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MHC Bands Gearing Up for Band Clinic and 1991 Tour

McCoy
Writer

Even though I have been in contact with a member or Dr. Pete LaRue within the last few weeks, then you too have been subject to "preparation-hysteria." On Friday, Feb. 22, MHC will be inducted by approximately 350 of Western North Carolina's best junior and senior band students. These students have auditioned and been invited to attend this clinic that takes place every year on Mars Hill's campus. During the day on Friday and all of the students will be divided up into four different bands according to these students will be preparing for their concert that they will perform during the weekend clinic.

Banks, president of the band clinic, "wee concert that will take place on Friday evening, Feb. 22 at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. At that time the MHC Band will be doing its premiere for the annual Band Tour. Over the past six weeks, the band members

literally been counting down the time until this concert. Some of the most exciting and enjoyable music that Mars Hill's band program has attained in recent history will be performed that evening.

The college's jazz ensemble will also perform the concert that they will be performing on tour on that same evening. Little or none has to be said about LaRue claims to be the "flagship ensemble of the entire campus." "This is a wonderfully talented group that has a love for the style of music that they perform," said LaRue. The jazz ensemble will be playing some of their best tunes that evening.

"This music has to be mentally owned by each of our band members in order to present the music at its best," said LaRue. In the rehearsals over the last few weeks, band students have admitted to literally removing themselves from outside thoughts in order to concentrate totally on the challenge of play-

for the concert and the tour concerts includes: two marches, *Thumbs Up USA*, and *Rough Riders Gallop*; Bencriscutto *Tuba Concertino*, featuring David Jordan on Tuba; the last movement of *Terpsichore*; and the "World Premiere" of Robert Palmer's *Winter Mountainscape*.



Members of the Mars Hill College Concert Band prepare for their band clinic concert to be held at the college on Friday evening, February 22, at 8:00 p.m. Senior David Jordan (center) will be featured on Bencriscutto's *Tuba Concertino*. (left to right: Stephen Whisnant, David Jordan, and James Lewis)

Photo by Tim McCoy

ing this music and playing this music right.

Senior music education major David Jordan said, "This music is exciting to play; however, it does require a tremendous amount of mental energy, and Doc [LaRue] has been trying to prepare us to have that mental energy ready when showtime rolls around."

The repertoire of music scheduled

During each rehearsal the band has a set amount of time allotted for breathing exercises that prepare the band members for the extreme breath control required to perform this music. On a recent visit to Mars Hill to work with the band on his composition, Robert Palmer said, "After witnessing the breathing exercises that this band does, I now understand why their sound is so full and

wonderful."

Another practice that the band has gotten into this semester in order to mentally prepare for this concert is a daily poetry reading. During this time, a student who has been chosen for that day's poetry reading will share with the band a favorite piece of poetry that is especially meaningful to that individual. This offers the band members an opportunity to reflect on the thoughts of the poetry, the opportunity to get to know the student who is sharing the poetry, and an opportunity to understand that relating the preparation for this concert to the art of poetry allows the music to be presented in a more poetic, more musical manner.

Michael Vaughn, also a senior music education major, said, "This concert is the most musically challenging concert I have had to perform since I have been at Mars Hill." Vaughn also said, "This concert will be musically enjoyable for all audiences that hear it."

The annual Spring Band Tour, March 3-7, will include stops at the following high schools: Mountain Heritage, Alleghany County, Forbush, South Stokes, North Iredell, East Gaston H.S., Scotland County, South Columbus County and Socastee (near Myrtle Beach). After the concert at Socastee, the band will be staying in Myrtle Beach for the night and returning to Mars Hill on Thursday evening.

An important musical concept that LaRue has continually passed on to his bands here at Mars Hill is that when one is performing music, it should be "musically rewarding and personally enjoyable."

International Festival Brings Different Worlds Together

Colley
Writer

Mars Hill students will soon have the opportunity to experience a variety of foods, music, and artifacts from other countries. The annual International Festival will be held on Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Blue Lounge.

The event is sponsored by the Mars Hill Center for International Studies. This student-oriented event will give us the opportunity to talk with students from other countries, to sample their foods, and to hear some of their music.

There will be approximately sixteen tables set up featuring artifacts and other interesting information from a variety of countries.

The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) will also have a table set up with information for students who may want to study abroad.

Dr. Jon Crawford, Coordinator of International Studies, hopes the event will "promote international sensitivity and introduce students to different cultures." He also stated that the war in the Gulf

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Help for Struggling Writers!

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