

Cedar City High School Band And Orchestra Take Spotlight At National Regional Music Festival

The Cedar City high school took the spotlight at the annual National Regional Music Festival held in Ogden last week when A. B. Larson's music students walked off with No. 1 ratings in orchestra, soprano solo, and band marching and playing contests.

The Ogden contest was one of ten held throughout the United States and represents the highest competition it is possible for high school musicians to enter. All participants in the national regional contests must first qualify in district contests, which eliminate all but about 20 per cent of the original contestants. The Cedar City students qualified at the district contest held in St. George recently, and continued to cover themselves with glory in Ogden when they competed with bands, orchestras and single contestants from five states including Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and Nevada.

The schools which compete in these festivals are divided into classes according to the enrollment of the school, Class A including all those schools having an enrollment of 750 students and up; Class B, all schools whose enrollment is between 250 and 750; and class C, all schools with an enrollment of less than 250 students. The Cedar City school, due to its small enrollment, was, therefore, included in Class C in all the contests.

Ratings, based on standards set up by the National Band and Orchestra Association, are given in each class. These ratings are outlined in the National Manual of Competition as follows:

RATING I—Represents the best conceivable performance for the event and the class of participants being judged; worthy of the distinction of being recognized as a "first place winner." This rating might be compared to a percentage grade of 95 to 100.

RATING II—An unusual performance in many respects, but not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects in performance or ineffective interpretation. A performance of distinctive quality. This rating might be compared to a grade of 87 to 94.

RATING III—A good performance, but not outstanding. Showing accomplishment and marked promise, but lacking in one or more essential qualities. This rating might be compared to a grade of 80 to 86.

RATING IV—An average performance, but not worthy of a III rating — due to handicaps in the way of instrumentation or lack of rehearsal time. Comparable to a grade of 75 to 79.

RATING V—Much room for improvement. Director should check his methods, instrumentation, etc. with those of more mature organizations.

All contests are judged by judges approved by the National Band and Orchestra association who have already judged different contests in various parts of the United States. It is pointed out by Mr. Larson, instructor at the local school, that the students entering these national contests are competing against a standard of perfection set up for high schools of a particular size, rather than against orchestras and bands of other schools.

Seventy students from the Cedar City high school took part in the festival, 46 of them being band members, while the membership of the orchestra totals 35. In addition to the orchestra and band, three soloists also entered the contest.

Fifty-one bands entered the competition in playing and sight reading held last Thursday morning, with the marching contest being held Friday morning. The Cedar City high school band was accorded No. 1 ratings in both contests.

In the orchestra division, the Cedar City students took a No. 1 rating, the contest being held on Friday morning. In this particular contest, out of 24 orchestras competing, only two were accorded the No. 1 rating, Cedar City being the only school in Utah to win this honor. The other orchestra in this class getting the same rating was one from Idaho.

The other No. 1 rating won by the local students went to Lois Luke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Luke, who competed, together with 22 other contestants, in the soprano solo division. There were 4 No. 1 ratings given in this group.

Both the band and the orchestra
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High School Band and Orchestra Receive No. 1 Ratings

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will be presented with plaques from the National Band and Orchestra association in commemoration of their fine showing at the festival, according to information received. The three plaques will be placed in the trophy cabinet located in the new high school building, and will be doubly prized because they represent the first trophies to be won by the new Cedar City high school.

Mr. Larson and his students are to be congratulated on their fine performance which was made possible only because of hard and pains taking work on the part of each of them. The community and various organizations throughout the town have supported the students by helping them purchase uniforms and by patronizing the dance and concert given by the students to earn sufficient money to defray the expenses of the trip to Ogden, but most of the credit goes to the students and their instructor. This is the first time that an Iron county high school band or orchestra has participated in a national music festival, and the fact that these students were able to return home with so many No. 1 ratings speaks volumes for the effort and patience that have gone into their training. While most schools devote certain class periods to the practice of band marching, the local students have done all their marching on their own time, spending early morning and late afternoon hours, as well as many lunch hours, practicing their various formations, often in snow and mud and the coldest of weather. Such persistence has won the admiration of everyone in the community who are now, as always, one hundred per cent behind the music department of the Cedar City high school.

Students in the orchestra are as follows:

Violins: Robert Bradshaw, Robert Parry, Leslie Rollo, Edith Adams, Chloris Bowman, Georgia Hunter, Lola Mae Lunt, LaDawn Riddle, Medelon Jones, Mary Lamb, Beverly Nelson, Audrey Haight, Geraldine Webster, Elma Sargent.

Cellos: Marie Little, Meriam Bradshaw, Virginia Stephens, Marjorie Petty.

Flutes: Deor Jones, Doris Esplin,

Clarinets: Garn Seegmiller, Lyie Barton, Kent Riddle, Donald Ford.

Trumpets: Haze Hunter, Jay Thorley, Paul Palmer.

Trombones: Norman Thompson, Gerald Hess.

Double Bass: Arlene Barlow, John Manning.

Drums: Charles Paul.

Oboe: Virginia Beasley.

French Horns: Luana Wood, Ben Riddle.

Students in the band are:

Clarinets: John Manning, Adele Sevy, LaRae Rollins, Garn Seegmiller, Donald Ford, Evelyn Arns, Cecil Banks, Helen Clark, Dorothy Gardner, Lois Jean Heaton, Merrill Liston, Mac Simkins, Ferroll Stucki, Phyllis Urie, Norman Stucki, Lois Winterrose, Beverley Wood.

Flutes: Boyd Stevenson, Louis Bergstrom,

Oboe: Virginia Beasley.

Saxophones: Dorothy Hulet, Newman Houchen, Glen Jones, Allan Murdock, Drex Smith, Rex Hulet.

French Horns: Paul Palmer, Luana Wood, Beth Hunter.

Trumpets: Haze Hunter, Sheppard Syrett, Jay Thorley, Ben Riddle, Lester Dalley.

Baritone Horn: Blair Nelson.

Trombones: Norman Thompson, Olaf Larson, George Leigh.

Basses: Ryland Anderson, Connell Marsden, Arlene Barlow.

Drums: Charles Paul, Gloria Papworth, Earl Kenney.

Drum Major: Leslie Rollo.