

# Ten Students Represent St. Andrew's in All-State Orchestra

Will Robinson, Mar 27 2013

Saturday evening marked the culmination of another great year for All State musicians in our school orchestra. After three intense days of rehearsal, ten string players from the St. Andrew's Orchestra performed an hour-long concert starting at 6pm in Dover at Caesar Rodney High School. Guest conductor William LaRue Jones, from the University of Iowa, led Delaware's finest musicians in performances of Franz Suppé's "Light Cavalry" Overture, Stokowski's orchestra transcription of Bach's "Komm Susser Tod," the first movement of Jean Sibelius' Violin Concerto, and the last two movements of Antonin Dvorak's "New World" Symphony.

For the second year in a row, the soloist selected to perform with the All State Orchestra was from St. Andrew's. John Suh '13 captivated the audience with a commanding performance of the Sibelius. John also extended St. Andrew's streak of owning the concertmaster seat to five years.

Orchestra co-president Kieran Conaway, in his first year as an All State cellist, was also selected to perform as a pianist with the orchestra. "It was great to play under the lights with the team this year," says Conaway. "Our musicians are definitely among the best in the state. We now know what we really need to work on. I was also surprised by the quality of the performance considering the scarcity of orchestras in the state."

Kieran was one of three St. Andreans in the cello section, sitting next to Austin Salley '14. In a large section, Clara Lee '14 made fourth chair. Aija Cave '15 made third chair in a good viola section that also included Will Bowditch '13. St. Andrew's boasted four members in the first violin section. Besides John Suh, Alphonso Ramirez '15, Aaron Chang '14, and Sophia Torrance '16 all made advanced seats. Duncan Covell '16 also made the bass section in his first attempt.

Not to be overlooked is IV Former Ted Park's superb showing in this year's All State Senior Band festival, which was held during spring break. Ted made fifth chair trumpet, besting many older players in the large trumpet section.

"I am tremendously proud of all of our All State musicians," says St. Andrew's Orchestra Director Fred Geiersbach. "The All State experience has been terrific for our most accomplished players, giving them a worthy goal for improvement each year and also allowing them to perform with equally talented and enthusiastic musicians. I am also so proud of our students' sophistication and generosity in this context each year."