

Student Reporter

Harmony of Musicians: An Unbreakable Bond



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Orchestra students take a picture together before a concert to not only remember the show but also their friendship with each other.

[Source: Author, Hannelle Yang]

Behind every orchestra concert’s soothing chord, grand cadence, or gorgeous melody is a musical ensemble’s unbreakable bond. You may sit back into your velvet cushioned seat and ponder the beauty of the song, but what makes the performance so beautiful? What makes the emotion seep through

the harmonies and settle deep within the seabed of your heart? The answer lies in the unique voices of the individuals, all strung together with the power of cooperation and camaraderie “Humans are interesting animals. There’s always something that brings them together, wheth-

er it’s art, sports, or whatever. For me, it was music. I found my home in music,” remarked violinist Kate Weiss during her senior speech. Unfortunately, many individuals struggle to find their “home,” as Kate did, meaning that not many musicians know the blessing of being part of a musical ensemble. Research from “Musicians’ Union” shows that 80% of musicians experience “burnout,” a state of mental exhaustion from activities they usually enjoy. That is why ensembles are so beneficial to maintaining musical treasures. In fact, it has been further proven that working in positive environments with other people can help revive one’s love for music. This means musical ensembles are essential for keeping musicians motivated and dedicated.

Novice musicians may be intimidated, as there are so many ensembles to choose from: orchestra, jazz band, you name it. However, the truth is that any musical ensemble can bring musicians

with diverse talents together to create something beautiful, regardless of how big or small. A musical ensemble is like a melting pot. Filled with different people harboring different passions, it blends many talents into a group where bonds and memories can be made. From getting to know each other through hours of strenuous practice to feeling the joy of a successful concert, the connection between musicians can be nourished by the orchestral experience. Every band encourages an emotional connection to be built between members, which can hold the group together and help them materialize their pure feelings through their playing. Without this connection, only a bland melody would drift through the concert halls.

So, the next time you watch an orchestra raise their instruments to follow the swing of a conductor’s arm, remember what you see in front of you is the artwork and effort of a hundred musicians bonded together as one.

Student Reporter

KCPC Korean School Is Now Open!



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The KCPC Korean School, Duluth, Georgia, founded by the Korean Community Presbyterian Church, serves as a bridge for Korean Americans and other interested individuals to reconnect with their heritage and culture. With more than 50 students enrolled in the second semester, KCPC Korean School opened on January 13th for every one of various ethnic and age groups.

Culture shows the identity and tradition of a particular group, which is a special bond between people who share a similar language, religion, or ethnicity. During the long journey of Korean American emigrants, they might have forgotten the culture that they once had. To reconnect them with Korean culture, the KCPC Korean program not only focuses on Korean language lessons but also holds special events like chuseok and seollal. Chuseok is Ko-



A student is playing a matching game on the whiteboard.

[Source: Author, Minjoo Kim]

rean Thanksgiving Day that gives thanks to their ancestors, and seollal is a national holiday to celebrate the New Year and have good luck. As one of the assistants at KCPC Korean School, I saw many

second and third-generation immigrants enjoying these events and learning the culture.

Many Korean American parents wish for their children to learn Korean so they can communicate with their relatives who are familiar with it. As such, KCPC Korean School provides a textbook for every single student and has at least one assistant per class. They also divide students by their age, from pre-K to 9th grade, for students’ adaptation along with peers so they can feel free to communicate with each other in Korean. For young children from pre-K to 1st grade, many teachers sing fun Korean songs like the alphabet song so students won’t easily be distracted or feel bored. Like any American school, the school’s structured curriculum covers various aspects supporting writing, reading, speaking, listening, and grammar so stu-

dents can fluently utilize the language one day.

Every Saturday, all students need to arrive at school before 9:30 a.m., and parents can pick up their students at 12:30 p.m. During class, students have some break time, snack time, and recess time. For recess, students often participate in traditional Korean dancing or singing, such as Ganggangsullae and Arirang.

KCPC Korean School will be suitable for students and parents who want to make connections with Korean culture. For 16 weeks (one semester) and only 200 dollars, the program includes textbooks and services such as a playground, four hours of teaching, and events. As an assistant who volunteered for three years, I highly recommend this Korean school to experience advanced Korean learning and the enormous size of Korean traditional events.

Student Reporter

The Largest Coffee Shop in the World!



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Almost every adult drinks a cup of coffee in the morning. The importance of coffee to focus on work has increased explosively, and the most renowned coffee shop is Starbucks. In Shanghai, there is a Starbucks Reserve Roastery, which is the largest Starbucks coffee shop in the world. According to Business Insider, its total size is up to 30,000 square feet. Inside, there are a variety of differences compared to other normal Starbucks stores. I went to the Shanghai Starbucks and experienced many special, unique aspects of the coffee shop.

One of the main differences between a normal coffee shop and Shanghai’s Starbucks Reserve Roastery is the diversity of menu choices. Various kinds of beverages are sold, regardless of if they are coffee, frappuccino, smoothie, or other drinks. Foods were more diverse than the drinks, where there were both desserts and meals, which could target all customers who wanted to enjoy



A variety of food and drink choices are provided in the Shanghai Starbucks Reserve Roastery.

[Source: Author, Hajoon Song]

the Starbucks Reserve Roastery as a dessert shop or a restaurant. Every food and drink that the Shanghai Starbucks had looked delicious, attracting my curiosity to try out most of them during the visit. A variety of choices was a great and interesting option for the Shanghai Starbucks reserve roastery.

Another difference was the massive size of the coffee shop; not only were there countless

seats that could serve more than 100 people but also a large machine system to roast coffee in large quantities was implanted and exposed to the customers. Although I was not familiar with any coffee roasting or grinding experiences, I was amazed by the machine that composed such a significant space in the coffee shop. Many customers were also amazed by the machine, and it was a popular photo spot. Many

beans were put into the machine to be ground and fined.

A visit to the Shanghai Starbucks Reserve Roastery is recommended if you love to take photos of the foods and the place since everything in the coffee shop is a great photo source. Furthermore, I recommend this Starbucks to those who want to focus on their work because the large space gives customers some free space bubble and not to get distracted by others.



The large tower attracts a lot of customers who are amazed by its beauty, followed by a large system of a coffee grinding machine.

[Source: Author, Hajoon Song]



