

JAZZIN' IT UP!

Sloan's talents with the trumpet are music to state judges' ears

David Sloan's inspiration comes from the famous trumpet player Louie Armstrong. Much like the jazz icon, the recent South Houston High School graduate's talents are music to the ears of many audiences.

The sounds of Sloan's trumpet captured the attention of an important audience, as he received the UIL's Outstanding Soloist Medal. Sloan was among 182 students out of 20,000 at the state competition to receive the award.

"David is absolutely one of the strongest musicians I have seen in my years at South Houston," said John Goode, South Houston High band director. "His drive and ambition will take him anywhere he wants to go."

Sloan has always loved music, and in sixth grade, he decided to center his efforts in that area.

"I wasn't sure what instrument I wanted to play at first. I wanted to play the saxophone, until I heard a tape of Louie Armstrong playing. After hearing him play, I had my heart set on playing the trumpet," he said. "I've never looked back since."

During his time in intermediate and high school, Sloan began to make a name for himself, earning many awards along the way. He has made the All-Region band, orchestra and jazz ensembles while at South Houston High. He was also a member of the Texas Music Educators Association's All-State Band as a senior. Last year, he was chosen as a member of the All-State symphonic band. As a sophomore, junior and senior he has earned gold medal at UIL

competition and received a silver medal his freshman year.

Sloan is quite humble when asked about his talents, saying, "music is just something that comes natural to me." His love for music also extends outside of school, as he plays for the Pasadena Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition, he played with the Houston Youth Symphony in 2003.

This fall, Sloan will attend the University of Houston and major in music education. He hopes to teach music at the secondary school level one day, as well as play professionally.

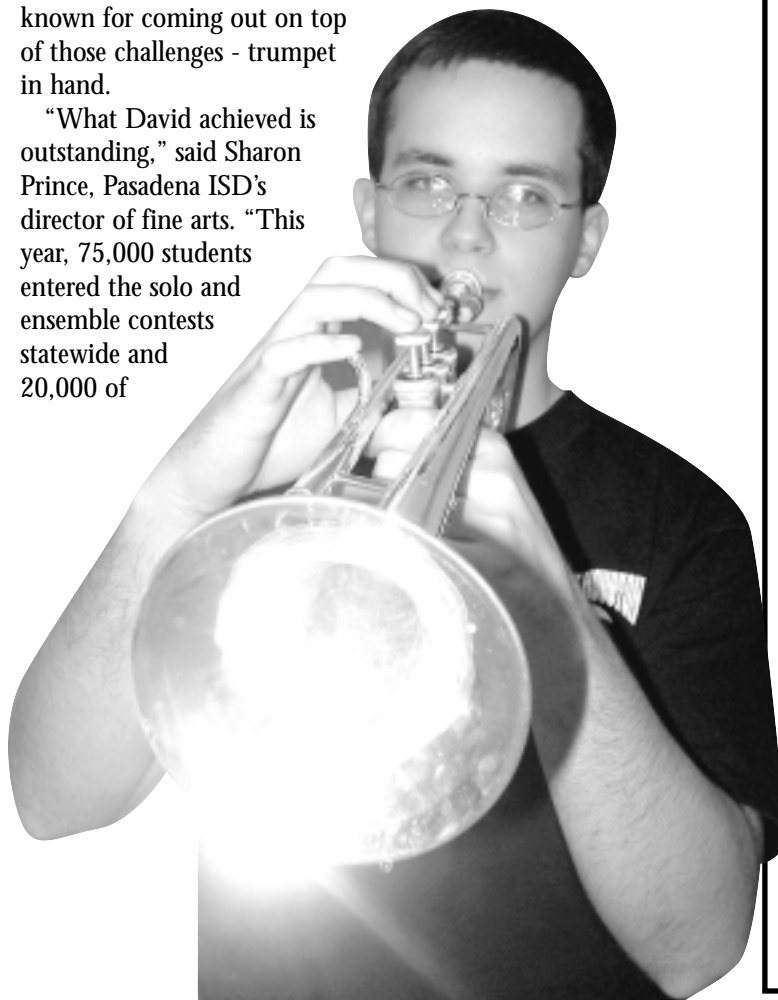
"Both are goals of mine," he said. "It will take hard work and dedication, but that's they only way I've ever known."

