



THE KING'S ACADEMY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Knights Brigade Achieved Second Place at the Western Band Association Grand Championships!

SUNNYVALE, CA, November 29, 2023

After sweeping First Place and the Caption Awards for Best Music, Best Effect, Best Visual, and Best Percussion at the Class 1A level, the Knights Brigade also received inaugural caption awards at the Grand Champion level for the Best Visual and Best Music program!

Due to the unrelenting rain, WBA postponed all Saturday performances, so the Knights Brigade productively waited out the storm. On Saturday, the band split up to rehearse. Wind players and the Color Guard members drove to a Tae Kwon Do studio to stretch and practice their music. The percussion team set up to practice in the hotel parking lot. The weather was intense for most of the day, with wind blowing the rain horizontally! Parents, instructors, and students constructed a snug tent city to keep instruments and students dry. The Knight's Brigade truck provided a secure wind-break with canopies and tarps overlapping the practice area. The band made the best of suboptimal conditions and found joy in the unexpected adventure.

After their performance on Sunday, the students returned to the parking lot and patiently waited for drum major, Francis Park, to lead the group's huddle. There was tension in the atmosphere. At last, Francis, called them to attention, parade rest, and then cracked a smile. The group erupted in cheers, tears, and conversation with one another. Every member of the Knight's Brigade was smiling and proud of their final performance of *L'Artiste*.

Knights Brigade Roster

Flutes:

Jocelyn Yang #
Winston Chong #
Alex Chiu #
Tom Xu
Christina Chong

Kyla Vawter
Bryan Zhang

Clarinets:

Harahng Lee
Jason Lee
Maya Heeren
Justin Chow

Saxophones:

Evan Jung #
Julie Dawson** #
Maximillian Paule #
Aidan Chiu
Shin-En Chen
Jason Zhou

High Brass:

Hengrui Chen
Arick Jim
Max Lee
Zechery Tsang
Joanne Fong

Low Brass:

Francis Park* #
Natalie Thwaites
Remy Lu
Andy Gong

Tuba:

Nathan Lee
Camille Jerdonek

Percussion:

Jeffrey Chong
Ian Horsley #
Jay Kim
Anvita Kumar
Enoch Lai

Ethan Lee
Aria Thia
Joshua Vander Kam
Max Wang

Color Guard:

Audrey Cai
Ailee Hase
Evy Hsen
Viana Huang
Kara Lam
Erin Sonu
Hannah Yang
Eileen Yuyama

***Drum Major**

****Band President**
Senior

The King's Academy is an independent college preparatory school in Sunnyvale, CA, for grades 6-12. TKA is a Christ-centered school that inspires academic excellence, servant leadership, and enduring relationships. The King's Academy is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). TKA is currently accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. For more information about TKA, please visit www.tka.org.

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