



## Inside This Issue

A Well-Oiled Machine .....	1
2016 Show Choir Results.....	2
Farewell to Kyle Avery.....	3
Scenes from the 2016 Spring Choral Festival .....	4
From the VMPA President .....	6
2016 Choral Clinic .....	7
2016 District Music Contest Results .....	7
2015-2016 Hall of F.A.M.E.....	8

May 4, 2016

Vol. VI, No. 4

# A Well-Oiled Machine...

That is what months of hard work, extra practices, voice and dance lessons lead to as ATSC made it into one of the top positions at Show Choir Nationals in Nashville, Tennessee, April 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two buses headed to the Grand Ole Opry to cheer on our own Amazing Technicolor Show Choir. The Opry House is located in the vicinity of the Opryland Hotel, the General Jackson Show Boat and the Country Music Hall of Fame.



*Doran and Jaylee Johnson display the Best Director award received by Doran.*



*Members of ATSC pose for a group photo in front of the Grand Ole Opry.*

Dedicated to honoring country music's rich history and dynamic present, the Grand Ole Opry showcases a mix of country legends and the contemporary chart-toppers who have followed in their footsteps. The Opry, an American icon and Nashville, Tennessee's number-one attraction, is world-famous for creating one-of-a-kind entertainment experiences for audiences of all ages. It's been called the "home of American music" and "country's most famous stage." It was on this stage that ATSC gave two stellar performances earning them 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up overall. Other awards received were Best Band and Best Male Vocalist, Jacob Thomas.

One parent attending the competition shared, "The benefits of a competition like this include camaraderie with other groups from other states

and other schools, learning about the 'fun' of competitiveness, receiving feedback from professional judges, confidence building for the students, and preparation for the real world because they have to learn to take constructive criticism to improve." Another parent, Judy Timmons, who rode the bus with her husband shared, "There were many memorable events for the trip. My personal highlight was watching these kids perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. They gave 110% to their craft and were every bit as good as all of the memorable performers who had gone before them. It was an amazing experience to watch." Brian Timmons, ATSC senior, shared, "No one remembers what place you got in a competition. It is the memories you make in ATSC that people will **NATIONALS to page 2**



*Jacob Thomas received the Best Male Vocalist award for his solo.*

remember.” One of his favorite memories is being able to perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. “It was a once in a lifetime opportunity!”

Another highlight of this event was watching everyone erupt into applause when Doran Johnson was given the best director award. Judy commented, “You could tell that he has developed a deep connection with the kids and they were ecstatic about this recognition for him! His commitment to the program and mentoring our kids to have a life long passion for music is something they will never forget. As

a parent, I couldn’t be more thankful with all of the opportunities given to my children through the vocal music program at Westside!”

The award Mr. Johnson received at Show Choir Nationals was The Allen and Sandra Chapman Director Appreciation Award of Excellence. Students were invited to submit nomination

letters for their directors. The organizers of the event read the letters and selected one letter that stood out. In speaking with Mr. Johnson, he admitted, “The award is even more special because I am good friends with the people it is named after. It was a very special experience to be presented the award by my daughter, Jaylee Johnson.”



*Members of The Amazing Technicolor Show Band show off the Best Band Award they received for their performances during the competition.*

## 2016 Show Choir Results

### ATSC

- **Viterbo 101 - LaCrosse, WI**  
Grand Champion, Best Choreography, Best Male Soloist - Jacob Thomas
- **Ramageddon - Ralston**  
Grand Champion, Best Vocals, Best Choreography
- **Crystal Cup – Elkhorn South**  
Grand Champion, Best Vocals, Best Choreography, Best Band
- **Great River – Davenport, IA**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up, Best Male Soloist - Jacob Thomas
- **Clash of the Titans – Lewis Central**  
Grand Champion, Best Vocals, Best Choreography, Best Band, Outstanding Performer - Xzavier Fort

- **Show Choir Nationals – Nashville, TN**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up, Best Male Vocalist - Jacob Thomas, Best Band (Prelims and Finals), Best Crew (Prelims)

### Simply Irresistible

- **Heart of America - Kansas City, MO**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Female Division, Afternoon High Score and Showcase Performance
- **Ramageddon - Ralston**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Female Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up in Finals, Best Female Vocalist - Maddy Stark

- **Crystal Cup – Elkhorn South**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Female Division
- **Great River – Davenport, IA**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place in Female Division
- **Clash of the Titans – Lewis Central**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Female Division

### Warrior Express

- **Ramageddon - Ralston**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place in Prep Division, 5<sup>th</sup> Runner Up in Finals
- **Crystal Cup – Elkhorn South**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Prep Division
- **Fields of Talent – Norris**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place in Prep Division
- **Clash of the Titans – Lewis Central**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place in Prep Division

