

SHS Symphonic Band attends Eugene Symphony

Thanks to Robert Friedman and his wife Cathy Dupont, students from the Siuslaw High School's Symphonic Band and the Director of Bands Chris Rowbotham attended a performance by the Eugene Symphony this past September.

The concert was the premier performance of new Symphony Music Director and Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong, featuring works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and modern composer Augusta Read Thomas.

The featured artist was pianist Joyce Yang of South Korea, who won the Silver Medal at the 2005 Van Cliburn Piano Competition.

Siuslaw Band students were able to attend the pre-concert talk, chat with Friedman and Dupont, as well as meet with Lecce-Chong.



AMANDA L. SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

Members of the Siuslaw High School Symphonic Band at the Hult Center in Eugene.

"Our SHS Band students were in awe of the music they heard live in the Silva Concert Hall of Eugene's Hult Center for the Performing Arts," said Rowbotham

In addition to attending the performance and pre-concert talk, students were treated to a free lunch at Roaring Rapids

Pizza on the Willamette River thanks to the generosity of the owner Paul Roth, who learned of the concert field trip through Rowbotham.

Friedman and Dupont said they hope to make this an annual event for the high school and invite any other contributors to join them next year.

"The entire Siuslaw Band Department would like thank Robert, Cathy, Eugene Symphony's Education and Community Engagement Director Katy Vizdal, and Paul of Roaring Rapids for making this amazing experience possible," said Rowbotham.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COLLECTION CONTINUES THROUGH MONDAY

Florence Evangelical Church will again be the Florence area collection point for the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, Operation Christmas Child.

Florence residents, families, churches and groups can be part of spreading joy to millions of children around the world by filling shoeboxes as Christmas gifts for children in need.

This year's National Collection Week is Monday, Nov. 13 through Monday, Nov. 20, at Florence Evangelical Church, 1318 Rhododendron Drive.

Florence project coordinators hope to collect 500 shoebox gifts for delivery to children overseas.

Collection hours are Monday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. With additional times, Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 5 to 8 p.m., and,

Monday, Nov. 20, from 8 to 10 a.m.

For more information about dropping off shoeboxes, call the church at 541-997-2523.

Operation Christmas Child has been an annual project of Samaritan's Purse since 1993. The project has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to more than 124 million children, in more than 150 countries and territories.

For information on how to pack a shoebox visit www.samaritanpurse.org/occ.

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