

# Iredell CITIZEN

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Iredell-Statesville schools take note of the...

## All County Band

Neil Furr  
IREDELL CITIZEN

**MAKE NO MISTAKE**, guest conductor Ed. Kiefer knew what he was doing when he penciled in the *William Tell Overture* as the final selection for the Iredell County Middle and High School Honors Band concert last Saturday night.

The rallying drums, horns and woodwinds of the county's best high school musicians whipped the piece through the Lake Norman High Auditorium to point that grandma's and grandpa's, Moms and Dads, brothers and sisters couldn't stay seated. Without exception, everyone arose applauding and more than one gray-haired person was heard to say, "Hi-Yo Silver, Away!"

The band responded to the crowd's appreciative roar with an equally stirring encore of the Rossini overture's final stanzas. Considering the quality and bright energy of the performance, it is amazing to think so many of the student musicians had never played the piece- or even heard of it - until one day before the concert.

Indeed, most pieces played by both the high school and middle schools were introduced to the students a day before the students had to play them to a packed house of their parents, relatives, siblings, friends and peers. On Friday before the concert, each honors band began practicing at 9 a.m. and kept at it until 5 p.m.

"That's a long time to keep a horn in your mouth," said Sam Harbinson, guest conductor of the middle school honors band.

The next morning, the students arrived at Lake Norman at 9 a.m. and, with just a break for a pizza lunch, practiced until just before the 2 p.m. concert. Each of the selections had "little traps in them," said Harbinson, "but they stayed out of them. They did a great job."

Each 70-80 piece band was composed of students from the district's five high schools and eight middle schools who dedicated an earlier Saturday morning to trying out in front of judges.

Middle school students selected included:

**Oboe:** Deanna Souther, SMS.

**Flutes:** Megan Gray, BMS; Alyssa Lowell, BMS; Alexa Adams, LSMS; Jessica Boeshart, LSMS; Amanda Hoover,



Neil Furr/CITIZEN

**TUBA PLAYER GREG DAVIS** of Lake Norman High bears down on his part during All County Honors Band practice.

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