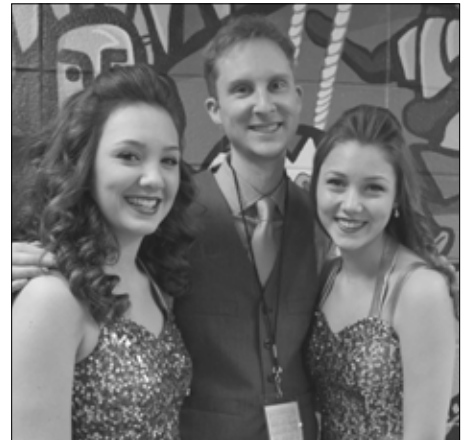
# Farewell to Kyle Avery

We take a moment to say Farewell to **Kyle Avery**. Mr. Avery will be starting a new position at Gretna Middle School for the 2016-2017 school year. We had the privilege of working with Kyle, and having him work with our students, for the last 12 years. His duties included directing Concert Choir, Simply Irresistible, Chamber Singers, Decibelles, teaching voice classes, music directing the school musical, and assisting with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir at Westside Middle School.

Mr. Avery received his undergraduate and masters degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He

often performs in the Omaha area in a variety of ways and serves as an adjudicator for show choir competitions and music festivals throughout the Midwest. We have enjoyed his tenure at Westside and appreciate having the opportunity to work with him.

These are exciting changes. We are confident you will meet the challenges they bring with your usual optimism, capability, experience and organizational skills as well as easygoing personality. You will be greatly missed here, but we wish you all the best as you move forward in your new endeavor!



*Kyle poses with Kate Hammit and Sara Modig.*



*Kyle Avery with the Chamber Singers, one of the many singing groups Mr. Avery conducted at Westside High School.*

Save the Date

*An Evening  
of Show Choirs*

7:00 PM

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Westside High School Auditorium

## Baxter Arena Volunteering

Great new way to give of your time,  
meet people and support  
Westside Vocal Music!

Parent volunteers needed to work  
concessions at various events starting  
this month. Tips and percent of total sales  
go to Westside's vocal music program.

Contact Cathy Haney for details:  
[shaney1@cox.net](mailto:shaney1@cox.net)

# Scenes from the 2016 Spring Choral Festival







# From the VMPA President...

What a year! Or perhaps I should say, "What another great year," because for Westside Vocal Music, every year gives us reason to be thankful and reason to celebrate. Fall 2015 opened with a beautiful choral concert on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> followed shortly thereafter by an unforgettable production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, two amazing Cabaret shows, Warrior Choir performing Handel's *Messiah* as part of the Choral Collaborative with the Omaha Symphony and numerous Westside students earning membership in All-State Choir—all before show choir season even started!

Speaking of which, all three show choirs earned multiple grand championships and ATSC placed 3<sup>rd</sup> nationally this year!

While our students and Westside's outstanding music directors deserve huge congratulations for all of these achievements, parents are also to be thanked. As members of the Vocal Music Parent Association, you have played a key role in ensuring the continued excellence of Westside's vocal music program. Your generous donation of funds as well as time is greatly appreciated.

In addition, special thanks is due

to these VMPA board members and numerous committee chairs:

- **Kim Wear** for serving as Treasurer plus taking on concessions work for both Cabaret and COE
- **Cathy** and **Steve Haney** for VMPA secretary duties plus stepping up to chair the new Baxter Arena Volunteer initiative
- **Wendie** and **Scott Grogan** for serving as VMPA Vice Presidents and coordinating the vocal music scholarship program
- **Ann** and **Scott Hofmann** for their outstanding role as VMPA advisors and willingness serve again as advisors in the 2016-2017 school year
- **Julie McMullen** for all the hours she devoted to Hall of F.A.M.E.
- **Mike** and **Molly Wallace** for chairing ATSC Retreat a second time, plus committing to a third
- **Julie** and **Paul Trivilino** for writing, editing and designing four high-quality *Voices* newsletters
- **Amy** and **Phil Cosimano**, who again cochaired hospitality
- **Shannon Hoy** for managing Cabaret during an extremely hectic fall season
- **Sue** and **Steve Seline**, and **Courtney** and **Jason Hellman** for outstanding

joint chairmanship of Nebraska's premier show choir event: Competition of Excellence

- **Sue Frerichs** for Bulletin Boards and Senior Posters
- **Doug Frerichs** for yet another year managing backstage activity
- **Chrisi Hughes** for Senior Posters plus hours and hours of help with costumes
- **Angie Bekins** and **Stacy Simon** for cochairing Evening of Show Choirs
- **Cindy** and **Brad Hammit** for coordinating the ATSC Picnic
- **Tom** and **Elizabeth Tape** for capturing and posting hundreds of photos
- **Brett Thomas** for many miles and long hours of trailer hauling

Of course, no year-end letter would be complete without recognizing the talents and dedication of accompanist **Denise Millard** and Westside's outstanding vocal music directors, **Doran Johnson** and **Kyle Avery**. The passion that these individuals pour into their work reflects in the hearts of our students. We cannot thank them enough.

