



DHS Junior Yuma Tsubouchi Represents DCS in the BGSU Honors Band



In October 2022, [a Making Waves](#) article featured Dexter High School Director of Bands Ken Moore upon his being named guest conductor of a Bowling Green State University (BGSU) Honors Band. That story also mentioned that DHS junior Yuma Tsubouchi (French horn) had been selected to participate in this highly-competitive musical weekend. While the October article highlighted Dr. Moore's role in this event, Yuma now takes us through the weekend from the student perspective.

The BGSU Honors Band event featured three student bands composed of talented student musicians nominated by their band directors. Students were divided by ability level through onsite auditions. They were asked to perform two pieces of music in order to be placed into one of the three ensembles - Brown, White or Orange (BGSU's school colors).

"My audition ended up going well," Yuma says, "and [I] managed to place in the Orange band, the top group. Our conductor was Dr. Ken Thompson [a professor in the College of Musical Arts at BGSU], who I have personally met before and have worked with in the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra."

The students were housed at a local hotel, with four students to a room. As Yuma was the only student from Dexter, he "got to meet a lot of new faces...and got to know my roommates, as well as the horn section." He also felt fortunate to meet and work with Dr. Andrew Pelletier, the horn professor at BGSU.

"The music that we played was definitely challenging, but not the hardest for me, especially as a horn," Yuma shares. "Some of the other sections had a much harder time compared to us, but that is typical horn music." The French horn is a member of the brass family, and usually provides rhythmic punctuation or sustained inner harmonies rather than the melody.

“The performance of the top band was pretty impressive, given the limited amount of rehearsal time,” says Dr. Moore. “They played a couple of difficult pieces that our DHS Symphonic Band has played, but we worked on them for months; that band did it in a day and a half.”

“And,” he continued, “I was very proud that Yuma had a solo!”

Yuma has played the French horn for nearly six and a half years, starting in 5th grade with the Dexter Schools band program. He also plays piano, which he says “definitely helped in learning the horn early on.”

“Without my introduction to the horn in 5th grade through Dexter's music education program, I would probably have never been introduced to the horn, and I am eternally grateful for it,” Yuma says. “That one decision has led to countless opportunities made possible, again, by the music program and Dr. Moore, such as this BGSU Honors band, Solo & Ensemble competitions (7 1st Division ratings), and the All-State bands (selected all four years of eligibility).”

The support and encouragement Yuma receives from the DCS band program has prompted him to take the initiative and audition for other honor ensembles and awards. He has been a member of the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra for the past 4 years, his initial connection with BGSU professor Dr. Ken Thompson. He was also a finalist in the Rosalie Edwards Young Artist Competition (REYMC).

With credentials such as these under his belt, it is no surprise that Yuma is planning to continue his music studies in college. “I am definitely interested in BGSU,” he shares, “especially with my connection to Dr. Thompson. I have a pretty good relationship with the college, as well as the horn professor, which would make it very easy for me to [connect with] the school.”

Dexter Community Schools is proud to have nurtured such a talented young musician. Congratulations to Yuma on all his past successes, and we wish him the best of luck in his future musical endeavors!