work into it. I learned a new concept which was a testament of preparation and hard work.”

You’re ready to play and you know your music, but when you’re in Carnegie Hall... and the conductor raises his baton and you play your first note, it really hits you. All of our incredible work is going into this one moment and as the concert goes on you sort of hurt because you want to just hold on to those moments. Because we all performed so well.”

Singers and musicians from only two schools were chosen from the Middle East and these students represented Qatar.

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The American School of Doha would like to congratulate these students for their hard work and dedication.
Performing with legends

Four students of the American School of Doha recently participated in a concert at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Musicians from around the world would agree that it is an honor to perform at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City. Built in 1891, the venue has hosted some of the most renowned performers of music.

Recently, four students from the American School of Doha (ASD) participated in a concert featuring ASD Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra, and Choir held at Carnegie Hall. The concert was the result of a five-day session for the 2014 American High School Honor Performance Series (AHSHP).

Each student was nominated to audition for the performance series, which is equivalent to an All-American athletic status, according to the school. With over 10,000 singers and instrumentalists auditioning and a video audition process involving months of preparation, only 500 students were selected.

Mark Soej, ASD High School Instrumental teacher, said, "Only the finest musicians were selected, with odds being less than 1 in 10,000." Choir Director Bob Krebs noted that it was unusual for one school to have four students selected.

Three chosen were Sun Huang (Grades 11, clarinet - Honor Band), Tajo Akinode (Grades 11, clarinet - Honor Band), Shreya Sambasiv (Grade 11, tenor saxophone - Honor Band) and Marylou King (Grade 12, soprano - Honor Choir).

During their visit, the students were put to the test with rigorous rehearsals. Marylou King said, "For me as a vocalist, it put a lot of pressure on my voice and a lot of strain. But at the same time it helped build my voice." She added that the directors prepared them well and educated them on breathing and strengthening to avoid over-straining. The knowledge they gained allowed them to be more confident about their abilities, she said.

Led by some of the finest directors in the United States, the participants had two days of preparation for the concert. When asked about the rehearsals, Tajo Akinode said, "We had long rehearsals but it was worth it because we all performed so well." Only singers and musicians from two schools were chosen from the Middle East and these students exclusively represented Qatar.

Sun Huang had the special honor of serving as Concert Master, a responsibility that he was very keen to accept, as it meant that his audition landed him the number one seat of all the clarinets. As Sun reflected on the experience, "It put so much work into it. I learned a new concert, which was a really difficult piece and just knowing that it paid off was just such a good feeling."

The students performed in an audience of more than 2,000 people at the Carnegie Hall in New York City, next to other talented, young musicians.