A forceful storm drenched much of the Bay Area with 3 to 8 inches of rain from early Sunday through Monday morning, causing areas of flooding and power outages for residents and San Jose State students.

Mahtshin, said.

The county remains in the yellow transmission tier for three sustained weeks if:

- less than 80% of a county’s population is fully vaccinated
- a county is in the orange tier or higher for at least two weeks
- more than 10% of the county’s testing positive for COVID-19

If less than 80% of a county is fully vaccinated, a mask mandate can be lifted if:

- Eight weeks or more have passed since a COVID-19 vaccine was approved for state and federal emergency use
- 10 to 11 year-olds are vaccinated, according to the county’s webpage.

Those who’re vaccinated are eight times less likely to be infected by the virus compared to unvaccinated people, health officials said. The last condition

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By Christine Stevens

The sounds of snaps, claps and cheers flooded the Hammer Theatre Center during the San Jose State School of Music and Dance’s “Symphonic Dances from West Side Story” performance Friday night.

The SJSS Latin Jazz Ensemble, Opera Theater Program, Wind Ensemble and Spartan Spectrum Dance Team each put on their own performances with the theme of “West Side Story.”

West Side Story is a musical about two teenagers, Tony and Maria, from different ethnic backgrounds who fall in love in 1950s New York City.

David Vickerman, SJSS associate professor of music and director of bands, conducted the event, which lasted from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. with about 400 people in attendance.

He said the production planning began in summer and Friday’s performance was the Wind Ensemble’s first campus-sponsored concert held indoors since Fall 2019.

“Those students have missed this,” Vickerman said in a phone call. “It’s hard to explain. Unless you’re a musician, you don’t know what it’s like during a pandemic to have live performances ripped away from you for so long and not be able to do it.”

Vickerman said the decision to organize West Side Story came from the upcoming movie adaptation premiering in December.

He said he wanted to collaborate with the Spartan Spectrum Dance Team because they’re part of the band program and he wanted to have dancers in the show.

“The [Spartan Spectrum Dance Team] usually perform in ballroom shows and in the stands with the band and football games, and I’ve always thought it would be really cool to involve them in the other aspects of the band program,” Vickerman said.

Liberal studies junior Hayden Fleig said she joined the Spartan Spectrum Dance Team this semester.

Fleig said the dance team usually performs at football games so performing in a theater was a new experience for them.

“I was definitely nervous because it was more of a musical theater style and it was out of all of our comfort zones, so it took a lot of courage to really embrace the character that we were trying to portray on stage,” Fleig said.

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“Fire it was such a strange experience and it was hard to really understand what was happening as we were playing, but it was a lot of fun,” Gobin said.

The Spartan Spectrum Dance team members perform symphonic dances in their sparkly gold attires.

Vickerman said the music department has been supportive throughout her last three years at SJSS.

“She said the music department has been supportive throughout her last three years at SJSS. “I can really tell that [Vickerman] cares about the group and he puts a lot into it and it pays off and I think that we had a really solid concert,” Gobin said.

“I was nervous during the pandemic because we were in a shutdown but being back on stage and just being able to sing, there’s no words to describe it,” Maas-Espinoza said.

“It was originally important for me with 2021 glasses on, in perspective, to incorporate actual Puerto Rican music so those first two tunes they played were actually Puerto Rican compositions,” Vickerman said.

The Latin Jazz Ensemble started the night with an upbeat performance by Puerto Rican composers Sergio George and ‘Ri Amado and Cuban composer Jorge Luis Piloto.

Vickerman also wanted to include some songs from the original West Side Story which led him to reach out to the Opera Theatre program.

“They performed some of the musical’s hits including “Tonight,” “Somewhere” and “ Gee Officer Krupke”,” Sandra Bengochea, SJSS music professor and director of the Opera Theatre program, said this was the first big performance her department has put on since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

“It’s been great to back working in the concert hall and staging and laughing and working with each other again,” Bengochea said in a phone call.

She said choreography was one of the biggest challenges while preparing for this performance.

The dance and “Officer Krupke” have taken the most time to put together because I do not consider myself a choreographer,” Bengochea said.

Vocal performance senior Evalina Maas-Espinoza performed “Somewhere,” a ballad about Tony and Maria’s love for each other.

Maas-Espinoza is perfectly suited for this role as a soprano because she’s able to hit the high notes just as Maria does in the original musical.

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Ashley Mehta, San Jose State alumna and Bay Area-based singer-songwriter, released her R&B single “When I Ride” on Oct. 15.

“R&B is a genre that when I produced it, I was feeling very easy, so I put those [thoughts] into my lyrics so it was a cool song to write,” said Serrano.

The infectious melody revealing a high pitched voice.

The infectious melody that Mehta hopes to move very easily,” Serrano said. “I like the tempos and the rhythm that they use [have] really groovy baselines.”

Mehta said when creating music she often thinks of how she’ll perform songs live when she’s making music itself on being the San Area likes to use like 90 BPM to 100 BPM, “Serrano said. “I kind of put those [thoughts] into my lyrics so it was a cool song to write because it just laid out my whole experience.”

