

# Sunrise Serenade

## Jazz Band gets a groove while we snooze

Matthias Jackels

Staff Reporter

If one could associate “jazz” with a time of day, what would it be? Most people would say night time. But not the Shorewood High School Jazz Band.

Members of jazz band start their school day earlier than most other students at 6:50 a.m. “I usually get 5-6 [hours of sleep],” Andrew Johnson (Baritone Saxophone), freshman, said. But he is not the only one. “Every morning I get up, I’m like, why do I do this?” Gianni Milano (Trombone), junior, said.

But what is the motive? “I remember that I get to go and play trombone,” said Milano, smiling. “When I know I get to go to jazz band it’s not really a big deal,” Shelby Hegerberg (Alto Saxophone), senior, said.

But who inspires the jazz band? “Probably Charles Mingus... He has so many cool songs, mostly because he uses a lot of controlled chaos,” Johnson said.

“JJ Johnson is a really, really good jazz trombonist,” said Milano. “Also Marshall Gilkes.” Elaborating on the influence other jazz musicians had on him. “Those were two that were great to listen to learn what jazz is and all the different nuances.”

“I’ve been playing since 5th grade, so this is my 7th or 8th year, which is weird,” Heger-



Photo by Matthias Jackels

berg said. Her biggest inspiration has been the musicians around her such as Wilson Manis, who graduated from Shorewood last year.

Many of the musicians are planning on continuing their jazz careers when they go to college.

“Maybe after high school joining a band in college, even outside of school, would just

be a really fun opportunity,” Johnson said.

“I’ve been trying to look at some colleges and stuff for trombone,” Milano said. “Hopefully a professional trombonist.” “Absolutely,” Hegerberg said, “if I am able to do jazz band in college I would absolutely love to.”

The Jazz band has already performed twice this year, at the Northshore Jazz Festi-

val on Nov. 18, and at Shorewood High School Nov. 21. They will be playing sometime in the week before winter break in the commons before school starts, so be sure to keep an eye out for announcements.

Marshall Menninger, (Alto Saxophone), senior, a long running veteran of the Shorewood High School Jazz Band wanted to discuss why joining jazz band is a good idea. “First of all, it’s fun, I don’t think anyone can deny that,” Menninger said. “Nobody really wants to be up that early, that sort of ‘everybodies in it’ early in the morning together, everybody wants to be there, I feel like that’s a really cool thing.”

Jazz music is often times considered the first authentic American genre of music, and has influenced many other popular forms of music

today. “We are practicing this form of art that has these deep roots in American history,” Menninger said. Jazz band offers musicians a sense of community as well. “It’s like another family, were all practicing jazz,” Menninger said. “People should consider joining and it’s one of the most fun classes that I am taking”

## Album Review

### A wrap-up of 2023’s best music

Hayden Kelly

Staff Reporter

#### “Did You Know That There’s A Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd,”

Lana Del Rey

Lana Del Rey’s ninth studio album arrived to great fanfare. While not reaching the same heights as its predecessor, “[Norman Rockwell],” it still managed to hold its own debuting at No. 3 on the Billboard 200, and some say that it is Del Rey’s best album yet. This additionally seems to be her most introspective album, writing mainly about her family and touching on topics like dealing with grief and loss. Del Rey gives voice to her anxieties of not being able to be a mother, and not being able to live a normal life. This album is mysterious yet exceedingly raw in her writing of the inner workings of her mind

#### “Stick Season (We’ll All Be Here Forever),” Noah Kahan

The original “Stick Season” released in October of last year gained so much notice that artist Noah Kahan decided to release an

extended version of the album gaining even more attention for his music. Kahan on the album has done covers with artists such as Lizzy McAlpine, Kacey Musgraves, Post Malone, and Hozier. “[We’ll All Be Here Forever]” by Kahan is a folk/indie album that is inspired by country music. The use of the mandolin throughout the album is surprising yet charming and accompanied by guitar riffs that transport listeners to the cold New England of Kahan’s hometown. He sings about his complex feelings of being trapped there with folk arrangements that seem to put you right into the Vermont environment, perfect for fall.

#### “Unreal Unearth,” Hozier

An artist commended for his lyrical genius, Hozier further cements that title in our minds with this album. Hozier’s third album explores the nine circles of hell, inspired by Dante’s Inferno. “Unreal Unearth” tells the journey of his traveling through hell, each song representing a different circle. The last

song “First Light” represents the hopeful end of this voyage. In this album, Hozier writes an eerie yet sad journey through the underworld as an analogy for somebody exploring loss and love.

#### “Speak Now (Taylor’s Version),” Taylor Swift & “1989 (Taylor’s Version),” Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift has dominated the music industry for almost 20 years, but she only seems to be getting bigger. With the release of Swift’s re-recordings of her “Speak Now” and “1989” albums, there is a boom in popularity. The original “Speak Now” album sold one million copies its release week and was No. 1 on the Billboard 200 for six weeks. While the original “1989” sold over 10 million copies and was at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 for 11 weeks. Now the “Speak Now (Taylor’s Version)” and “1989 (Taylor’s Version)” albums collected 126.3 million and 176 million streams, on Spotify alone, on the day of release. Apple Music and Spotify both

crashed minutes after the release of “1989 (Taylor’s Version)” due to the heavy traffic. Both “[Taylor’s Version]” albums debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200. Who knows how many more records Swift will break with her next “[Taylor’s Version]” albums.

#### “GUTS,” Olivia Rodrigo

Olivia Rodrigo’s sophomore album debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 Albums chart. While Rodrigo’s first album was centered around her anger and sadness after a breakup, her new album “GUTS” talks about the mixed feelings of wanting to go back to old relationships, while also hating his guts. This is highlighted in the songs “Bad Idea right?” and “get him back!”. Rodrigo touches on her issues with self-esteem with songs such as “Lacy” and “Pretty isn’t Pretty.” Whether you want a song about the trials of being a teenager or want to scream about how much your ex sucks, this album is the perfect blend.

