

Langley High School Orchestra Presents Out of This World

BY ERIKA LI
LANGLEY SENIOR

Under a swirling sky of stars projected on the ceiling and before a packed house of exhilarated audience members, Langley High School's orchestra closed out the school year with a space-themed concert for the ages.

The evening began with a grand opening, with the Philharmonic orchestra performing Gustav Holst's beloved "Jupiter," from the Planets suite. Aptly epigraphed as "the bringer of jollity," the piece exuded vitality and grandeur, an effect amplified with full brass, woodwinds, and percussion accompaniment. On a similarly momentous note, the orchestra then presented the world premiere of "The Artemis Generation," guest conducted by the composer himself, Doug Wallace. The piece was commissioned by the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and features prominent percussion sections, creating a futuristic and haunting sound that conveyed the piece's message of hope for a new generation of space explorers.

Langley's senior orchestra members then performed a slate of nostalgic space-age pieces. They first presented the main theme of the classic movie E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, by John Williams, an airy and whimsical piece with a message on the importance of friendship and childhood. From the science fiction film Interstellar, the senior musicians performed Hans Zimmer's "No Time For Caution," an eerie and powerful piece amplified



Cello player Zach Baker dressed up as an astronaut to make the senior performance truly out of this world!

with an organ backing track. Langley's auditorium was then transported to a galaxy far far away, with the senior musicians playing "Rey's Theme" by John Williams, a piece from Star Wars: The Force Awakens. Performers wrapped their bows in colorful LED lights, reminiscent of lightsabers and epic space battles as they played through the music.

The junior musicians of the orchestra then took the stage with iconic extraterrestrial-themed pieces from the silver screen. With Michael Giacchino's Star Trek, then James Horner's "I See You" from the blockbuster film Avatar, clips from movies played on the

screen alongside the musicians. Freshman cellist Luke Yang noted that the "movie scenes in the background was a cool idea that added a positive element to the concert." The junior orchestra members closed off their section of the performance with a universally recognizable medley of themes from Star Wars: The Last Jedi, by John Williams.

The Concert orchestra, composed of freshman and sophomore players, carried a modern and futuristic tone through their repertoire of pieces. Beginning with the theme from world-renowned British television series, Dr. Who, by Murray Gold, the orchestra told



PHOTOS BY JEN DZWONCZYK

With bows wrapped in LED lights, Langley HS Orchestra's senior musicians performed space-age music in their final concert.

the story of an eccentric alien traveling through time in a telephone box through exhilarating and mysterious musical passages. The next pieces were amped up and energizing, with the superhero-themed "Emerald Falcon" by Richard Meyer, and the theme from the video game Halo, by Marty O'Donnell, accompanied by junior Wesley Chang on electric guitar.

In a bittersweet close to the evening, senior musicians once again took the stage to perform "City of Stars" by Justin Hurwitz, from the critically acclaimed film La La Land.

Langley's orchestra has a long-standing tradition of a "senior

song," a piece selected by graduating orchestra members played over a slideshow of all their post-high school destinations. "City of Stars" was a particularly meaningful selection- the same senior song was selected by the graduating class of 2020, who never got to perform it due to the pandemic.

Reflecting on their tenure in Langley's orchestra, senior musicians are nostalgic. "Orchestra has been such a core part of my high school experience," says senior violinist Anh-Thu Pham. "I've made so many great memories and this concert was an amazing way to conclude my four years in the program."

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Join Cub Scouts. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Children in grades K-5 are welcome to join Great Falls Cub Scout Pack 55 for fun, adventure, life skills, camping and more. Visit the raingutter regatta and learn about our pack. Visit the website: <https://www.gfvascouts.com/>

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Memorial Service for Robert "Bob" Alden. The family of Robert "Bob" Ames Alden will hold a memorial service for McLean's community servant and MCC

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

champion at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 1724 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean.

Bob was a regular fixture at MCC and his namesake, The Alden Theatre, as he was among the community leaders who worked tirelessly to establish MCC, McLean Central Park and Dolley Madison Library, "the McLean Green" as he liked to call it.

Bob passed away in June, 2020, but due to the pandemic, a proper service could not be held until now.

TUESDAY/JUNE 7

Hope for the Warriors Workshop. 12-1 p.m. Virtual. Hope For The War-

riors will be presenting a free virtual employee readiness workshop to help active-duty service members, veterans and military spouses in their search for employment.

As a part of the nonprofit's Warrior's Compass transition program, the Employee Readiness Workshop series will provide training to help prepare those in the military landscape for a job search in today's civilian climate. The workshop will offer tools and tips as well as opportunities to network with other service members, military spouses, and companies committed to hiring those with military backgrounds.

The presenter for the June workshop is a representative from Stantec, an

international professional services company in the design and consulting industry with experience in the dedicate hiring initiatives within the veteran community.

To register for the free workshop, visit hopeforthewarriors.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that

can help families in distress.

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5