

千里国際学園 中等部・高等部

シリーズ「世界は千里でひとつになる The World Comes Together in Senri」 第15回

The Music Program at Senri/Osaka International School

SIS & OIS Music teacher / John Secomb

The music program at SOIS is part of the shared programs which operates in a unique school environment. The music program is compulsory for students in grade six to nine and students have a choice of participating in Middle School Chorus, Band or Orchestra (Strings). The program is designed to be very much "hands on" with a focus on performance. Regular concerts are held and all students take part.

Courses in the Middle School cater for students at different levels e.g. MS Beginner Strings, MS Intermediate Strings and MS Performance Strings. These courses are offered across grades – i.e. they are vertically structured with students from Grade 6-9 participating according to their ability level.

High School courses are offered in two ability levels, HS Concert Strings/Band and HS String/Wind Ensemble; the latter being available to more advanced students, usually by audition or at the Director's discretion. There is a HS Chorus for students who wish to sing. They work on a wide range of repertoire from different genres and diverse cultures.

Students have many opportunities to become involved in the Middle/High School music program.

- An extensive recital series aimed at allowing all musicians an opportunity to play in a more formal setting – students volunteer to play in these recitals.
- An "All School Production" where students and community from both schools, across grade levels work to perform a musical with a full pit orchestra. Recent productions



The Wind Ensemble performing in Maple Hall, June 2007

include:

Annie, Oliver, Brundibar, Yuzuru,
The King and I, and Sound of Music.

- A concert series for all levels from grade 6 – 12 in a range of ensembles with full instrumentation - The graded selection of the music performed, is equivalent to the best ensembles in the same grade levels in the USA.
- Courses are offered in IB Music (Higher and Standard levels) as part of the International Baccalaureate program.
- An instrument rental program was set up to ensure that all students have access to an instrument at minimal individual cost.
- Students have participated in the International Honor Band and Orchestra Festivals in Europe and in the Asian Pacific Activity Conference (APAC) Activities for HS Chorus, Band and Orchestra. Some students have been accepted to attend Tanglewood and Interlachen in the USA.
- Outstanding students have gone on to major in music at places such as: The Royal Academy of Music in London, Oberlin and the Paris Conservatory of Music.

The school has two concerts each year in Maple Hall, a beautiful hall in Minoh City which has very good acoustics, to showcase the work of the best, high school ensembles. There is an extensive instrumental and vocal teaching program after hours, with some fine work being done by visiting teaching staff, which greatly enhances the work being done in the school program. SOIS is fortunate to have developed such a fine music program and many thanks must go to the people who set it up, the administration and the school community who are very supportive.



An informal string concert in the "Genkan" (Foyer) of the SIS/OIS