



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 1st through 3rd. 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.



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



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

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 2nd 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

NATIONALS from page 1



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**
2nd 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**
2nd Runner Up, Best Male Vocalist - Jacob Thomas, Best Band (Prelims and Finals), Best Crew (Prelims)

Simply Irresistible

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

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

Warrior Express

- **Ramageddon - Ralston**
1st Place in Prep Division, 5th Runner Up in Finals
- **Crystal Cup – Elkhorn South**
2nd Place in Prep Division
- **Fields of Talent – Norris**
1st Place in Prep Division
- **Clash of the Titans – Lewis Central**
1st 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 8th 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

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. 29th 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 3rd 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 16th 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 21st through 23rd. 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 Sedletsy
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	Charlie & Julie Liakos	The Seline Family	Kim & Jim Simon
Scott & Ann Hofmann	Ron Mordhorst	Bruce & Stacy Simon	Ron & Annette Volberding
Kirsten & Stephen Hosman	& Tina Scott-Mordhorst		

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

David & Leslie Andersen	Angie & John Bekins	John & Chrisi Hughes	Eric & Natalie Petersen
-------------------------	---------------------	----------------------	-------------------------

Sponsor \$500-\$999

Blue Cross & Blue Shield	Christine & Bob Harry	Mike & Julie McMullen	David Sweeney & Teri Mauch
Fire Protection Services, LLC	Terry & Jackie Kroeger	Kay Owen	The Wengert Family
Rob & Shelby Foral	Marie & Blane McCann	Richard F. & Mary J. Scott	

Platinum Record Member \$250-\$499

Sean & Maria Akers	The Conaway Family	Joanie Lehr	John & Sara Young-In Honor of
The Battafarano Family	Carol Ferate	Adam & Sandy Sawyer	Joanna Young Shubart
Marc & Barbara Brey	Cindy & Brad Hammitt	Union Pacific Railroad	& Andrew Young
Sam & Deb Brower	David & Shannon Hoy	Chris Wear	
Philip & Amy Cosimano	Andy & Lillian Jacobitz	Michael & Mary Wallace	
Louie & Mary Dircks	Louie & Sandy James	Joy & Gordon Watanabe	

Gold Record Member \$75-\$249

Michael Alston	Jack & Deb Gifford	David & Jennifer Paul	The Turman Family
David & Theresa Banark	Jordana & Jim Glazer	David & Leneé Petri	Troy & Kathleen Upton
Marty & Sue Barnhart	Cindy & Bruce Goldberg	R.K. Piper & Sandy Heather	The Vazzano Family
Justene Bunting	The Grogans	Jim & Jana Rose	Mary Wallace
Angela Bergman	Jeffrey Gross	Bert & Alona Scott	Michael & Nijole Ward
Rhonda & Cicero Calderon	Cody & Janette Karre	Jeff & Julie Shields	Joe & Helen Wardian
Andrew & Stacey Carnazzo	Brian & Angelia Kerst	Mike & Lisa Smith	Kim Wear
Linda Cheatham	Kent & Ann Knudsen	Patrick & Grace Tantilillo	Scott & Belinda Weidner
Ron & Sharon Chvala	Sandor & Eva Lovas	Tom & Elizabeth Tape	Steve & Brigid Wilkening
Suzy & Ian Crabb	Brian & Tammy Mahlendorf	Brett & Kate Thomas	Brenda & Tricia Wonder
Anne Conway Day	John & Tami Matousek	Steve & Judy Timmons	Brian & Christine Yueill
The DeVries Family	Jeff & Cyndi Nelson	Bob & Maureen Toy	Risa & Dale Zimmerman
Dr. & Mrs. John Donaldson	Paul & Kari Nelson	Paul & Julie Trivilino	

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

Todd & Nancy Bell	John & Robin Gregurich	Gordon & Stephanie Keator	Dave & Cindy Rector
Kevin & Kathy Dink	Gail Hille	The Kemps	Heather & John Russell
Tom & Donna Dobson	Amy & John Hruska	Skip & Carol Legge	Eric & Sara Sayre
Michael Erdman	Jeff & Pam Ingraham	Dan Marburg	The Wilson Family
Shawn & Lori Farwell	Connie Johnson		

*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.

