

The REACH Ensemble performs at Asian American Chamber of Commerce Golden Dragon Awards Ceremony

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REACH ensemble



Tiffany Tang, Vice President of REACH, introduces REACH ensemble to audiences

The REACH Ensemble is a group that is comprised of distinguished and talented young musicians in Central Florida. They not only actively participate in High School Orchestras, but they also audition for the Florida All-County and All-State Orchestras. Many of them are also members of the renowned Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra and are holding leading positions such as being a concertmaster, a principal and an assistant principal. Now, playing Asian music is their new challenge since there are a limited amount of music scores. To solve this challenge, some of the musicians watched music videos on YouTube repetitively for an understanding of the melody and have started to rearrange the music by just listening to the music on YouTube. Members of the REACH ensemble always improvise to make their music sound more musical. REACH Ensemble Director is Koichi Kanaoka and the members are Sean Chew, Hans Lau, Frank Lau, Sangji Lee, Hye Jun Lee, Priscilla Leung, Ben Liu and Duc-Quy Nguyen – **Hans Lau**, *President of REACH*

REACH Ensemble played at the AACC Golden Dragon Award on Nov 19, 2010 and here are some reflections from REACH Ensemble members:

It is a real honor and pleasure to be the Ensemble Director of the REACH program. I have arranged and composed many Asian styled songs, and through this program, we have many opportunities to share the Asian cultural heritage with the community through music. One of the events we were privileged to participate in was the AACC Golden Dragon Awards. We are fortunate to have many talented young musicians to represent our Asian heritage, who also represent the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra, and were able to successfully present our cultural music and supported other Asian organizations. We are improving our library and skills daily, and are ready to further spread our Asian cultural heritage with our community through our musical performances – **Koichi Kanaoka**, *Ensemble Director of REACH*

I decided to join a small ensemble of REACH members to play at the Asian American Chamber of Commerce. At first, I thought it'd be like any other ensemble- but boy was I wrong! We all dressed in cultural clothing to represent our respective countries. Since I'm from Korea, I wore my hanbok. All the Asian countries we were representing came together harmoniously to produce traditional Asianesque music. All our differences were placed aside we came together to play as a united force and lead the lion into a banquet hall. REACH has helped me realize that I'm not only a Korean- American, but I'm an Asian- American as well. - **Hye Jun Lee**

The REACH Ensemble practiced Asian pieces a few times after school. My favorite part of being in the REACH Ensemble was when I played General Mandate with the Dancing Lion. I liked this performance experience as it was nice to perform in front of many business men and women. When I play in an Orchestra, the conductor usually leads the musicians but when I was in the Ensemble, we had to listen and work with each other more. This was a great experience. – **Frank Lau**