Judging from his accomplishments, Sloan has been known for coming out on top of those challenges - trumpet in hand.

"What David achieved is outstanding," said Sharon Prince, Pasadena ISD's director of fine arts. "This year, 75,000 students entered the solo and ensemble contests statewide and 20,000 of

them made it to the state competition. Only a select few of that 20,000 earned the outstanding soloist medal and David was one of them. I think that speaks volumes about his talents. I think you'll be hearing a lot about this young man in years to come." ●

Below: Recent South Houston High School graduate and trumpet player David Sloan was among a select group that received the UIL's Outstanding Soloist Medal at the state's solo and ensemble contest. Sloan was one of 182 students out of 20,000 that received top honors.



School orientations scheduled

Many of the intermediate and high schools in the Pasadena Independent School District offer orientations or other informational meetings at which students tour the school, meet the teachers or complete other tasks to be ready for the new school year. Listed below are orientations or other Back to School events planned in Pasadena ISD. As of press time, some campuses may have not set their orientations.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Beverly Hills Intermediate will host orientation for all grade levels to introduce students to their new school location in the former Dobie High School at 11111 Beamer. Orientation dates include:
Eighth grade orientation - Wednesday, August 4
Seventh grade orientation - Thursday, August 5
Sixth grade orientation - Friday, August 6
For more information, call 713-740-0420.

Bondy Intermediate
Bondy Intermediate's Sixth Grade Patriot Camp will be held from 9 a.m. - 12 noon Friday, August 13. Students will meet in the cafeteria, locate their homeroom and sit as a homeroom with their teacher. Teachers and staff will be introduced to the new students at this time. The cheerleaders and band will perform for the students, and then they will dismiss to go to their homerooms. During this time, the students will be issued their lockers and have time to practice opening them. Students will also see an orientation video instructing them on first day and daily procedures and receive fire drill instructions, a map of the school, a supply list, and other information concerning Bondy. Each homeroom will be given a tour of the school including instructions on where to meet when they come to school each morning. Finally, the students will meet in the cafeteria for pizza and more performances by the band and cheerleaders. For more information, call 281-998-5568.

Jackson Intermediate
Jackson Intermediate will host its sixth grade orientation from 9 a.m.-12 noon Friday, August 6. Lunch will be served. For more information, contact the school at 713-920-8000.

Park View Intermediate
Sixth grade orientation is scheduled for 4:30-8 p.m. Monday, August 9. For more information, contact the school at 713-948-4399.

San Jacinto Intermediate
San Jacinto Intermediate will host its Sixth Grade Orientation, "San Jacinto Tiger Camp," from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, August 7. Buses will pick-up from the elementary schools feeding into San Jacinto beginning at 7:30 a.m. and then return to drop students off after 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 713-920-8333.

South Houston Intermediate
South Houston Intermediate will host its sixth grade orientation at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 12 in the school cafeteria. For more information, call 713-948-4741.

Dobie High School
Dobie High School will hold its annual Freshman Orientation on Tuesday, August 10 in the school's auditorium. Students who attended Beverly Hills Intermediate are asked to attend an orientation from 6:30-7:15 p.m., while students who attended Thompson Intermediate are asked to attend the session from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Parents of freshman students are encouraged to attend. This orientation will offer parents and students an opportunity to meet the administrators and counselors who will work directly with the student during their high school years. Additionally, the session will provide important information for ensuring a smooth transition from middle school to high school and will allow students and parents a chance to tour the school.

Pasadena Memorial High School
Pasadena Memorial High School will host ninth grade "Fish Camp" from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. August 5-6. Details will be mailed to incoming freshman students as soon as plans are finalized. For more information, call 281-991-2440.

South Houston High School
South Houston High School will have freshman orientation from 1-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 10. A freshman dance will follow the orientation from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, contact the school at 713-944-2450.