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# RITE NOW @ ROP

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On February 26, Silver Oak Academy (SOA) celebrated Black History Month by hosting their annual “Black History is American History” program. This year’s event, which was attended by over 100 people, featured local artists and community members who shared personal stories and original music that inspired the audience. “This is a celebration of Black History Month,” said Sheila Leatherbury, adviser of SOA’s Student Government Association, as she introduced the program. “You will hear jazz, soul, pop and gospel, and I look forward to all of the people getting together and enjoying it, as well as our students.”

One of the featured performers was Hagerstown up-and-coming artist Lykoh, who in addition to playing an original song titled “Where Do We Go From Here?”, shared his story of rising above his struggles. After coming from a “rough neighborhood and a rough family,” Lykoh said he had two choices in life, to “let the negativity affect you in a negative way, and get angry and lash out and be rude,” or, “the second option, obviously, is to make something of yourself.”

The event’s keynote speaker was Scott Ambush, a jazz bassist in the band Spyro Gyra and five-time Grammy nominee. Before treating the crowd to some funky rhythms, he shared some words of inspiration. He talked about being strong, following your dreams and how to make your dreams a reality. Mr. Ambush also emphasized the importance of not only celebrating Black History Month, but also recognizing and honoring the contributions of black people every day.

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