

CHORAL NOTES



April 2009

Annandale High School Choral Boosters

Broadway Desserts Wows ‘Em Again

Once again, on January 10 and 11, Annandale choral students sang Broadway favorites to enthusiastic audiences who also enjoyed delectable desserts with the music. Poe and Holmes choruses sang in the matinee, while high schoolers entertained with tunes from *South Pacific* to *Chicago* to *Wicked*. Highlights included a vamped-up version of “Hair” by the Men’s Chorale, while the Women’s Ensemble performed “Dancing Queen” from *Mamma Mia* and the Annandale Singers offered “Downtown/Skid Row” from *Little Shop of Horrors*.

The cast numbered more than 200, with students also serving as waiters to deliver beverages and desserts. Proceeds from the fundraiser totaled \$4,246. Many thanks to Juli Navarrete, Chairperson for Broadway Desserts, and all the dedicated parents who helped make the weekend such a success. If you would still like to order a DVD or CD of the performance, please contact Jeff at www.redfeathervideo.com.

Special thanks to all volunteers, especially the parents who chaired committees, including: **Patricia Quezada, Janet Zorn, Susan Lippolis, Candy Rogers, Maureen Rabinovitz, Joan Lazar, Dorothy Bolds, Irene Hruskoci, Cindy Wilkins, Kathy Kinzer, Linda Winkler, Nancy DeVera, Enrique Navarrete, and Wilfred Loo**, photographer. There were many more parents and even some siblings who pitched in to ensure the great success of these performances. Each will be recognized at the Choral Awards evening in June.

Singing Valentines Net \$1000+

AHS choral members topped the charts this year, raising a recordbreaking total of more than \$1,000 by crooning to sweethearts and friends on February 12. Chaired by Samantha Wilkinson and Glenda Ngo, the Singing Valentines fundraiser offered such tunes as “When I Fall in Love,” “Blue Moon,” “I can’t Help Falling in Love,” “Sugar-Pie, Honeybunch,” “Fall for You,” and “Stick with You.” Students and teachers could request a special song for a special someone for only \$3—and everyone who heard the songs loved them. Many teachers and administrators commented about how great the students sounded!

Bravo to the 60 AHS Students Selected for District Chorus

Congratulations to the big contingent of singers from Annandale selected to participate in District Chorus February 12-14, 2009 at West Potomac High School. Forty-five AHS students, girls in grades 11-12 and boys in grades 9-12, sang in the SATB Choir, conducted by Dr. Eugene Rogers. Fifteen AHS girls in grades 9-10 were chosen for the SSA Choir, under the direction of Dr. Heather Eyerly.

AHS students with high scores (over 190 out of 200) include **Whitney Akridge, Caroline Dunleavy, Anne Hruskoci, Jose Jimenez** and **Daren Lopez Villanueva**. The following students were named to District Chorus:

SATB

Whitney Akridge
William Bennett
Tess Carter
Daniel Coquelin
Daniel deVera
Caroline Dunleavy
Pamela Eggerton
Jason Eman
Kevin Fields
Cristin Filipczyk
Elizabeth Flint
Chris Fuller
Celine Hausmann
Jennifer Ibarra
Jose Jimenez
Julie Jurenas
Soo Jin Kam
Michelle Kinzer
Michael Lazar
Daniel Loo
Joseph Mazzara
Johnathan Molina
Devante Mosley
Hanna Navarrete
Glenda Ngo
Vinh Ngo
Tien Nguyen
B.J. Odom
John Odom

Rebecca Pelkey
Michael Pion
Andrea Quezada
Jane Rabinovitz
Jessica Riddle
Emika Sawada
Hope Stadulis
Matthew Stough
Jonah Stover
Max Talley
Alay Tedia
Daren Lopez Villaneuva
Joel Waters
Alyssa Welch
Samantha Wilkins
Jocelyn Winkler

SSA

Tori Clodfelter
Van Khanh Dinh
Jessie Diroll
Abigail Fleming
Margot Henric
Diana Herring
Anne Hruskoci
Kayla Meadows
Katie Panther
Lydia Pion
Zene Saife-Selassie
Krista Schlander
Teppi Shultis
Bethlehem Solomon
Susie Sowa

AHS Singers Rate High at District Festival

All four AHS choral groups received high ratings at the District Choral Festival held March 21 at T.C. Williams High School. Annandale Singers, Men's Chorale and Women's Ensemble all received superior ratings on their performance from all performance judges and II+ ratings on their sight-reading. Judges gave the Concert Choir excellent scores for their performance and superior for their sight-reading.

Since our top group, Annandale Singers, received a superior rating, Annandale High School will again be designated a Blue Ribbon School for music in the state of Virginia.

At the festival, Concert Choir performed "Bring Him Home," "Kyrie," and "Savory, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme," while the Men's Chorale sang "Down in the Valley," "The Pasture" and "Non Nobis, Domine." Women's Ensemble offered "Danza, Danza Fancuilla," "Ave Maria" and "As Fair as Morn," and the Annandale Singers sang "Ubi Caritas," "O Magnum Mysterium" and "All Creatures Now."

Trip to Germany Set for June 22-July 6

This summer AHS singers will travel to Germany for the second half of the exchange with the choir from Dietrich Bonhoeffer Gymnasium in Eppelheim, Germany. During the two-week trip, AHS students will spend most of the time with German host families but will enjoy several day trips to surrounding areas. The exchange will also include a 3-4 day excursion to visit sites in Germany, Austria and France.

