



25th Anniversary of the Lafayette School District Band Festival

By Jean Follmer



We All Play Together - Lafayette Elementary, Springhill Elementary, Stanley and Acalanes all play "Early American Portrait" as arranged by James Swearingen

Photo Jean Follmer

The Lafayette School District recently held its 25th annual Band Festival in the Stanley Middle School gymnasium. The evening performance was dedicated to Arlene Fox of Stanley and Bob Athayde started the evening by leading the packed gymnasium in a round of applause for her. The bands were set up on the gymnasium floor and they all listened to each other perform. The concert began with Lafayette Elementary and Springhill Elementary 5th Grade Bands performing under the direction of Liz Brummel. They began with "A Classical Canon" by Franz Joseph Hayden/Magill and finished with "Mystic Legacy" by Larry Clark. After the second piece, the crowd offered applause and cheers before Brummel took the microphone and said "That percussion section really held it to-

gether. I can't wait to hear everyone else play. That was the first time some of us have played the whole thing (both pieces) without stopping."

Next up were the Stanley Middle School bands led by Bob Athayde. The Stanley Cadet Band performed "Clouds" by Anne McGinty and "Samurai" by Barry Ward. They were followed by the Stanley Concert Band Gold playing Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus" and "Genius March" by Harold Benett (arr. Larry Clark). After their performance, Athayde told the crowd "That was the best the concert band ever played Ave Verum. It was beautiful!" Stanley completed its portion of the performance with the Stanley Symphonic Band performing "Bartok Variations" by Timothy Broege and "Flight of Valor" by James Swearingen. Athayde said

"Flight of Valor was dedicated to United Flight 93 on September 11, 2001."

Stanley was followed by the Acalanes Symphonic Concert Band and the Acalanes Wind Ensemble directed by Rick Meyer. Before introducing the Symphonic Band, Meyer thanked Stanley for the venue saying "Stanley has been so gracious." Meyer and his students had just returned from performances in Los Angeles and it was obvious that L.A. was lucky to have them! The Acalanes Symphonic Concert Band offered a rousing "Procession of the Nobles" by Nicholas Rimsky-Korsakow (arr. Jay Bocook) and "Chesford Portrait" by James Swearingen. They were followed by the Acalanes Wind Ensemble performing "Bugler's Holiday" by Leroy Anderson and featuring trumpet soloists

Parker Grant, Conor O'Herin and Trevor Mooney.

After the Acalanes Wind Ensemble finished with "Symphonic Dance No. 3" by Clifton Williams, Bob Athayde's motto "We All Play Together" was honored. All elementary, middle and high school band members joined together to perform "Early American Portrait" arranged by James Swearingen. It was a long night of exhibited patience and listening for the younger students, but they rallied to offer a wonderful piece of the final performance. Lafayette Elementary 5th grader parent Brooks Pedder noted their exemplary behavior saying "I can't believe how well they hung in there." As the crowd exited, the Stanley Symphonic Band offered "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead" by Harold Arlen (arr. Roy Phillippe).