

McCallum's Chamber Orchestra to play at the Long Center

By Christine E. Brunson
STAFF INTERN

The students of the McCallum Fine Arts Academy have traditionally been recognized as leaders in musical performance. The McCallum Chamber Orchestra is no different. Their professional demeanor and enthusiasm carries through in their music, so it's no wonder they were selected to take part in a musical performance that is rich in both its history and meaning to the world of classical music.

On the evening of Nov. 9, the Neapolitan Music Society along with the McCallum Fine Arts Academy's Chamber Orchestra will be playing 18th century Italian music that has been hidden from the world for more than 200 years. The performance, "A Neapolitan Revival Concert," will take place at the Long Center's Dell Hall, making it the first high school orchestra to perform at the Long Center.

"I'm really excited to play it because we are the first students to play at the Long Center," said Luke Stence, first bassist of the chamber orchestra and one of few sophomores who made the Texas All-State Orchestra last year. "I am also really excited about raising money for Carnegie Hall."

The money raised from the concert will benefit both the Neapolitan Society and the



Director Ricky Pringle and the McCallum Orchestra.

The Neapolitan School of Music began 500 years ago in the orphanages of Naples. The school created a substantial amount of pieces by pioneers of classical music including Alessandro and Domenico Scarlatti, Gian Francesco de Majo, Leonardo Leo, Francesco Druante, Nicola Fiofrenza and Niccoló Jommelli. The music has remained hidden from the world for 200 years. It has now been transcribed to contemporary music.

McCallum Orchestra Performance Fund, which will be used to send the students to Carnegie Hall in New York this summer. Though the trip to New York is in their sights, the students remain focused on the difficult task ahead of them.

The arrival of November also brings the director of the Neapolitan Music Society, Maestro Giocchino Longobardi, of Albany, N.Y., as well as assistant artistic director, Maestro Alberto Vitolo of Rome, Italy. The two men are recognized as leaders in their field for transcribing Neapolitan mas-

terpieces into contemporary music.

Together, they will instruct the students on the different bow and string skills that were used 500 years ago. The students will have only a little over a week to learn the music theory and history and to rehearse the composition together before the concert. "The students are really going to be challenged in a lot of ways because they will have only seven days to learn the music. It is a huge responsibility on the musicians," said Lanier Bayliss, director of the McCallum Fine Arts

Academy. "It's going to be a really professional experience for them." The students will be under the direction of their conductor and director of the orchestra, Ricky Pringle, as well as guest conductor, Maestro Giocchino Longobardi. "I think it's going to be interesting to see what he [Maestro Longobardi] is trying to teach us as opposed to what Mr. Pringle is trying to teach us," said Phillip Finkle, Chamber Concert Master and 12-year violinist. Pringle has been with the academy for eight years and has led his students to be top scorers at UIL concerts. "I think it's going to be a really good experience. It will be nice to experience this for the first time with the kids," Pringle said.

Tickets for "A Neapolitan Revival Concert" will be available at the 3M Box Office at 512-474-LONG or online.

