

# Music night big hit

By PETER JEDICKE  
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This week I would like to focus on something that, although I've mentioned it often enough before, I've never really discussed. This is the Music Department at Westlane.

Naturally, what precipitated this column is, in the most part, due to last week's Music Night. Last year, I attended Music Night for the first time, and enjoyed myself far more than I had imagined I would.

This year, I was honoured by being allowed to perform about half of the duties as Master of Ceremonies. My partner was Tom Woodward, the president of the Westlane Student Council. By the very nature of my role, I was, of course, looking forward very much to Music Night.

In the final analysis, I truly enjoyed myself beyond what I had expected, and I must rank Music Night as one of the most pleasant evenings I've had since September.

The efforts put forward at an event of the magnitude of Music Night cannot be exaggerated. Admittedly, there are undoubtedly students in all bands who just plain don't give a damn, but the total effort is what I'm applauding.

Hours upon hours of full band rehearsal are necessary to prepare for such a performance and, furthermore, individual practice at home is also essential. The latter is, as might be expected, entirely up to the student. The choirs also require tremendous devotion and energy to ensure success.

The organizers of the event are not all teachers. The Music Council, as it is called, is composed of senior band students who, I believe, are elected by fellow students to perform these duties. This is the group which was responsible for the Record Hop

and refreshments which followed the performances, and which was open to students who participated and their friends.

Further appreciation must be extended to the people who lead the students in their efforts, both group and individual. These are the Music teachers at Westlane, Mr. Charles and Mr. MacKenzie, who are in charge of respectively, the Vocal and Instrumental Departments.

We cannot underestimate the importance of the role these gentlemen played in our performances on Friday night. I am certain that everyone who had the good fortune to be in the audience also extends their appreciation to these two gentlemen.

After Music Night, the Choir participated in the Kiwanis Music Festival, singing at Laura Secord School in St. Catharines on Tuesday, April 18. They were awarded a mark of 88 per cent, but, at the time of this writing, I do not know if this mark earned them a victory.

I have heard that at some schools the Music Department is showered with all sorts of funds for every purpose imaginable which might make Music at that school more interesting. At Westlane, we are fortunate indeed, but not quite that fortunate. Our auditorium facilities are extremely limited; the acoustics in the gym are terrible.

Another matter is the question of band uniforms. Some schools are given outright really sharp uniforms. At Westlane we have to buy our own and, at that, they're not too super anyhow. Now I'm not suggesting that somebody donate us an auditorium or the like (in case the present one self-destructs, eh? Ha-ha) but it might be something to consider if the Board ever decides to spend some money for a good cause.