

>>> Director Fujimoto conducts the orchestra at a Tuesday afternoon rehearsal. Members of the orchestra were required to fully examine their music during rehearsals to perfect their performances.



> Bassists Nick Ingraham and Jared Rubin warm up before the Halloween Concert begins. The entire orchestra wore costumes while playing their instruments for the concert.



going strong

Previous changes in leadership shape WMSO's new sense of camaraderie

The William and Mary Symphony Orchestra welcomed Director Akiko Fujimoto as its new conductor only one year ago, and the changes that ensued contributed to the success of the group. A new sense of companionship between the group members and Director Fujimoto, as well as amongst themselves, allowed for improvement and growth as a musical family.

The orchestra experienced expansion at the start of the year with approximately 25 new members joining. With roughly 80 members total, numerous opportunities to make new friends arose. "We have a more cohesive unit this year, and it shows in our playing. It's like we are taking it to another level," junior Andrew Tran said.

Director Fujimoto fostered a musical environment that was infused with expertise, togetherness, passion and funny stories. "She brings a youthful and new attitude towards symphonic repertoire," Tran, also the orchestra's Publicity Chair, said.

The variety that Director Fujimoto introduced to musical selections drew large audiences. The annual Halloween Concert featured the tune *March of the Little Goblins*, by Glaser, which consisted of many non-traditional percussive sounds that to some may call to mind the image of a carnival. This song, mixed with others such as *Night on Bald Mountain* (Mussorgsky), *Phantom of the Opera Medley* (Webber), *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Offenbach) and *Symphonic Fantastique, Op.14* (Berlioz), demonstrated the symphonic orchestra's ability to perform several styles of music.

In addition to the Halloween Concert, the orchestra performed a Family Weekend

Concert, winter concert, and spring concert. For Family Weekend, the orchestra featured songs such as *Overture to "Ruslan and Ludmila"* (Glinka), *Enigma Variations* (Elgar), and *Dance Bacchanale from "Samson and Delilah"* (Saint-Saens).

The winter concert consisted of selections of Brahms's *Symphony No. 4*, Adams' *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, and Sarasate's *Carmen Fantasy*, performed with guest violinist Charles Castleman from the Eastman School of Music at Rochester University. Working with guest musicians was a rare opportunity, and Director Fujimoto invited several to the College to supplement the musical education of the orchestra. She also invited guest conductors to the rehearsals. For student musicians, variety in instruction helped perfect individual skills.

Director Fujimoto strived to be a driving force for progress in the group's organization as well. An executive board for the WMSO and a new position for Publicity Chair were created since Director Fujimoto's arrival. Members of orchestra also attended several performances in areas such as Washington, DC.

Since Director Fujimoto's arrival, the orchestra had experienced many new practical and musical changes. "We try to make the orchestra experience an interesting one for the members and the audience we perform for," Tran said. The students, as well as Director Fujimoto, made continuous efforts to perfect the musical pieces in anticipation that it would translate into a memorable experience for the audience.

>Andrea Anderson



> French horn players Sarah Puckett, James Staples and Cem Pence practice at dress rehearsal. Both the brass section and string section gained new members in the fall.

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