

IB students display their talent

Jason Tripp
Charger Staff

Cookeville High School's first display of artistic and musical talent took place Tuesday, April 5, in the commons area and auditorium.

The International Baccalaureate Visual Art class exhibited works from all of its students, demonstrating the technical skill and imagination they have developed after a year of various artistic studies.

The IB Music class held a recital in the auditorium the same night as the exhibition, featuring the many musicians in our school.

The IB Art class is a yearlong class that allows students to pursue their own artistic interests. Led by Mr. Mitchell White, the class studies the lives and influence of different artists and art movements, as well as studying the techniques used by these artists. The class supplies students with the materials they

need to find their own forms of expression.

On display were paintings, sculptures, interior designs, drawings, collages and other works.

Paintings by student Justin LaFever showed well-developed skill with the use of light, shadow and subtle color variation in his landscape paintings.

Other young artists like Nathan Moser chose less common art forms; his *Simplistic Design* is a small, nicely shaped house made of wood and other materials that took one month to complete.

One of the clay sculptures by Whitney Johnson, *Talismanic Object-The Old Man*, depicts the head of an old man. Emphasis is placed on the features of an aged person like a receding chin and squinting eyes.

The musical recital put the spotlight, which was very bright, on the soloists and group musicians of the

IB music class, led by Mr. David Talbert and Mr. Billy Stepp with accompanying pianist Mr. Michael Choate. The instrumentalists and the single vocalist, Jondan Rothfus, performed pieces by famous composers or, like Jayce Clemons and Third Estate, played original compositions.

The works and instruments varied in style from the mysterious sounds of the marimba to the soothing sounds of the flute and from the powerful sounds of brass to the familiar sounds of the guitar. All the musicians left an impression on the audience, except perhaps the soprano saxophonist who was slightly off key.

The night gave people the chance to relax, enjoy some music and view the works of Cookeville's young artists. It made everyone aware of the fine arts of our world that deserve our attention and should not be allowed to disappear.

Amos has another hit with *The Beekeeper*

Rachel Schmid
Charger Staff

Tori Amos is a woman full of mysterious beauty and power. She has an eclectic fan base of millions, many of whom could only be described as obsessed.

While many female singers write "chick music" most guys cringe to hear, Amos writes passionate music that can be enjoyed by men and women alike.

From her tumultuous youth, roughly displayed in the release of her first solo album, *Little Earthquakes*, to the calmness of discovering happiness in her latest album, *The Beekeeper*, her emotions are easily perceived through her music.

Although this year has contained personal tragedy for Amos, with the death of her brother in an automobile accident, her music reflects only a positive outlook.

The Beekeeper was released on February 22, 2005, comprising Amos's eighth solo album. It contains nineteen carefully written songs worlds apart from her early music. One could connect more to her early 90s music because of the raw emotion she used.

Amos is now older and apparently more reserved. She keeps *The Beekeeper* flowing with few bumps and tends to lack the excitement many look for in Amos's music.

She has performed her single "Sleeps with Butterflies" on several talk shows including *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *The Tonight Show*, and *The Late, Late Show*.

"The Power of Orange Knickers" features Ireland's Damien Rice. The unusual song was inspired by a comment made by Amos's daughter on their stroll through Central Park.

Amos possess the most soothing, exotic voice. Simply

hearing her speak is a treat. She is a master with words although her eccentric lyrics are toned down on *The Beekeeper*.

This is a concept album in which she tries to tell the story of her emotional journey through a garden tended by the beekeeper described in the title. It was released alongside *Tori Amos: Piece by Piece*, an autobiography co-written by music critic Ann Powers.

Amos has a mind few to none understand, and this album is a quintessential example. The music is beautiful but does not present the clear story her previous album, *Scarlet's Walk*, did. *Scarlet's Walk* describes the journey of a woman who discovers herself as she crosses America.

The Beekeeper outranks most of the pop music of the day. It is a strong album with a few weak points. Its polished songs attract new listeners but disappoint many

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