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Gig Harbor Band Teacher Inspires Love of Music, Love of Lord

By Marsha Hart
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Lighthouse Christian School band members, drummer Issac Andonian, Brett Kelly, Bryton Owen, Ellie Harkson, Alyssa Wulick, Cassidy Sharrett, Olivia Skatrud, Chelsie Compton, and Paul Kim, (not pictured) performed for the student body recently, during a school worship service.



Band members pray before a service.

GIG HARBOR — Students at Lighthouse Christian School are making a joyful noise unto the Lord, and their teacher who is inspiring it all has a love for music and God in her heart.

Becky Sharrett began as a Lighthouse Christian School mother, with three children attending the school since kindergarten, and two years ago became the band director at the school. She said she grew up in a musical family, loves music, and loves the Lord. The combination drives her to inspire her band students to not only love to play music, but to do it for God.

“No matter what kind of music, as long as it’s honoring to God, that’s the worship. I want to get them excited about playing music, but also know that the reason for the music, that they’ve been given the gift of music, is to bring glory to Him,” she said.

By the time the students reach Sharrett’s class, they have had basic music education, since all students at the school begin music training in elementary school.

Sharrett leads the two middle school bands, a fifth-grade band, and an after-school jazz band that is made up of students, alumni and parents, she said.



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The middle school band is a praise and worship band with nine students. In order to be in the band, students must audition, and it is important for each of them to know exactly why they want to be in the band, she said.

“They are playing in front of their fellow peers which is very difficult at this age, but, they have a heart for the Lord, and that’s important too. They don’t just audition musically, they tell me where their heart is and why they want to be there. I don’t want somebody that just wants to be up front to be a rock star. I want somebody up front that’s going to share their passion and love for the Lord through music.”

The band plays at worship on Wednesday mornings during chapel, she said. “I’m very proud of them and they’ve come a long way. For the second semester, I added a few more in because I was hoping to transition due to the five eighth-graders that are leaving. That’s going to bring my group down to just a couple of singers and a drummer,” she said.



After a performance, Sharrett said, she has the students fill out a form to see where their heart was. At the beginning of the year band members are focused on peers in the audience, but as the year rolls along, she said it changes as more of the student body begins to sing.

Though it would be understandable for any young teenager to be nervous performing in front of peers, Bryton Owen said he knows the students aren’t his only audience.

“When I’m up there playing, I don’t really get nervous because I know I’m not playing for just the students. I’m playing so that they can enter in and have a relationship with God. I’m mainly playing, personally, for God,” said Owen, an eighth-grader who sings and plays guitar.

Keyboardist Ellie Harkson is 14 years old, and said the focus is always on God.

“At first, I got pretty nervous, but lately, I haven’t felt any nerves at all. I’m just used to it and I know that God is our audience and not the kids,” Harkson said. “She really keeps us on track and helps us to keep our focus on Christ.”

With the school year pretty much done, Sharrett said next year is uncertain. Though she would like to see the band continue, it will only happen if the students show up to audition.

“We’re at a place where I don’t know what’s going to happen next year, so it’s been exciting to see the new ones start and see them all bond together and grow musically as well as growing as a team.”

Campus Administrator Debbie Schindler said what Sharrett does for the music students is amazing.

“It is phenomenal. When you look at these sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, and you see what they are doing under her mentorship, it’s really incredible. She has a way of bringing that out of them that I just love,” Schindler said.

Sharrett is hoping the band can play at some churches during the summer break.

For information about the band or school, call (253) 858-5962.

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