



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Music To The Legislature

Ulster County Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson has initiated a new “Music to the Legislature” program that will feature performances by County high school musical groups in the lobby of the Ulster County Office Building an hour before the start of the regularly scheduled legislative meetings each month.

The public is encouraged to attend the free 6 PM concerts in the lobby of the County Office Building starting on February 13. Following a half-hour show in the lobby, high school musical groups will perform a short program prior to the start of the monthly legislature meetings at 7 PM in the sixth floor Legislative Chambers of the County Office Building, 244 Fair Street in Kingston, NY. The meetings are usually scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month.

“The idea is to showcase the musical talent that exists within the youth in our schools,” Donaldson said. “I think it’s a great way to make people more aware of our wonderfully talented musicians by expanding the program to include another performance that is open to the public. The music is always greatly appreciated by everyone in attendance and it presents the musicians and their teachers with an opportunity to be seen and heard by people from throughout the County, including the press. Participation has been a positive and rewarding experience for all involved.”

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The Highland High School Jazz Ensemble has been scheduled for the first “Music to the Legislature” performance from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM on February 13 in the lobby of the Ulster County Office Building.

The 16-student Jazz Ensemble performed recently at the Galleria Mall in Poughkeepsie during the Christmas holidays. The program at the Ulster County Office Building will include several numbers performed at the Galleria as well as some new material.

The performance list includes “Green Onions” by Booker T. Jones; “Yesterday” by Lennon and McCartney; “Soul Man” by Isaac Hayes and David Porter; “Embraceable You” by George and Ira Gershwin; “Castles of Sand” by Ralph Gingerly; “Accidentally in Love” by Adam F. Durwitz; “So What” by Miles Davis; “Mambo Jambo” by Chris Sharp; and “Too Cool” by Matt Harris.

“The selections represent a wide range of styles and give students in the band ample Opportunity to sharpen their improvisatory skills,” Highland High School band director Roy Coates said. “I am most proud of two of my band students who are giving up a great field trip to New York City that day in order to perform for the Ulster County Legislature.”

A musical group from John A. Coleman High School is scheduled to appear in March.

“The response we have received from local high schools has been overwhelming,” Donaldson said. “We’re hoping that this can be a big success and, hopefully, more people will come to the uptown area of Kingston where they can shop and enjoy dinner before or after the show.”

If any other high school musical groups are interested in participating in the “Music to the Legislature” program, school officials can call (340-3900) or write Ulster County Legislature Clerk Kathleen Carey-Mihm at kmih@co.ulster.ny.us or contact her assistant Tammy Wilson at twil@co.ulster.ny.us.