

Ten Students Earn All-State Orchestra Honors

Will Robinson, Jan 12 2011

For the second straight year, violinist Courtney Chang has won the top chair in the Delaware Music Educators Association (DMEA) All State Orchestra. Just as she does at St. Andrew's, Courtney will perform as concertmaster in this year's orchestra festival, which will be held January 20-22 at P.S. DuPont School in Wilmington.

Ten students in the St. Andrew's Orchestra made All State honors this year: violinists Courtney Chang '12, Aaron Chang '14, Julian Ha '12, and John Suh '13; violists Sam Kang '12 and Chris Reisine '11; and cellists Katherine Haroldson '12 and Peter Kang '11; and clarinetists Andrew Leem '11 and Michael Yoo '13. St. Andrew's music director Fred Geiersbach is extremely proud but not surprised by the accomplishments of his students, many of whom are in his Chamber Music course. "These students regularly perform advanced orchestral literature and chamber music repertoire at our school, so preparing for All State is not a stretch for them. Performing with All State Orchestra or Band is a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn from different conductors around the country as well as to play with many accomplished musicians their age. "

Violinist Courtney Chang will also represent St. Andrew's and the state of Delaware in this year's All Eastern festival, held in Baltimore at the end of March. "She is a tremendous musician," says Geiersbach. "It is rare to encounter someone so musically mature at her age, and she possesses all of the weapons: great collaborator in her string quartet, polished leader of our orchestra, and outstanding soloist with an incredible memory."

Geiersbach also made All State this year, he jokes. He has been invited to conduct one of the orchestras for the Alabama All State Orchestra festival in February. "Usually this sort of opportunity is extended only to university orchestra directors, so I was surprised and honored to be invited to this festival. I enjoy meeting new orchestras and this will be a great adventure."