

Press Release

Ponca City High School Chamber Strings Present Concert

The Ponca City High School Chamber Strings will take to the stage to present their Spring Concert on Tuesday night, May 2. The program will begin at 7:00 in the High School Howell Auditorium. This predominantly 9th grade orchestra, made up of 33 string musicians, will be conducted by Dan Larson. He is assisted by Paula Cochran and Katie Rolf.

The concert will open with *A Knight's Quest* by Soon Hee Newbold. This work captures the medieval spirit of ancient times. Knights were a symbol of honor, chivalry, and valor. They were well-trained warriors who swore allegiance to their country and king, and would fight to the death. An ensemble of 18 students performed this at OSSAA District Solo and Ensemble Contest and earned a superior rating. Next up will be *Ave Maria* by Giulio Caccini, arranged for string orchestra by Jeffrey Turner. This hauntingly beautiful 16th-century melody was virtually unknown until the 90s when artists, including Andrea Bocelli and Charlotte Church, performed the piece. An ensemble of 17 students performed this at OSSAA District Solo and Ensemble Contest and received an excellent rating.

Next up, *The Odyssey (Journey of Odysseus)* by Soon Hee Newbold will be presented. A hero and legend of the Trojan War, Odysseus sails back home to Ithaca along with his crew. This selection is about the obstacles the group met with along the route home. It took many years, but Odysseus finally returned to his beloved wife and son in Ithaca. The concert will continue with *Danse Infernale* by Elliot Del Borgo. A driving and powerful work for string orchestra, this moving composition utilizes a contemporary harmonic scheme and contrasting moods to present a sound poem depicting a frenzied "dance of fire."

Bringing this concert to a close will be *Curse of the Rosin Eating Zombies from Outer Space* by Richard Meyer. This is a highly original tribute to the monster-movie soundtracks of the 1950s. You will hear what it sounds like when hungry zombies attack.

This is the first time the Po-Hi Chamber Strings Orchestra will present a concert alone this year. There is no admission charge and the public is cordially invited to their concert.

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