

"Music Counts!"

"Music Counts"!! The double-edged meaning of this theme for Music In Our Schools Week, observed March 10-14, was emphasized by the Modern Music Masters (MMM) Club at John A. Holmes High School through various activities for students and parents and in the community.

According to Shelby and Otis Strother, choral and band instructors, the music program at Holmes is intended to offer more than just a course for learning the mechanics of instrument playing or getting together to sing. It offers students the opportunity for cultural, social and academic growth through individual musical expression. Musical interests and talents are developed which lead to learning experiences at area and state levels and lead to important career decisions in many instances.

The purpose of Music In Our Schools Week was to share what is being done, musically, at school-and sharing took place. Each morning, over the school's inter-com, all types of music were played. Students' musical knowledge and interest was piqued through class competition in being able to identify the name of a special selection or its composer. At the end of the week, a Plaque was presented to the class having the most points for correctly answering question during the week.

Live performances were presented in the auditorium during each lunch period, giving students or groups the change to display their special skills or their favorite form of musical expression. Types of musical offerings included jazz, jam sessions, classical, spiritual and popular vocal and in-



MODERN MUSIC MASTERS OFFICERS who foster greater interest in band, orchestral and choral performances and encourage personal musical expression among Holmes students are seated left to right, David Hibbard, Treasurer; Brenda Bonner, Secretary; Alan Parker, President; standing, Steve Lane, Vice-President; and Jesse Askew, Historian.

strumental renditions.

A MMM sponsored dance and the formal tapping and installation of new Modern Music Masters members wound up the activities at school. Parents were invited during the week to visit any of the classes in progress.

Outside of school, the Concert Choir, composed of forty members selected through auditions, performed for the Edenton Rotary Club. Also on March 14, students, selected to participate in All State Chorus at Greensboro in May, attended for the first time, a regional workshop in Tarboro to prepare for the statewide event.

A routine, scheduled day at Holmes High School finds the music department competitively noisy. Muffled musical melodies pour from every room, as the high school band, Mixed Chorus I, Mixed Chorus II, Walker 7th and 8th grade band students, Creative Independent Study students, Girls' Chorus and Concert Choir students go through their paces.

After school, students are welcomed and encouraged by their instructor to seek

individual help. Two nights a week the popular Stage Band, composed of talented students who get together for fun and practice, meets with the band director to work on their professional skills. This group will participate in an area Stage Band Contest on March 22 in Washington.

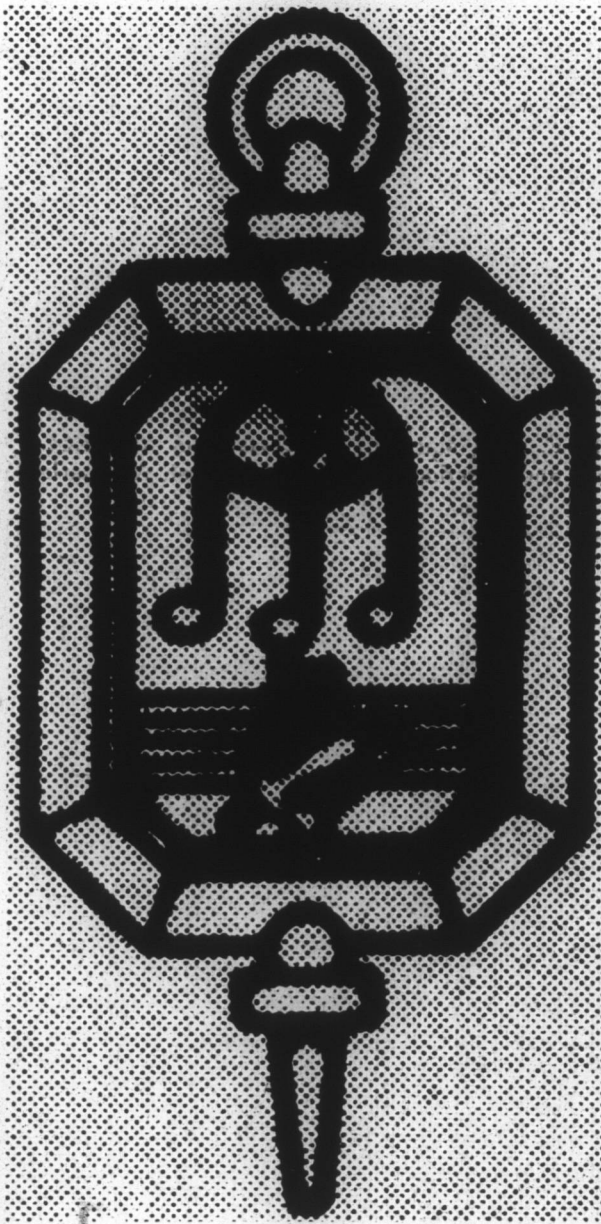
Through opportunities to perform and participate in Clinics, Workshops and contests, band and choral students at John A. Holmes get good exposure in the community, as well as out, and are afforded the change to compare themselves with others. Just recently, 7, 8 and 9th grade Junior High band students took part in the District Junior High All State Band clinic in Wilson, while the Concert Choir participated for the first time in a High School Choral Workshop at East Carolina University. On March 28, the band will participate in a State Band Contest in Rocky Mount.

Music does count. For Holmes musicians it gives a student confidence, musical knowledge, technique skills, and provides pure pleasure.



SELECTED AS MEMBERS of the Eastern District Junior-High All State Band, following previous competitive auditions, eleven 7th, 8th and 9th grade students from D. F. Walker School, Chowan High School and Holmes attended an all day Band Clinic at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson. As members of the Green, Red, or Blue Band these students worked and presented three separate concerts with three-hundred students from sixty-two other schools in the Eastern District. Pictured, left to right, row by row, are Jay Gibson, Maria Winslow, Bill Gardner, Brian Bass, Linda Twine, Laura Litchfield, Karen Keeter, Kim Baker, Wilene Jernigan, Susan Elks and Eric Storther. 7th and 8th grade Walker students receive band instructions from Otis Strother at John A. Holmes.

Modern Music Masters



FIRST CHAIR TRUMPET was awarded to Karen Keeter in the Red Band at Junior-High All State because of her skill as an instrumentalist. Karen also had a solo part during the afternoon concert.



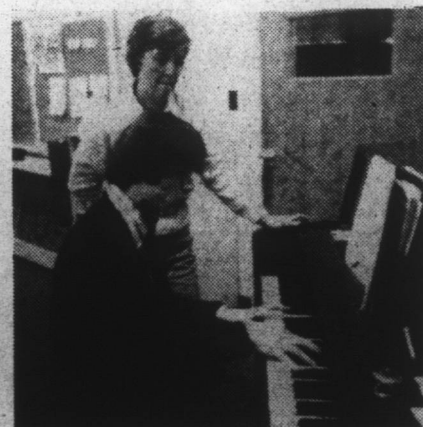
MIXED CHORUS II students, especially the male singers, give a lusty performance, while the girls await their musical entrance to provide the harmony and lightness needed to produce a choral masterpiece.



AFTER SCHOOL HOURS OFTEN FIND Richard Duncan, left, student teacher from ECU, and Otis Strother, right, band director, helping students find just the right sound and beat needed for particular music.



CREATIVE INDEPENDENT STUDY student Allen Downum, right, who is interested in sound systems and equipment, figures out what is wrong with a recorder and enlightens Otis Strother.



PREPARING FOR AUDITIONS held recently at Salem College to hopefully be selected to attend the Governor's School this summer, Marla Jordan, left and Graham Cox, right, get the undivided attention and constructive criticism from their director, Shelby Strother.

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