

# Orchestra Awards

## All-Region:

Orchestra students in Plano have the opportunity to audition for the Region 25 All-Region orchestra. It is an intense process where students prepare music for an audition. Students are selected based on their performance at the audition and placed in the orchestra they auditioned for. There are two orchestras: Bach (6-7gr.) and Brahms (7-8gr.). Hundreds of students audition for these orchestras. It is a great honor to be selected. The students selected this year from Bowman were:

*Usuma Thet (violin) and Erika Barroso (bass)*

Congratulations to everyone that auditioned!!

## PISD Solo & Ensemble festival:

Although this festival is extra-curricular, a test grade is given on all students' performance and preparation in class. At the festival, students are given the opportunity to perform previously prepared music before a judge. They can choose to do a solo, ensemble, and/or both. Students are critiqued for their performance and receive great feedback and awards. It is a wonderful experience

for all musicians. The awards given are Superior, Excellent, Good, and Needs Improvement. A special award is given to students that display exceptional musicianship at the performance. This is called an Exemplary Musician Award. In 2008, the Bowman Orchestra participants received *38 Superiors, 32 Excellents, and 1 Exemplary Musician award given to Charlene Shu for an outstanding cello solo.* Congratulations!

### PISD Concert/Sight-reading festival:

This competition is for Chamber and Symphonic orchestras only. While Beginning and Philharmonic orchestras are preparing for their February performance, the Chamber and Symphonic orchestras are working hard to prepare for this regional competition. Students compete against a specific standard. Awards are given on a division basis from I – V, I being the highest. There are two portions to this competition: Concert and Sight-reading. Students prepare three contrasting selections for the concert portion. Afterwards, students go into a separate room for sight-reading where they have 8 minutes to learn a piece they have never seen before. Each portion has three judges. In 2007, the Bowman

received a "1" on both the concert portion and sight-reading. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments. Thank you students for all your hard work and for representing Bowman well!

### PISD Spring Festival:

This competition is for Beginning and Philharmonic students only. It works much like the Concert/Sight-reading festival, but there is no sight-reading involved. Students travel to the Courtyard Theatre in downtown Plano and perform on stage for three judges. It is a great opportunity for students to receive great feedback and praise for all their hard work. Ratings are given on a division basis from I – V, I being the highest. In 2007, all groups received 1's!!

### Future awards:

In high school, students will have the opportunity to be a part of the Plano East Senior High Orchestra. The PESH orchestra received the *Texas High School Honor Orchestra* award for 2004-2005 through the Texas Music Educator's Association. This prestigious award is given to the orchestra that demonstrates the strongest performance of all that send in recordings. Plano East has

received this award four consecutive times! In 2006-2007, the orchestra received "first runner up" in this competition. It is awesome to be part of such an amazing legacy! Stick with it, students. This could be you someday!!!

### Overall award:

The best award achieved in orchestra is SUCCESS! Success achieved in orchestra depends on every student. A positive attitude along with hard work will result in success in any subject. We are here to help foster the potential every student has to play a string instrument. Students working above minimum requirements will be recognized and rewarded for their efforts.