OSU bands to team up for homecoming finale

By AMY WEIRACH
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Musicians from all seven OSU bands will gather for the third annual “Buckeye Band Spectacular” on Sunday, ending homecoming on an upbeat note.

The first two spectacles coincided with school events, and this one is to follow suit, said Craig Kirchhoff, bands’ director at Ohio State.

“The whole idea is to come up with an entertaining, spirited conclusion to homecoming weekend,” he said.

The bands’ first concert was held during homecoming weekend two years ago, and last year’s concert was held the Friday before the Michigan game as a tribute to Woody Hayes, Kirchhoff said.

The different groups scheduled to perform Sunday include the OSU Concert Band, directed by Kirchhoff; the Symphonic Band, directed by Harvey Benstein; the Jazz Ensemble, directed by Tom Battenberg; the Marching Band, directed by Jon Woods; the Clarinet Choir, directed by James Pyne; the Buckeye Bassoons, directed by Christopher Weart; and the Flute Troupe, directed Katherine Jones.

Except for this year’s addition of the Clarinet Choir, the line up for the concert has remained the same for all three years.

The music played by these groups, although not top 40, will be upbeat and festive, Kirchhoff said.

“A lot of students think the concerts are dull and formal, we’re trying to show they can be fun and entertaining,” Kirchhoff added.

Scott Jones, a senior from Fairfax, Va., has played in the first two “Spectaculars,” and plans to perform in Sunday’s.

“From the audience standpoint, it’s a really good opportunity to see all of the bands perform at one time,” he said.

Kirchhoff said the concept of having all the university bands play in a single hour-and-a-half concert is unique. The concert gives them a chance to be represented at one time and contribute to the same event — a chance the bands don’t often have.

This will be the first year the bands will perform without a guest artist or soloist, Kirchhoff said. “These groups are good enough and entertaining enough to present a concert without having a guest artist,” he said.

“It’s always a fun concert to play,” Jones said. “I think it’s wonderful publicity for the band program at the university.”

Some of the students will play in two or three of the bands, Kirchhoff said, giving them added responsibility throughout the concert.

In the “Buckeye Band Spectacular” the finale doesn’t come until the marching band has performed. Woods said that they will play a series of school songs such the “Buckeye Battlecry,” “Hang on Sloopy” and the Alma Mater.

The concert will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Mershon Auditorium. Admission is $5 for adults, $3 for students or, for groups of ten or more people, $2 each.