

Thirteen Saints Make All-State Band & Orchestra

Fred Geiersbach, Apr 10 2016

St. Andrew's School instrumentalists had a strong showing in the Delaware's All-State student music festivals this year. In March, seven leaders in the string section were named to the 2016 All-State Orchestra, and six wind players were named to the All-State Senior Band.

Making the orchestra were violinists Sophia Torrance '16, Jacqueline Wang '17, Noelle Yoo '18, Enok Choe '19, and Dylan Torrance '18; cellist Xander Geiersbach '16; and bassist Brando Leggott '18. Noelle Yoo served as principal second violin, which means she was selected from the first violin section to lead the second violins. She ended up sitting next to Enok Choe, who wound up sitting assistant concertmaster after the final audition results were tallied. Sophia Torrance and Jacqueline Wang sat next to each other in the third stand of the first violin section. Both Brando and Xander were solidly in the middle of their bass and cello sections, respectively. St. Andrew's hosted the All-State Orchestra festival for the first time this year, and all gave a fine performance in our own Engelhard Hall on Saturday, March 5, under the direction of guest conductor [Jean Montes](#). "It made me so proud to watch our top string players place so highly and play so expressively among the state's best musicians, and I was really thrilled to be able to share our beautiful O'Brien Arts Center for this amazing event," said St. Andrew's Orchestra director Fred Geiersbach.

This past Saturday, April 9, six St. Andrew's wind players performed with the All-State Senior Band, which concluded its three-day festival with a performance at Mt. Pleasant High School in Wilmington, DE. Selected to the band are Daniel Jang '17, oboe; Vincent Chen '18, clarinet; Cindy Lay '18, bassoon; Min Heo '17, alto saxophone; William Gray '18, tenor saxophone; and Bill Hu '16, flute. "I'm so fortunate to sit down with Bill, Daniel, Cindy, and Vincent each week to play woodwind quintets, and to realize they are an all-All State chamber group," Geiersbach said.

"One of the best stories of this year's auditions is Bill Hu," he continued. "When Bill came to St. Andrew's as a freshman he had barely started to play the flute. To see how far he has come in so little time is stunning. Now to finally make All-State as a senior musician is evidence that a student can start playing music as a first-year St. Andrew's student and achieve on the highest levels by the time he graduates."