

IN CHOIRER

Quarterly Newsletter Volume 11 No. 3, February 2009

MHS Spring Choral Collage

Concert

March 9th, 2009 at 7:30 PM



Music is springing up all over MHS in preparation for the many activities this month. You walk through the halls and hear marimbas, flutes & voices. You see students studying music, listening to iPods (no doubt they are listening to the sound files of their solos...hmmm) and students are hanging out in the choir room during lunch to practice. These are all great things to see and hear!

For our Spring Chorale Collage Concert, we will feature some of these solo and ensemble events from all the choirs. You will hear everything from barbershop quartets to German Lieder and Italian arias. Of the 56 vocal events we have participating at the District festival it will be difficult to limit the number of performances at the concert. Some of the events will also perform at the Youth Art Month reception held at the E.D. Locke Public Library on Thursday, March 5 from 6:10 – 6:35.

In addition to the solo and ensembles, the choirs will each perform four or five choral pieces. The Concert Choir has been working on “Die Nachtigall” or “The Nightingale” by Felix Mendelssohn. Preparation has included background information on the Romantic Era, biographies of the poet and composer, and a translation of the German text. The choir will perform the piece in German. The gentlemen will perform “The Soldier’s Chorus” from the opera *Faust* by Charles Gounod and the ladies will perform “Chorus of the Polovetsian Maidens” from *Prince Igor* by Alexander Borodin. Both of these selections are also from the Romantic Era. Their final piece is “Praise His Holy Name”, an energetic spiritual by Keith Hampton.

A Cappella Choir will feature two songs that were performed at the Rock Valley Honors Choir concert February 3. “All That Hath Life & Breath Praise Ye the Lord!” by Rene Clausen is a wonderful introduction to the contemporary style that features an aleatoric section. This means that part of the composition or performance is left to chance. In this case, the sopranos are given three short melodies that they individually choose when to sing and at what tempo during a 35 second time span. The second piece from the Rock Valley Honors Choir is a beautiful a cappella ballade entitled “Sing Me to Heaven”. The lush harmonics and expressive phrasing will capture your attention.

A Cappella choir has also taken on the challenge of learning a piece in Hebrew for this concert. “Five

Hebrew Love Songs” by Eric Whitacre has become one of our favorite pieces. We are performing two of the five, *Temuná* (meaning A picture) and *Kalá kallá*, (meaning Light bride). These two poems capture special moments between the young American composer and his wife who was born and raised in Jerusalem. The songs feature piano, violin and tambourine.

Like the Concert Choir, the men and women will each perform a song. The men will perform a contemporary gospel arrangement of “Amazing Grace” and the women will perform a traditional spiritual by William Dawson, “Ain-a That Good News!”

Finally, we will end our concert with the community joining us in singing the “Hallelujah Chorus” from *Messiah* by George Frederick Handel. We welcome all singers to join us for a brief rehearsal at 6:45 in the auditorium. This has become a time-honored tradition at McFarland, this being the first year we are singing it at the spring concert rather than in December. Within the storyline of *Messiah* it is placed during the resurrection, so this will fit well with our spring concert and within our year-long focus of music that tells a story.

We look forward to sharing our music with you on Monday, March 9th at 7:30 PM. Students are asked to report to the stage at the following times:

- 6:15 – Concert Choir & Band/Choir Women
- 6:25 – Concert Choir and Band/Choir Men
- 6:35 – All Choir students for “Praise His Holy Name”
- 6:45 – Community members join for “Hallelujah Chorus”
- 7:00 – Doors open

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 6 – “Cat’s Pajamas” A Cappella Vocal Band Benefit Concert, 7:00 PM MHS Auditorium (\$8.00 students, \$12.00 adults)

March 9 – High School Choirs, 7:30 pm

March 11 – Music Boosters, 7:00 pm, HS Band room

March 14 – District Solo/Ensemble Festival, Hosted by McFarland High School

March 19 – High School Bands, 7:30 pm, HS Auditorium

March 20 – HS Choir Exchange with Lichtfield Choirs (MN), 1:00 – 2:00 PM

March 26 & 27 – Term 3 Exams, MHS

April 8 – Music Boosters, 7:00 pm, HS Band Room

April 18 – “Blues in the Night”, IMMS Cafetorium, 6:00 pm

April 23 – Kindergarten, 5:30 pm/7:00 pm

April 25 – State Solo/Ensemble, UW-Whitewater

April 29 – High School Bands, 7:30 pm, HS Auditorium



Welcome Ms. Moore!

Hello! My name is Caroline Moore and I am Ms. Nichols' part-time student teacher for Term 3. I am splitting my time this

quarter between MHS and Indian Mound Middle School, and will be at Waubesa full-time for Term 4. At the high school, I am working primarily with A Cappella Choir and Blue Notes. I also look forward to accompanying many MHS students for Solo & Ensemble.

I am originally from Janesville, graduated from Craig High School, and received my B. A. in Piano Performance from UW-Madison in 2003. I spent several years teaching piano lessons and doing freelance accompanying before returning to UW for teacher certification. Although I have specialized in piano, my musical interests are actually quite broad. I have played violin in several orchestras as well as an acoustic folk duo, have sung in a pop a cappella group, and enjoy actively supporting Madison-area local musicians.

I have enjoyed getting to know your students so far and look forward to working with them more in the coming weeks!

VALENTONES... A SWEET SUCCESS!



