

COMMUNITY CORNER

Developing Responsible, Respectful and Prepared Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 16, 2024

Banning High School Music Department Winter Concert Brings Joy to the Community

BANNING, CA — The Banning High School Performing Arts Center came alive on Friday, December 13, 2024, as the Banning High School Music Department hosted its Winter Concert. Featuring the Banning High School Band under the direction of TJ Hepburn and the Orchestra led by Andres Keymolent, the evening showcased the extraordinary talents of student musicians.

The concert began with the Orchestra performing a selection of eight songs, including classics like *Carol of the Bells* and *Last Christmas*. The Band followed with four spirited pieces, including *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *Up on a Housetop*. The grand finale brought both ensembles together for a combined performance of holiday favorites arranged by Roger Emerson and Paul Lavender, featuring vocalists Elizabeth Ledesma and Aaliyah Hearsley.

A highlight of the evening was a stunning solo by Elizabeth Ledesma, who performed *Midnight Sleighride*, an adaptation of *Troika*. From the resonant tones of saxophones to the delicate melodies of violins and the rhythmic beats of drums, the night was a celebration of music's power to unite and inspire.

"The Winter Concert was a beautiful reminder of the dedication and hard work our students put into honing their talents," said Superintendent Terrence Davis. "Their passion and commitment were evident in every note, and it's clear that music holds a special place in the hearts of our students and community."

Many students performed with both the Band and Orchestra, demonstrating their ability to master multiple instruments and their enthusiasm for expanding their musical skills. The community filled the Performing Arts Center with applause and appreciation, reflecting the shared love for music that defines Banning.

View photos of the Winter Concert at

<https://banning-usd.smugmug.com/2024-2025/December-Events/Banning-HS-Winter-Concert>.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Students from Banning High School perform at the Winter Concert.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Students take stage at the Banning High School Performing Arts Center.



PHOTO CAPTION: Students stands in the spotlight with her cello.