

ROHS Combined Choirs April 2009 Newsletter

Notes from the Director

It seems that all of our months are so busy, but March is officially titled Music Month in Michigan. We were very active this past month. Thank you to all the parents that helped out with the Pre-Festival Concert. We continue to have parents helping as chaperones, selling tickets and helping with the student's performance clothing. Also, buying tickets to see your child perform is REALLY IMPORTANT. It is very important that our students get critiqued with a guest clinician before the actual festival. This concert was intended to get our jitters out before we actually attended choral festival. Our district choral festival has some of the best choirs in the state and our district is the most difficult district to perform at. Dr. Gil Jackson was our guest clinician. He gave us insight and a few new ideas for our music. If you attended the concert, I am sure you could see and hear some of his suggestions yourselves and understand how important and difficult the process is of developing quality choral music. IT IS NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS.

Many parents helped out with chaperoning to Choral Festival this year. You were all so great with our children and I really appreciate your dedication to our festival performances. Thank you so much for getting your day freed up and sharing it with your children and their choir. The choirs all did very well. The ratings rank as follows: Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair and Poor.

Here are their ratings:

A Cappella - Superior rating (going to state festival on April 28th), Concert Choir - Excellent rating (going to state festival on April 28th), and Royal Oak Singers - Good rating. The choirs' ratings represent all the points totaled from 3 judges at their performance and 1 judge at their sight reading. Good job to all choir students. I am very proud of you all.

This past weekend was State Solo and Ensemble Festival. Our ratings are listed below. The 1st number is their performance rating, the 2nd number is their sight-reading rating and the 3rd number is their overall rating. Congratulations to all for such fine ratings!

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|---|---|---|--------------|---|---|
| Emily T - 1 | 2 | 1 | Myah J - 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Advanced Women's Ensemble - Sterling Silver - 2 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| Maddy O & Emily S - 1 | 3 | 2 | | | |
| Steve R - 1 | 1 | 1 | Collin C - 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Chamber Singers - 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Advanced Men's Ensemble - 2 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| Jacqueline V - 1 | 2 | 1 | Jenna P - 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Advanced Women's Ensemble - Royal Blue - 1 | 1 | 1 | Bill L - 1 | 1 | 1 |

Without counting the overall ratings, Royal Oak received 17 first divisions, 6 second divisions and 1 third division in performance and sight reading. Very impressive!

The Advanced Men's Ensemble were so impressive in sight-reading that their judge told us that we should make a demo tape of ourselves doing sight-reading to help other teachers learn HOW TO TEACH IT! WOW!

The Advanced Royal Blue Women's Ensemble judge said our version of "Danny Boy" was exquisite and the best she had ever heard in her life!

State Choral Festival is Tuesday, April 28th. Times TBD. We will need chaperones again. Also, the A Cappella choir will be performing for the Board of Education, at their evening meeting, on

April 23rd. Times TBD. These are all required grades for their choir.

On another note, ROX auditions are this week, Wednesday and Thursday, April 1st and 2nd. 10th and 11th graders are Wednesday and 9th and 12th graders are on Thursday. Auditions will start at 3 p.m. and go every 5 minutes, until we are done. Auditions will be held in the choir room. Judges consist of the four choir officers and me. All those auditioning must be at their audition site 15 minutes before their audition with all singers and instrumentalists. The list of time slots will be up on Tuesday, March 31. There are 11 given songs already picked. We are looking for approximately 16 to 17 more songs to be featured in the concert. The final list will be up in school on Friday, just before break. Good luck to all and have a great Spring Break, everyone!

Mrs. Buffa

President's Notes

Congratulations all around for a fine Choral Festival performance! A big thanks to the parents who chaperoned the events - we truly appreciate it! I hope you had an opportunity to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and discover the many talented ROHS students in and outside the choir. TEMPO is continuing to form its slate of members for the 2009-2010 School Year - there are many opportunities to choose from. Please contact me with any questions you may have about TEMPO and how you can best contribute. Our Choir students will continue to amaze us as they continue on to State Solo and Ensemble and prepare for the ROX Concert in May. Remember that tickets for this event go FAST, FAST, FAST! Mark your calendar now for May 8th & 9th and watch for newsletter updates on when to order tickets.

Parents of Senior Students:

If you have not already purchased one, tickets are still available for the Senior All Night Party, held the night of commencements (May 30). I strongly encourage you to talk with your student about attending and enjoying a safe and fun filled evening with friends. Many parents have put countless hours into making this a night to remember for our 2009 seniors. The link is below for more information:

http://www.rohsptsa.org/html/all_night_party.html

Fundraising Activities

Grocery Certificates – Earn money for your student's account while grocery shopping.

Purchase certificates for Hollywood Market and/or Oakridge Market.

Grocery certificates will be sold before all choir concerts and at intermissions.

You may also contact Beth Harris at 248.543.6606 - mbscreen@wowway.com
or Lauri Peltonen at 248-435-3102 - lapeltonen@yahoo.com to arrange certificate purchases.

Newsletters, order forms, etc. can be accessed on the PTSA website.

Go to www.rohsptsa.org and click on Choir Programs.

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