Why was Friday, February 13 a very lucky day for 46 special individuals? Because they received a VALENTONE - a singing valentine performed by MHS Choir students!!! This year we had a record number of phone orders in addition to our busy lunch time deliveries for unsuspecting high school students. The choir raised over \$100.00 with this fundraiser and we all had a great time spreading a little happiness, music and chocolate!!



CRAZY MCFARLAND KIDS ROCKED THE VALLEY!

McFarland High School was pleased to participate in the 2009

Rock Valley Honors Choir hosted at Evansville High School on February 3rd. Under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Harned from UW-Whitewater, the 84-voice choir with representatives from McFarland, Beloit Turner, Clinton, Edgerton, Evansville, Big Foot and Parkview High Schools rehearsed in the morning and performed 4 selections at the afternoon concert. The pieces ranged from classical to contemporary to Gospel, and made for a stunning concert in the new Evansville High School Performing Arts Center.

Each choir director had to choose up to 12 outstanding musicians to represent their school. The students that represented McFarland were Audra Cohen, Michael Flaherty, Alyssa Gray, Ariana Kritz, Shauna Lisse, Abby Morrison, Beau Peregoy, Ben Psyk, Matt Rush, Ally Schmalig, Sam Siegmann and Kolin Walker. Despite the wacky picture, they really worked hard and sang with SPARTAN PRIDE!!! ☺

MHS HOSTS CHOIR CLINIC

Friday, March 20

McFarland High School will host a critique-only choir clinic on Friday, March 20 at 1:00 PM in the MHS Auditorium. The clinic will feature 3 choirs- the IMMS 8th grade choir, the A Cappella Choir & the Lichtenfeld High School Choir from Minnesota. All of the choirs will perform approximately 10 - 15 minutes of music for our guest clinician, Michael Ross. After each performance Mr. Ross will work briefly with the choirs & discuss their performance.

Mr. Ross is the first full-time Artistic Director of the Madison Youth Choirs. He has previously been Music Department Chair & Vocal Music Teacher at Madison West High School. Mr. Ross was the Tallis (training choir) instructor for the former Madison Boychoir for ten years. He has both Bachelor's & Master's degrees in Music Education from UW-Madison. He also has extensive accompanying & music directing experience, including having been accompanist for the Madison Boychoir, Madison Children's Choir, department accompanist for the UW-Madison choral program, & music director for several UW-Madison Summer Theatre productions.

Get your tickets NOW! Call 838-4505
Or stop by the HS Copy Room!

The Cat's Pajamas
Friday, March 6th, 7:00 PM
MHS Auditorium

A Concert Benefitting the McFarland K-12 Music Program



The Cat's Pajamas are an explosive vocal band based out of Madison, WI. Singing everything from classic rock to doo wop, from barbershop to hits you hear on the radio today, The Cat's Pajamas repertoire transcends typical genre tastes. They are a group that truly anyone will enjoy!

In addition to giving a great concert, the Cat's Pajama's will be touring to all the campuses to give a mini-clinic and/or concert throughout the week. The schedule is:

Wednesday, March 4

1:30 – 1:50 McFarland Primary Building
2:20 – 3:05 IMMS 7/8 Grade Boys Choir

Friday, March 6

8:00 – 11:15 McFarland High School Choirs
2:20 – 2:45 WIS 5th Grade Choir



Tickets are available by calling 838-4505 or stopping by the HS Copy Room (132). Tickets are also available at the door, beginning at 6:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30. General Admission seating.
Adults - \$12.00 Students - \$8.00

Solo/Ensemble Festival

Saturday, March 14th, 2009

McFarland HS

All students are welcome to participate in a solo, duet, trio or other ensemble provided that they are dedicated to practicing on a regular basis outside of class. Solo/Ensemble is not a requirement of choir, but it is a wonderful opportunity to work on your individual skills and performance abilities as a vocalist. All events are performed in front of a judge who then critiques you on your technique, interpretation, tone, rhythmic and note accuracy and style.

As part of the preparation process, students were given the opportunity to have sound files of their parts, the accompaniment, and the pronunciation of foreign language emailed to them. They were also strongly encouraged to check YouTube and iTunes for recordings of their solo. All students are expected to practice with a teacher once a week during lunch and choir class as well as outside of class.

As we near the festival date, it is important to have the following details completed so you may have the best performance possible:

Responsibilities with Accompanist:

- Set up 2 or 3 rehearsal times with your accompanist
- Notify accompanist of your performance time (available the week prior to festival)

Responsibilities with MUSIC:

- Memorize your solo (highly recommended)
- Obtain judges copy (NO PHOTOCOPIES ALLOWED! You will be disqualified if you or your judge has a photocopy!)
- Measures are numbered
- Introduction and interesting aspect completed

Other:

- Pay your accompanist fee(s) to your director(s). Checks payable to MHS. Each event is \$17.50, with ensembles prorated based on the number of students involved.
- Write a short thank you note to your accompanist
- Verify that the original judges copies are in the box Mrs. Nichols will take to solo/ensemble.

Performance Day Tips:

- Dress nicely – you want to make a good first impression! (Please no short skirts or low cut shirts ladies! No jeans or t-shirts and wear or bring comfortable shoes.)
- Arrive early so you know where your events are, you have a chance to warm-up & are able to visit your performance site to listen to comments the judge has about other performances.
- Bring a bottle of water
- Eat a nutritious breakfast
- Get a good night sleep the night before

Remember: This experience is about YOU becoming a better performer, not a rating, not a medal. If you have worked to become better at your craft, then you have succeeded.