The tempos and the rhythms that they use is their best songs so far. I think that in terms of making music, it’s the kind of confidence booster that makes you feel like you’re on the track but the cool thing about [When I Ride] is that when I produced it, I was thinking ‘isn’t really a song with just bass and a vocal, let alone a pop hip-hop track, “Serrano said. “Ashley [Mehta]’s not scared of stepping out of her comfort zone. If anything I feel she’s like the female Drake in a way where she’s just so versatile.”

Serrano said the partnership between him and Mehta pushes each other’s musical boundaries and expectations. "The biggest goal for me as an artist is to be as unique as I can and so I totally came to realize that me and [Serrano] were kind of on the same page of like ‘let’s find something that no one’s heard before but at the same time that fits very well.’” Mehta said.

Mehta and Serrano said they’re both fans of songs that make people want to scream the lyrics at the top of their lungs while dancing their hearts out.

Mehta’s lyrics are unfiltered and come from her song that was released on Oct. 15. “When I Ride” is also one of Mehta’s most honest songs so far. I have been making music for a minute and makes the move very easily,” Serrano said. “The tempos and the rhythm that they use have someone else [there] as well so [be] like okay wait this is good or ‘you can do better,’” Mehta said.

Both Serrano and Mehta said they’re always looking for ways to make their music sound different.

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Mehta and Serrano said they’re both fans of songs that make people want to scream the lyrics at the top of their lungs while dancing their hearts out.

Serrano said movement is extremely important to them which is why he’s frequently inspired by Bay Area sounds. “There’s a lot of tempo that the Bay Area likes to use like 90 BPM to 100 BPM, which is very danceable and it makes your hips

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Without influencers promoting these types of challenges, unnecessary deaths could be avoided.

Influencers are famous for their identifiable reason. Media consumers like myself have more appreciation for someone who exemplifies diligence and hard work than appreciating for someone willing to indulge in ridiculous activities for a taste of fame.

The couple was sentenced to five years probation on charges of child neglect after the two youngest children experienced "substantial impairments of their mental or psychological ability to function," according to the Baltimore Sun article.

How could any parent expect their child to trust them in that kind of environment?

Heather Martin, the kids’ stepmother, claimed the videos were made for “shock value,” according to an April 28, 2017 ABC News article.

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Earthquakes draw even against Vancouver

The San Jose Earthquakes tied 1-1 against the Vancouver Whitecaps at PayPal Park Saturday night. The game honored the 20th anniversary of the Earthquakes’ first Major League Soccer (MLS) Cup championship title. The Earthquakes are currently 10th in the MLS Western Conference standings, however, with only four games remaining time is running out for the team to make the MLS playoffs.

“We wanted a triumphant game,” head coach Matias Almeyda said during a postgame conference. “Despite that, this was a well-played game. We need to fine-tune our touches but their goalie’s performance was outstanding as well.”

The Earthquakes had over 50% possession of the ball and 10 shots inside the box during the first half, according to match statistics. Despite their efforts, the score remained stagnant at 0-0.

A ball-to-face collision occurred at minute 30 of the first half when Earthquakes’ attacker Andres Rios high-kicked the ball directly into Whitecaps’ midfielder Leonard Owusu’s face.

At halftime, the team commemorated the Earthquakes’ 20th anniversary and honored players from the 2001 team’s roster in a short ceremony. Some celebrated champions included goalkeeper Joe Cannon and defenders Jeff Agoos and Wade Barrett.

The Earthquakes also celebrated by distributing 10,000 commemorative rings to fans before the match and unveiling a mural in honor of the 2001 championship at Lux Bus America earlier this month, according to the MLS official page.

The Whitecaps opened the scoring to begin the second half as defender Bruno Gaspar scored. The ball bounced inches away from goalkeeper JT Marcinkowski’s hands while he was trying to stop a powerful kick by Whitecaps’ attacker Brian White.

“We planned out a defensive strategy,” Almeyda said. “What happened here tonight was primarily my fault. I introduced defensive players to midfield positions which threw off the players’ vision of the game.”

San Jose quickly equalized seven minutes after Vancouver scored. Earthquakes’ forward Cristian Espinoza crossed the ball to forward and San Jose native Benji Kikanovic who hit a rocket to the corner of the net to tie the game. “It is so disappointing not getting those three points,” Kikanovic said at a postgame conference. “I am happy to be here. I try to attack and score a goal every time. Our experience here leaves us thinking that we need to try to touch more and score.”

After the game the Earthquakes remained 10th in the Western Conference and out of the playoffs, yet the San Jose community still continues to show support.

“I am satisfied with today’s performance,” Earthquakes fan Amanda Brasher said. “I traveled from Reno to see the game and support the team. Although they struggled to win, their game effort is something to admire.”

The Earthquakes are expected to play against Real Salt Lake at Rio Tinto Stadium on Oct. 30 at 12:30 p.m. and return home to PayPal Park Nov. 7 to play against FC Dallas at 3 p.m.

By Sandra Santos-Cruz

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