Audience joins in on 'The Jazz Assembly'

STONY CREEK HAPPENINGS

Tamer Tewfik of The Tamer Trio presented ''The Jazz Assembly'' to Stony Creek Elementary School students March 5.

Singer and piano player, Tewfik introduced the other members of the trio: Jason Harris played bass and Ian Ash played the drums. Tewfik reviewed Jazz's history and its roots in African music. Scott Joplin and Louis Armstrong were introduced to the young audience.

Improvisation and scat singing were discussed and modeled by the musicians with audience participation. Selected students had a chance to improvise on the piano along with the trio.

The students also participated in improvisation through the classic songs "When the Saints Go Marching In," and "If I Only Had a Brain" from the "Wizard of Oz." The assembly ended with many students holding up pictures on stage that correlated with the classic Louis Armstrong song "What A Wonderful World." Afternoon sessions allowed students a question-and-answer time with the musicians.

"A fundamental appreciation for music and art happens early for children," Tewfik said. "Positive experiences in music, in turn, spar their intrinsic desire to participate in musical programs, develop personal interests, express themselves, and broaden their horizons."