

ROHS Combined Choirs December 2008 Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar

- ♪ Thursday Dec. 4th All City Concert @ ROHS 7:00 PM – Free Admission
- ♪ Wednesday & Thursday Dec. 17th & 18th – Winter Concert – 7:00 PM
- ♪ Tuesday Dec. 16th - Pick up pizza kits in cafeteria 5 PM – 7 PM
- ♪ Dec. 22, 2008 – Jan 2, 2009 – Winter Break

Notes from the Director

So much has happened since my last "Director's Notes" in October. The two workshops went very well and the students came back with new music and knowledge. Thank you to the parents that drove to these workshops.

Most of my time in October and November has been spent on our school play. I really enjoyed working with new singers and, like always, it was a pleasure working with my choir students, and working with them in a new genre of music.

This year, 4 students will be attending the Regional Honor's Choir Concert and auditioning for the State Honor's Choir on Dec. 6th. Let's wish them good luck at their next level of achievement. They are: Ben K, Sean N, Reyna R, and Steve R.

Our Vienna practices have been going well. We are ready! We have learned music for the next two concerts already and have been reviewing our Autumn Concert music. Since we are so far ahead on our music, I have decided to take all of A Cappella Choir to Solo and Ensemble Festival. Their participation in three smaller ensembles will take care of their Solo & Ensemble Festival Commitment or Critique Paper commitment for the second card-marking. I will be teaching the songs, paying the fees and using Mrs. Semivan as our accompanist. We will be going on Friday, Jan. 31 with an all male ensemble, and two female ensembles (Blue and Silver group). We will be rehearsing this music in January, mostly, and some in December. Make sure you discuss this with your son or daughter, because I will not allow students to drive to Howell for this event. Parents must be the drivers. If a student cannot do this, he or she will need to write a critique paper and hand it in by Dec. 19th. I will not be organizing the carpools. We need the parents to drive their own child or carpool.

Solo and Ensemble Festival is Friday, January 31 and Saturday, Feb. 1st. Solos cost \$10, small ensembles of 2-5, cost \$20, and large ensembles, of 6-20, cost \$30. The student's commitment form AND FEE is due BEFORE THANKSGIVING BREAK. Please staple a check with the appropriate amount to their commitment form. Checks made out to Royal Oak H.S. THEY MUST HAVE THEIR ACCOMPANIST'S NAME ON THE FORM OR I CANNOT REGISTER THEM FOR THE FESTIVAL.

Student's first critique paper is due by Dec. 19th. Students attending Solo and Ensemble Festival waive their critique papers for the whole year. The second critique paper is due before Spring Break.

Students, Chaperones, Administrators, and I are very excited about our upcoming Vienna trip. This will be a once in a lifetime experience for those students. We have all worked very hard to get this

trip to happen. We are the first high school choir from Royal Oak to ever sing internationally. To help with costs of this trip, future trips, and general choir expenses, we have started a fund-raiser, Little Caesar Pizza Kits. Please support our wonderful singers and allow students to sell these kits to raise money for their trips and general choir activities. The profit is very high and proven to do very well in the Royal Oak community. Don't forget about the grocery certificates also. This is an ongoing fundraiser that also helps support our singers. Kits will be coming in on Dec. 16th.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

YOU MAY PICK YOUR KITS IN THE CAFETERIA FROM 5 - 7 P.M.

On Nov. 22, three of my students sang The Star Spangled Banner, in three part harmony to open up the Robotics competition. They were Steve R., Sean N., and Bill L. Students also have an opportunity to sing at home hockey games. The sign up sheet is on the piano in the choir room. Students from Concert Choir and Royal Oak Singers must quickly audition with Mrs. Buffa. Students from A Cappella do not have to audition. They simply need to sign up and show up on the correct day to sing.

The All-City Concert is very soon. On Thursday, Dec. 4th The A Cappella choir will be performing with the eighth grade choir and the 5th graders. The concert starts at 7 p.m. and is free to the public. A Cappella choir members need to be in the choir room on that Thursday, at 6:30 p.m., dressed in their gowns and tuxes. Also, there will be a Hand Bell Choir, made up of girls from Concert Choir. These ladies need to come early, by 5 p.m. to help set up tables, for the bells and clean the bells. I will also be running a rehearsal for all guys interested in singing an all men's song for the winter concert. That special rehearsal will be from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., with the eighth grade guys also, in the choir room. I will be providing pizza at 5:30 p.m. The song is an Irish tune in three-part harmony.

Our Winter Concert is fast approaching. The tickets are always in high demand. We will be having the concert on Wed. and Thursday, Dec.17 & 18, starting at 7 p.m. See the attached form for ticket requests. **The clothes for the first half are formal choral attire, but the clothes for the second half are: Concert Choir wears black pants, black shoes, and red tops. Royal Oak singers wear pajama bottoms with t-shirts and slippers. A Cappella girls wear homecoming type gowns, and A Cappella guys wear suits and ties or sport jackets with or without ties, or holiday sweaters. Chamber singers will be in a designated "costume".**

I hope to see you and your family members at our upcoming concerts.

Happy Holidays to all.

Mrs. Deborah Buffa

Fundraising Activities

There is no way around it – you have to grocery shop! So how about earning money for your choir student's account while you're pushing that cart!

Purchase grocery certificates for Hollywood or Oakridge grocery stores. The school receives 5% of the amount you purchase. Four percent of the amount goes directly into your child's account and one percent goes to the choir. Purchase certificates for Hollywood Market and/or Oakridge Market.

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

Certificates make great gifts for cooks, college students or that hard to shop for person on your list!

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.

President's Notes

Good fortune shines on the Royal Oak choir family; our list of blessings is long and varied. Best wishes to our Vienna Travelers and congratulations to everyone who made the fall musical a great success. No napping now - here comes December and all the pageantry of the holiday season. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Holiday concert - it's always a favorite and FAST sell out. We have fundraising opportunities for all students to sell Pizza Kits - slips for this fundraiser were sent home with your student. **Poinsettias reflecting your personal sentiments and memories will beautify our Holiday Concert Stage once again this year: the order form is attached.**

Remember that you can pick up the flower with your wishes attached after the Thursday night concert or leave them and we'll find an appreciative taker in the RO homebound community. We haven't raised the price since we're all feeling the pinch this year and all orders are very much appreciated. And believe me, pickup after the concert is much easier and less tempting than a trip to the nursery or garden center! Seasons Greetings, everyone! Please accept my sincere appreciation for all the support extended for our vocal music program and its endeavors. The TEMPO Board is a treasure and I wouldn't be writing

this without their help.

Bless us, every one, and a safe holiday break.

Barb Tuohey

**Newsletters, order forms, etc. can be accessed on the PTSA website.
Go to www.rohsptsa.org and click on Choir Programs.**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM TEMPO!

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