Thirty-four choral students and seven adults are scheduled to go on the trip. AHS students will join their German counterparts to perform the Rutter *Gloria* again, and our group will also sing at the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Gymnasium graduation ceremony.

11 AHS Singers Selected for All-State Chorus

A new record of eleven AHS singers were named to the Virginia All-State Chorus, and five others were chosen as alternates. Annandale High School had the most students selected for All-State Chorus from any school in Fairfax County, and one of the highest totals in the entire state. Singers auditioned at District Chorus in February and will rehearse and perform April 23-25 at Massaponax High School in Fredericksburg, Virginia..

Congratulations to **Whitney Akridge, Tess Carter, Caroline Dunleavy, Jose Jiminez, Hanna Navarrete, Glenda Ngo, Vinh Ngo, Michael Pion, Jane Rabinovitz, Darren Lopez Villaneuva and Joel Waters.** Alternates are **Chris Fuller, Michael Lazar, Daniel Loo, John Odom and Rebecca Pelkey.**

Singers on their way to Myrtle Beach

AHS choral students are bound for Myrtle Beach April 30-May 3 to compete in a spring music festival. Four groups will be singing: Annandale Singers, Men's Chorale, Women's Ensemble, and all students combined to form the Concert Choir. They'll also attend the Carolina Opry Theatre, a song and dance variety show; the Nascar Speedpark; Ripley's Aquarium; and Broadway on the Beach. Plus, they'll get in some relaxing beach time right outside the door of their beachfront hotel.

The trip cost covers all activities, plus breakfasts and dinners, including an evening at Planet Hollywood. Fifty-nine students and 11 adults will be participating.

Upcoming Choral Events

April 18	Men's Chorale, Washington National Cathedral, 4:00 p.m.
April 18	Annandale Singers, National Educational Association
April 23-25	All-State Chorus
April 25	Car wash
April 30- May 3	Spring trip to Myrtle Beach
May 13	Choral Boosters meeting at 7:30 p.m.
May 16	Car wash
May 20	Spring choral concert, AHS Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
May 27	Choral awards evening, Clausen Hall, 7:30 p.m.
June 6	Spring recital, Annandale United Methodist, 7:30 p.m.
June 22- July 6	Germany choral exchange trip

Choral Auditions Slated for Early May

To sing in the Men's Chorale, Women's Ensemble or Annandale Singers next year, students must audition this spring. Singers can sign up for times after school during early May. Each singer should prepare one piece to sing. In addition, singers will be evaluated on sight singing, ear training and vocal range/quality. Ms. Dixon will also travel to Poe, Holmes and Frost to listen to 8th grade boys who wish to audition for Men's Chorale.

Music Close to Home

Free Tickets to Fairfax Choral Society concerts

One assignment that Ms. Dixon gives most of her choral students adds to their understanding of choral singing: attending a choral concert and writing a review. There are many fine choral concerts in and around Annandale. A member of the Fairfax Choral Society has donated a block of ten tickets for students and family members to attend any concert they offer this year. Mrs. Dixon will be providing them on a first come, first served basis.

Here are some of the local offerings within easy driving distance:

Saturday, May 16th, 2009 at 8PM: Northern Virginia Chorale, “Our American Heritage,” a concert presenting some of our favorite American music including folk songs, spirituals, Broadway show tunes and the best of popular American song. Concert at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22150. Tickets for students: \$10. For more information, consult: www.northernvirginiachorale.org.

Sunday, May 17th, 2009 at 4PM: New Dominion Chorale, “Christu” at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Art Center, NVCC Alexandria Campus. Liszt: Scenes from *Christus* and *Five Mystical Songs* by Vaughan Williams. Student tickets are \$5. For more information, consult www.newdominion.org.

Friday, May 22nd, 2009 at 7PM: Fairfax Choral Society’s Youth Choruses in “Spring Follies.” Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center on NOVA-Annandale campus. Student tickets are \$7 and \$10. For more information, consult www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org.

Accomplished Solo Singers

Several choral members who study voice privately have distinguished themselves in various contests in the past few months:

The **Bland Competition** is a statewide music competition that begins in local Lion’s Clubs. Here are some results from early 2009:

Springfield: **First Place: Whitney Akridge**, student of Laurie Nelson

Fairfax: **First Place: Anne Hruskoci**, student of Joan Jurenas
Second Place: Pam Eggerton, student of Laurie Nelson

Anne Hruskoci finished in second place at the regional level.

NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) Virginia Chapter Competition at Shenandoah Conservatory. All are students of Joan Jurenas:

Freshmen/Sophomore Beginning Men: **Joey Mazzara, first place**

Freshmen/Sophomore Music Theater-Men: **B.J. Odom, first place**

Freshmen/Sophomore Advanced Women: **Anne Hruskoci, first (Also voted best high school classical female singer by the NATS faculty in attendance at the honors recital.)**

All plan to compete at the Mid-Atlantic regional NATS at Appalachian State University in April.

Joel Waters earned the distinction of being the only AHS student in recent memory, perhaps ever, to be selected for the Virginia Honors Choir, All-State Chorus, and All-State Band.

Congratulations to each one on your accomplishments.

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comments or suggestions.

