



Press Release

To: All Local & District Media Outlets
From: Kathy Kuddes, Director of Fine Arts
CC:
Date: February 22, 2008
Re: TMEA High School String Honor Orchestra

For Immediate Release:

Texas Music Educators Association Names a Plano I.S.D. Orchestra as Top in State for 11th Consecutive Year

Four of the top 15 high school string orchestras in the state of Texas are from Plano I.S.D. The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) announced the results of the 2007-2008 Honor Orchestra Competition this week following two rounds of judging.

The Plano West Senior High School Chamber Orchestra has been named the state Honor String Orchestra for 2007-2008. This ensemble is directed by Jo Wallace-Abbie. This is the fourth time in the short 9 year history of Plano West that the orchestra has received this distinction. As Honor String Orchestra this group from Plano West will present a 50 minute concert for the membership of the Texas Music Educators Association at their annual convention in San Antonio in February.

Orchestras entering this competition must submit a recording of a live, unedited concert to TMEA. This year 31 orchestras submitted recordings for consideration. A judging panel listens to all of the submissions and selects the top six. A second panel of judges listens to these six recordings and ranks them. Orchestras that have won the honor orchestra designation are not eligible to submit a recording the year following their TMEA appearance.

In addition to the Plano West Chamber Orchestra, three other Plano ISD orchestras submitted recordings. All placed in the top half of the state-wide rankings and three of the six finalists were Plano schools. Plano East Senior High Orchestra – Betsy Thomas, Director placed 2nd, Jasper High School Orchestra – Julianne Booth, Director placed 4th; and Plano Senior High Orchestra, Brian Coatney, Director placed 9th. This competition does not distinguish between

varsity and non-varsity programs, thus these 9-10 schools compete against recordings of varsity orchestras from 9-12 grade high schools across the state.

The Plano I.S.D. orchestra program has a long history of TMEA Honor Orchestra titles:

- 2007-2008: Plano West Senior High, Jo Wallace-Abbie, Director
- 2006-2007: Plano Senior High, Jeff Turner, Director
- 2005-2006: Plano West Senior High, Jo Wallace-Abbie, Director
- 2004-2005: Plano East Senior High, Betsy Thomas, Director
- 2003-2004: Plano West Senior High, Jo Wallace-Abbie, Director
- 2002-2003: Plano East Senior High, Betsy Thomas, Director
- 2001-2002: Plano West Senior High, Jo Wallace-Abbie, Director
- 2000-2001: Plano East Senior High, Betsy Thomas, Director
- 1999-2000: Plano Senior High, Jim Frank, Director
- 1998-1999: Plano East Senior High, Betsy Thomas, Director
- 1997-1998: Plano Senior High, Kathy DeBerry, Director
- 1994-1995: Plano Senior High, Kathy DeBerry, Director
- 1992-1993: Plano Senior High, Kathy DeBerry, Director

