

Dickinson High School Symphonic Band bound for Chicago

By TRACY ROTTER

WN Staff Reporter

DICKINSON - The award-winning DHS Symphonic Band travels to Chicago Thursday to perform at the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival this weekend.

Dickinson will rehearse and perform under the baton of Col. Arnold Gabriel, one of the country's finest

conductors and the retired director of the U.S. Air Force Band. The concert is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Mar. 26 in the historic Medinah Temple, where the Chicago Symphony performs and records.

"Dickinson was one of 13 schools across the nation invited to perform for some of the world's greatest instrumental educators," said head

Band Director Don Owens.

Bands chosen to perform have already undergone a difficult selection process, for six of the country's best conductors listened to audio tapes submitted by a number of the nation's high school groups. These judges then make detailed written and taped evaluations of each band's performance. Of these, they judge

those bands who will be invited to participate in the festival. Dickinson and Langham Creek High School are representing Texas, whose two schools were among schools in eight states invited to perform.

This festival showcases the talents of DHS's 52 musicians in a learning environment rather than in a contest. The three-day weekend will feature workshops and classes taught

by top educators and professional musicians. The spectator event also includes performances by Yamaha musical artists, since the Yamaha Corp. is sponsoring the showcase along with Jostens and the Pearl Corp.

Dickinson will perform program selections such as "En Salon Mexico," "Four Scottish Dances" and the

"On Parade March" by John Phillip Sousa.

"The kids are really excited, and we've received some more honors here just lately. It's just icing on the cake," said Owens.

Fourteen parents will accompany the band to Chicago at a round-trip fare of \$571.

"This really speaks highly of them in support of their children," said Owens.

Tickets to the concert are still available through Ticketmaster. Charge by phone at (315) 559-1212.