In gratitude,  
Natalie & Eric Petersen

## Acknowledgments

The editors of Westside's *Voices* newsletter, Julie and Paul Trivilino, thank:

- **Natalie Petersen** for contributing the President's Letter.
- **Tom** and **Elizabeth Tape** for contributing her beautiful photos of Westside's performing art students throughout the year.
- **Sue Frerich** for providing photos from ATSC Nationals and the Spring Choral Festival.
- **Julie McMullen** for the updated Hall of F.A.M.E. listing.
- **Paul Trivilino Design** for the newsletter design and layout.

As always, we thank the Westside Vocal Music staff for their dedication to the ongoing growth and development of our students, not only as vocalists, but also as team members and upstanding representatives of Westside High School.

### VMPA Board Members

President . . . . . Natalie & Eric Petersen  
Vice President . . . . . Wendie & Scott Grogan  
Secretary . . . . . Cathy & Steve Haney  
Treasurer . . . . . Kim Wear  
Advisor . . . . . Ann & Scott Hofmann

### VMPA Committee Chairs

Hospitality . . . . . Amy & Phil Cosimano  
Voices Newsletter . . . . . Julie & Paul Trivilino  
Hall of F.A.M.E. . . . . Julie McMullen  
Bulletin Boards . . . . . Sue Frerichs  
ATSC Retreat (2015) . . . . . Molly & Mike Wallace  
ATSC Picnic . . . . . Cindy & Brad Hammit  
Senior Posters . . . . . Chrisi Hughes & Sue Frerichs  
Cabaret . . . . . Shannon Hoy  
COE . . . . . Sue & Steve Seline  
   Courtney & Jason Hellman  
Backstage . . . . . Doug Frerichs  
Evening of Show Choirs . . . . . Angie Bekins & Stacy Simon  
Scholarships . . . . . Wendie Grogan  
Equipment Transport . . . . . Brett Thomas

# 2016 Choral Clinic



*Under the direction of Dr. John Len Wiles, The Westside Warrior Choir joins its voices with the University of Northern Iowa Concert Chorale to finish out an evening of choral music.*

February 16<sup>th</sup> was the Choral Clinic resulting in a fabulous day for both the Concert and Warrior Choirs. Each group was fortunate to spend about three hours with guest conductor, Dr. John Len Wiles, preparing for an evening concert. Dr. Wiles is Assistant Professor of Choral Conducting at University of Northern Iowa where he conducts Concert Chorale, Cantorei, and the Varsity

Men's Glee Club. In addition, he teaches graduate students in choral conducting and choral literature and serves as the artistic director of the Northern Iowa Bach Cantata Series and *vox peregrini*.

Also performing that evening was the UNI Concert Chorale. The chorale is a mixed ensemble of 36 undergraduate and graduate students selected by competitive audition from all aca-

demical disciplines at the University of Northern Iowa. Recent performances include requiems by Brahms and Mozart, Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Hodie*, and Tarik O'Regan's *Triptych*. Concert Chorale has performed for national and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and tours both domestically and internationally.

## 2016 District Music Contest Results

Westside's choirs participated in the District Music Contest at Bellevue East and Bellevue West high schools on April 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>. Below are the results from the competitions.

### Large Ensembles

Warrior Choir: 1+ (+ means a 1 was earned from all three judges)  
Concert Choir Men: 1+  
Concert Choir Women: 1

### Small Ensembles

Decibelles: 1  
Chamber Singers: 2

### Soloists Earning a 1 (Superior) Rating

Emma Chvala  
Kalan Ferate  
Jaylee Johnson  
Anastassia Sedletsky  
Samantha Thomas

Morgan Stouffer  
Matthew Kischer  
Jacob Thomas  
Sam Vazzano  
Nathan Wallace  
Dominick Wardian

### Soloists Earning a 2 (Excellent) Rating

Molly Clark

Nyca Ann Gaskill  
Lydia James  
Owen Rush

The Warrior Band and the Westside String Orchestra also received a 1+ for their performances. The District Music Contest is sponsored by the Nebraska High School Activities Association.



