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CASE STUDY:

BRASS BAND MANAGEMENT IN SECONDARY
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ABSTRACT

This study is a case study about the brass band management in secondary school. The study was conducted to determine brass band management in secondary schools. The objective are determine the background Shan Tao Secondary School band, to know the brass band management at Shan Tao Secondary School in terms of teachers responsibilities, finance, facilities and equipment, musical instruments, to know the challenges and problems faced in the brass band management, and to find out how the teachers overcome the problems faced in managing the brass band. The researcher was interviewed three from six band teacher in this band. Result shows that the band management in this school is very effective in terms of teacher responsibilities, band members' commitment, financial, facilities and equipment, music instruments and supports.

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

In the aspect of music, brass defined as the section of a band or an orchestra consisting of metal and zinc mixture instruments (The American Heritage Dictionary, 2000). Band defined as a group of musicians who play popular music for dancing or a group of music player does not include musical instruments equipped with a rope. It is also defined as a number of musicians who play together upon portable musical instruments, especially those making a loud sound, as certain wind instruments such as trumpets, clarinets, etc, and drums, or cymbals (Accurate and Reliable Dictionary, 2004). The Oxford Dictionary, Concise Dictionary of Music defines the brass band as a type of combination which is found all over Europe and in countries settled Europeans. This group usually consists of instruments such as saxophone, cornets, flugelhorn, and percussion.

Nowadays, the establishment of brass band in schools in Malaysia is increasing. Brass band activities in schools have many benefits to various parties, especially students and the school generally. "The objective of the National Education Policy is designed to create a nation of united and respected. This intention can be achieved if the younger generation can now be given a balanced and proper education. Education is a balanced and proper emphasis on both aspects of academic co-curricular work and move. This means that a person is given a through education includes aspects of mental, physical and spiritual "(Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, 1985). Accordance with the objectives of the National Education Policy, 1961 implementation of co-curricular clubs and associations involving uniformed club. One of the co-curricular activities that create in the schools in Malaysia is the brass band. Although not all schools have a brass band, it will contribute to the success of the National Education Policy goals.

Music education was one of the first forms of organized education. Plato established one of the earliest formal institutions of learning called the Academy. Instruction in music was an integral part of the curriculum studied at the Academy (Jowett & Loomis, 1942). The curriculum, which also included instruction in mathematics, science, astronomy, and philosophy, 2 was designed to improve the student's mind. In one of his most famous dialogues, the Republic, Plato stated that all education should begin with music (Jowett & Greene, 1927). School brass band not only aims to be affected students with beneficial activities but also serves to raise the school's career as well as enhance the quality of a teacher. Teachers frequently associated with the success of a brass band at school. Teacher roles and responsibilities are very challenge and require strength in terms of physical and mental balance. A good and dedication teacher

not only to teach the students based on curriculum that has been provided by the Ministry of Education Malaysia but also able to assist students to develop self-potential.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Producing a successful student in terms of co-curricular and academic are the roles and responsibilities of all parties, especially teachers and parents. The establishment of schools brass band not only provides opportunities for students to explore the talent but also cultivate the sense of belonging and team life. Student involvement in such activities can help teachers improve the quality of career experience in terms of a brass band management. The success of teams at the school brass band at present is certainly the result of hard work from brass band teachers itself and the cooperation of various parties, especially schools. The teacher's role to achieve success was proving a teacher dedication and ability. However, do not denying that there are many challenges should be for a successful brass band. Every aspect of the band should not be overlooked from view by a brass band teacher.

Teacher's responsibility would be vital to monitoring brass band. This includes teaching musical instruments, equipment requirements and operating method. Apart from that, social support from other students, teachers, parents and society is essential to produce a successful band. Not denied that there are parents who less understanding about the concept and government goal to involve students in extra-curricular such as brass band. Parents often not give support to their children to join the brass band. This happened because, for them academic is the single way to their children to be successful person while activities such as joined brass band activities are not useful. These activities will prevent and disturb their children focus on academic. Therefore, it is very important to the teachers to ensure that parents understand the objectives of the establishment of brass band.

Teachers also need to ensure that strategies and exercises used in a force brass band are appropriate and effective. It is important to the teacher to know what and how to get required techniques to produce an excellent band. Teachers also need to ensure a balance of academic and training among band members. To get the full cooperation of members of the team is something that is not impossible to do. Therefore, teachers need to know about communication skills and how to get full cooperation from its members. Roles and responsibilities of a teacher are very big. Without wide knowledge, the objectives of the band may not be achieved. The study was conducted to determine how teachers handle and manage brass band in secondary schools.

THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted to determine brass band management in secondary schools. Among its objectives are:

1. To determine the background of Shan Tao Secondary School band.
2. To determine the brass band management at Shan Tao Secondary School.
3. To determine the challenges and problems faced in the brass band management.
4. To find out how the teachers overcome the problems faced in managing the brass band.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the background of Shan Tao brass band?
2. How do teachers manage this band?
 - Teachers Responsibilities
 - Finances
 - Facilities and equipment
 - Musical instruments
3. What are the challenges and problems faced in managing a brass band?
 - Students
 - Financial management, facilities and equipment, and musical instruments
 - Social support
4. How do teachers overcome the problems that arise when managing the school band?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

To ensure a band achieved its goals, cooperation from all parties is essential. Apart from cooperation, the management of a band is also among the factors that are important to achieve these goals. This study is expected to help teachers about brass band management in secondary school. From the information and findings of this study, teachers can learn from the experience of music teachers and band managers to become more efficient and increased their band performance. In addition, this study will also be able to provide an overview of how schools handle all challenges and problems that arise, so that they can be more prepared if a band want to set up schools in their school.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study is about experiences and views based on interviews with the band teacher. Interviews are made to obtain a valid and sincere response from respondents. This study will only be implemented in only one school that has brass band in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, namely Sekolah Menengah Shan Tao, Likas.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Brass Band

A brass band is a musical group generally consisting entirely of brass instruments, most often with a percussion section. Ensembles which include brass and woodwind instruments can in certain traditions also be termed brass bands (particularly in the context of New Orleans-style Brass Bands), but are usually more correctly termed military bands, concert bands, wind bands or wind ensembles. The tradition of brass bands in New Orleans, Louisiana dates to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Traditionally, New Orleans brass bands could feature various instrumentations, often including trumpets, trombones, saxophones, sousaphones and

percussion. The music played by these groups was often a fusion between European-styled military band music and African folk music brought to the Americas by West African slaves and the idiom played a significant role in the development of traditional Jazz. Early brass bands include the Eureka Brass Band, the Onward Brass Band, the Excelsior Brass Band, the Tuxedo Brass Band, the Young Tuxedo Brass Band, the Camelia Brass Band, and the Olympia Brass Band.

The brass band originated with traveling musicians who performed together at festivals and celebrations throughout the ancient world. It evolved and became more structured within the armies of the early city-states, becoming the basis for the military band, from which the modern marching band emerged. As musicians became less important in directing the movement of troops on the battlefield, the bands moved into increasingly ceremonial roles - an intermediate stage which provided some of the instrumentation and music for marching bands was the modern brass band, which also evolved out of the military tradition. Many military traditions survive in modern marching band. Bands that march in formation will often be ordered to "dress their ranks" and "cover down their files". They may be called to "attention", and given orders such as "about face" and "forward march". Uniforms of many marching bands still resemble military uniforms (Wikipedia, 2007).

Through information contained in this website Austin Wonder Brass, band formed around early-19th century under the auspices of England's Industrial Revolution as a general musician. There are two teams based on the traditional Bessies O'Th Barn Brass Band and Black Dyke Mills Brass Band. Near to mid-19th century, the development of brass instruments in the developed and the team are already equipped with instruments such as cornets, flugelhorn , tenor horns, baritones, trombones, euphoniums, B flat and E flat and bass instruments percussion. Competitions organized to help musicians in the band to improve their skill and performance. There are two types of competitions held each year in England, namely, the National Championship and British Open Championship.

Band is one of a very important part in the United States in the 19th century. Salvation Army has given the responsibility to maintain the traditional concept of the brass band through their music department. But since 15 years ago, began reforms occurred in the North America. The establishment of North American Brass Band Association (NABBA) is very important and influential in this reform. At present, there are many teams that have been established by the NABBA traditional concept. NABBA not only helped maintain the traditional American concept of the uniqueness and values even have contributed to the rich musical heritage in the United States (Wikipedia, 2007).

Brass band in Malaysia

Band not only have developed in Europe but also stepped in Malaysia. Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur was the first school in Southeast Asia to establish a cadet team and brass band. Profile Bands Cadet Corps Victoria state that the brass band was formed around the school began in 1884. It was founded by Sir William Alexander Smith Company that handles the band, First Glasgow Company in Glasgow, Scotland. In 1897, Captain ACJ Towers of the company began to serve as principals in Victoria Institution (VI). As the school band requires teams to celebrate special days, he established St. Mary Boys' Brigade. Interestingly, a member of the group was honored at a presentation held aboard the HMS Brisk anchored in Port Klang.