

Inspiring program

The Clark College concert choir and concert band performed a program of patriotic music last week and were rewarded with standing ovations. The nearly full house left in an upbeat and proud mood.

The choir opened with *The Star Spangled Banner*. Director April Duvic included *Yankee Doodle* in the program, along with a strong, all-male rendition of *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

The concert band, now under the baton of first-year conductor Richard Inouye, offered the melodic *Shenandoah*, plus the *American Overture*. The audience was impressed with the difficult work performed by the French horns.

The performance of an original composition by band member Christopher Alex brought the audience to its feet again. Alex, who plays first chair flute in the band, is not a music major. Not surprisingly, the flute section played an important part in the opening portion of that composition. The audience seemed enthralled with the composition, created by an electrical engineering student.

The patriotic program was especially appropriate because Inouye retired after a 20-year Air Force career, and Erik

Burch, a member of both the band and choir, will leave soon for a third tour of duty in Iraq.

Inouye credited Clark College administration, including Pres. Bob Knight, with supporting music programs at the institution. Knight is a retired Army veteran.

The Clark College music program provides students with rewarding experiences while adding to their skills. At present, nearly 600 students are enrolled in music programs at the college. The public looks forward to the annual Clark College jazz festival in January, an event that showcases high school and college talent dating back to 1965.

Members of the Clark College concert band, along with a women's vocal group and the jazz ensemble, will leave this week for performances in Korea, with some 100 people making the trip.

Clark College band and choir concerts are offered free to the community, funded by donors and other sources. The music programs are a valued resource for the community. The decision to offer "Songs of America, From Sea to Shining Sea," was commendable.

Marvin F. Case
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