

Maestro tunes up a school

Grogan comes to Orange Prep

Instrumental students from Orange High School and the Orange Preparatory Academy last week received a class from a special instructor.

Jeff Grogan, education and community engagement conductor for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, visited the stage in the Orange Prep auditorium to conduct a 90-minute class. His visit was part of the orchestra's Resources for Education and Community Harmony program.

The first 45 minutes of his class was dedicated to academy's band program. During the second 45 minutes, Grogan worked with the high school's instrumental students. "I was so very impressed," said Peter Crosta, assistant director for special programs, which includes visual and performing arts. "The students did a fantastic job."

Justin Surdyn, the band director at Orange High, worked with Marshall Jones Kumahor, vice president of education and community engagement for the orchestra,



Photo Courtesy Orange School District

Jeff Grogan, education and community engagement conductor for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, conducts a 90-minute class with instrumental students from Orange High School and the Orange Preparatory Academy.

to coordinate Grogan's visit. Surdyn made arrangements for his students to attend along with students of academy band director Dorcas Robinson.

"The students were completely taken by the experience," said Surdyn. "Mr. Grogan's work with the

band was invaluable. It was a pleasure to watch him work and help our students."

As a result of this exposure, said school officials, Surdyn has begun working with several students who are interested in auditioning for the Greater Newark Youth Orchestras

on June 11. As they played, the students were being watched by two audience members: Rosemary and Al Iversen.

Rosemary Iversen, a 1959 Orange High School alumna, and her husband attended the class as patrons and guests of the orchestra.