

A Day I'd like to Forget

By Abel Abyu

It was a cold autumn morning the day of the Clarinet Solo Festival. Daniel Ulwets couldn't sleep the night before because he was excited of things to come. The year before, he stole the crowd by playing a popular tune (called "Orange Cool") that even got the audience clapping and singing along. He was amazed because the tune was easy to play, but very popular. He even won a trophy and was very proud. But who would have known a year later he would be messing up on stage at the second annual festival? He didn't!

The Second Annual Solo festival was basically a showcase of all the good instrument players that attended his school. His best friend Joshua Rogers was also competing, but Joshua went to another school. The festival was held at Lakeview Elementary and students, as well as parents, cluttered the small auditorium. A bunch of 4th and 5th graders were the performers, but they were darn good! Daniel's band teacher Mr. Green suggested that he play a tune that Daniel never played. He didn't want to disappoint Mr. Green so he agreed. Mr. Green's confidence gave Daniel confidence and all he could remember was the previous year where he had won big. He reassured himself and said "no sweat".

While the different students went up and did their solo, Daniel was at the practice room tooting away on his clarinet, and he honestly thought it didn't sound bad. He felt very confident, but when it got to his turn, he suddenly got nervous. His palms got sweaty, his heart beat fast and his teeth began to chatter! Maybe it was because the student before me gave him competition? They announced his name "Daniel Ulwets, please take the stage." He got up onto the stage, looked at the crowd and got very jittery. Last year, his trick to staying calm was to look at his clarinet and not directly at the crowd, but for some reason, he felt all the eyes of the audience on him. He made the mistake of staring at the audience instead of his music; Daniel was stricken with stage fright! He blew his first note, but all that came out was the sound of an old Leprechaun coughing. He stopped, restarted and tried again but it just wouldn't work. The same ugly sound just kept coming out "hoooooot". Eventually after 4 miserable tries, his music teacher being the cool guy he was came up and helped him do the song with his saxophone. Daniel ended up finishing the song with Mr. Green's aid and he asked the crowd to give me a hand and luckily meanies were present so everybody gave me a round of applause.

After Daniel's horrible performance, Mr. Green took him aside and said with a huge smile "It happens to the best of us". That didn't really help the embarrassment he had felt on and off stage. But he was just relieved it was over! What did help him feel better however was that he wasn't the only one who messed up. This poor goofy looking kid tripped over his case and slid on his flute onstage! That goofy looking kid turned out to be his best friend Joshua! "This day was, by far, the most embarrassing day of y life," he thought to himself. "Especially when everyone is waiting to hear sophisticated music from you, not shallow sounding fart."