

# Optirama audience views colors, sound

Gently tiptoeing in petite black ballet slippers, a "Simple Gift" danced into the hearts of the 16th annual Optirama audience Saturday.

Donning red pinafores and smiles from ear to ear, the 15 members of the Seattle color guard, ages 6 to 12, pranced across the floor and swirled their flags to the jingle of a nursery rhyme.

"Tommy's done a bad thing and he's goin' get a thrashin', crash, crash," they sang along with the tune, pounding their eight flags to the floor.

The Simple Gift, a feeder guard for the Seattle Imperials, was one of seven color guards competing at South Salem High School.

Participants in the Optirama, sponsored by the Salem Argonauts Drum and Bugle Corps, were judged on marching and maneuvering, equipment handling, general effect, timing and penalties.

A guest appearance by the 30-member McNary High School Drill Team opened the competition. Swinging and strutting in synchronized formations to the jazzy tune of "Roller Coaster", the Celtans drew admiring whistles from the crowd that filled the east bleachers.

The 16-member Marauder Color Guard from Longview, Wash., swirled 14 flags in unison to the Doobie Brothers tunes of "Taking it to the Streets" and "China Grove." The Marauders, a new corps decked in maroon plumed hats,

won the first competition they entered last month.

The undefeated Seattle Imperial Pageantry Ensemble color guard closed the competition to the music of "Can-Can" and "Boogie Woogie." The ensemble of 19 teen-age girls performed with four rifles, five sabres and eight flags.

The Imperials are the only guard from the Northwest slated to compete in the Winter Guard Olympics in Madison, Wis., in April.

Other Optirama participants included the Spartans from Vancouver, the Pacific Blue from Surrey, British Columbia, and the Cascades from Seattle.

The Argonauts did not enter color guard competition but participated along with more than 305 individuals in the morning's solo competition for horns, drums, rifles and flags.

The Seattle Imperial Pageantry Ensemble color guard remained undefeated by capturing first place in Class A competition.

The Seattle Cascades finished in second place followed by the Spartans of Vancouver, Wash., and the Pacific Blue Color Guard of Surrey, British Columbia.

The Marauders of Longview, Wash., took honors in Class B competition. Seattle's Simple Gift finished in the number two spot followed by Surrey's Pacific Blue Music Guard.