*Doran Johnson conducts the Concert Choir men during the District Music Contest.*

# Thank You to the 2015 - 2016 Hall of F.A.M.E.\* Members (as of 4/20/2016)

## Underwriter \$1,500 or more

Steve & Cathy Haney  
Scott & Ann Hofmann  
Kirsten & Stephen Hosman

Charlie & Julie Liakos  
Ron Mordhorst  
& Tina Scott-Mordhorst

The Seline Family  
Bruce & Stacy Simon

Kim & Jim Simon  
Ron & Annette Volberding

## Benefactor \$1,000-\$1,499

David & Leslie Andersen

Angie & John Bekins

John & Chrisi Hughes

Eric & Natalie Petersen

## Sponsor \$500-\$999

Blue Cross & Blue Shield  
Fire Protection Services, LLC  
Rob & Shelby Foral

Christine & Bob Harry  
Terry & Jackie Kroeger  
Marie & Blane McCann

Mike & Julie McMullen  
Kay Owen  
Richard F. & Mary J. Scott

David Sweeney & Teri Mauch  
The Wengert Family

## Platinum Record Member \$250-\$499

Sean & Maria Akers  
The Battafarano Family  
Marc & Barbara Brey  
Sam & Deb Brower  
Philip & Amy Cosimano  
Louie & Mary Dircks

The Conaway Family  
Carol Ferate  
Cindy & Brad Hammitt  
David & Shannon Hoy  
Andy & Lillian Jacobitz  
Louie & Sandy James

Joanie Lehr  
Adam & Sandy Sawyer  
Union Pacific Railroad  
Chris Wear  
Michael & Mary Wallace  
Joy & Gordon Watanabe

John & Sara Young-In Honor of  
Joanna Young Shubart  
& Andrew Young

## Gold Record Member \$75-\$249

Michael Alston  
David & Theresa Banark  
Marty & Sue Barnhart  
Justene Bunting  
Angela Bergman  
Rhonda & Cicero Calderon  
Andrew & Stacey Carnazzo  
Linda Cheatham  
Ron & Sharon Chvala  
Suzy & Ian Crabb  
Anne Conway Day  
The DeVries Family  
Dr. & Mrs. John Donaldson

Jack & Deb Gifford  
Jordana & Jim Glazer  
Cindy & Bruce Goldberg  
The Grogans  
Jeffrey Gross  
Cody & Janette Karre  
Brian & Angelia Kerst  
Kent & Ann Knudsen  
Sandor & Eva Lovas  
Brian & Tammy Mahlendorf  
John & Tami Matousek  
Jeff & Cyndi Nelson  
Paul & Kari Nelson

David & Jennifer Paul  
David & Leneé Petri  
R.K. Piper & Sandy Heather  
Jim & Jana Rose  
Bert & Alona Scott  
Jeff & Julie Shields  
Mike & Lisa Smith  
Patrick & Grace Tantilillo  
Tom & Elizabeth Tape  
Brett & Kate Thomas  
Steve & Judy Timmons  
Bob & Maureen Toy  
Paul & Julie Trivilino

The Turman Family  
Troy & Kathleen Upton  
The Vazzano Family  
Mary Wallace  
Michael & Nijole Ward  
Joe & Helen Wardian  
Kim Wear  
Scott & Belinda Weidner  
Steve & Brigid Wilkening  
Brenda & Tricia Wonder  
Brian & Christine Yueill  
Risa & Dale Zimmerman

## Top-Ten Hits Member \$1-\$74

Todd & Nancy Bell  
Kevin & Kathy Dink  
Tom & Donna Dobson  
Michael Erdman  
Shawn & Lori Farwell

John & Robin Gregurich  
Gail Hille  
Amy & John Hruska  
Jeff & Pam Ingraham  
Connie Johnson

Gordon & Stephanie Keator  
The Kemps  
Skip & Carol Legge  
Dan Marburg

Dave & Cindy Rector  
Heather & John Russell  
Eric & Sara Sayre  
The Wilson Family

\*Fund for Attaining Musical Excellence.

The names listed above are current as of April 20, 2016. We apologize for the omission of any donor names due to publication deadlines. An updated list will be included in the next issue of this newsletter.

**NEW!**

## Westside VMPPA Facebook Group for Parents

Join today to share photos, connect with others and get the latest news and announcements.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1618102114973041/?fref=nf>

Questions or suggestions? Contact Leneé Petri: [leneepetri@cox.net](mailto:leneepetri@cox.net).

