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Mohawk Trail Regional School looks to leave audiences humming, smiling at spring musical

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BUCKLAND — Mohawk Trail Regional School's theater program is bringing audiences a light-hearted, family-friendly musical for its spring production: "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Performances will be held Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, both at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

The musical, which runs for about 90 minutes and is made up of a series of vignettes, is one the whole family can enjoy, said Performing Arts Department Director Eva Husson-Stockhamer.

"The interesting thing about the show versus some other musicals, there is no set storyline ... which makes it wonderful for younger kids to come and watch," Husson-Stockhamer mentioned.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" is musically dynamic, employing a full range of styles in its soundtrack such as classical and jazz gospel music, so "there's something for everybody," said Musical Director Todd Rovelli. Rovelli also looks forward to the audience recognizing the familiar tune "Happiness," which comes from this musical.

The 16-person cast is made up of students in seventh to 12th grade, with Mohawk Trail students of all ages being encouraged to participate.

"When we get down to the show opening, there's always a lot of energy," Rovelli said. "When the energy is coming from the stage and from the music, then the audience is enthused as well. We hope that's the goal, to leave [the audience] humming tunes and with a smile on their face."

Audience members can expect a simple set design made up of "building blocks," which the crew will move into different configurations depending on the color and style of the particular scene. Despite the simple set, however, Husson-Stockhamer said this is one of the more difficult productions Mohawk Trail has ever put on.

"This show is not just a cute little show about some comic strip characters, and I think that's important. ... The whole scale of the music is not trivial," Husson-Stockhamer explained. "Keeping the pace of the acting in the lines is a challenge, but you know, it's a fun challenge."

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and senior citizens. Husson-Stockhamer can be contacted for tickets at stagemanager@mtrsd.org or attendees can buy tickets at the door. Telegrams for cast and crew members along with refreshments will be available for purchase, cash only, to support the performing arts program.

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