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Cabaret 2016: CABARET NIGHT LIVE



"Live from Westside High School—it's Saturday Night!" shouted Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton look-alikes from the stage at this year's Vocal Music Cabaret Night held Sunday, November 6. Talented masters of ceremony transported attendees to the SNL set in New York City with hilarious antics and skits that entertained the audience between musical performances. "The students did a fantastic job as emcees this year," says Shannon Hoy, Cabaret 2016 Chairperson. Thanks to Emma Chvala, Spencer Salem, Matthew Kischer, Audrey McCann, Audrey McMullen, Sam Thomas, Nathan Wallace, and Josh Wonder. The Blues Brothers have never looked so good!

Cabaret Night Live, 2016 was presented in two performances—a 3 pm matinee and a 7 pm evening show. Both featured offerings of combined choirs singing *Willkommen, Sing, and Can't Stop the Feeling*; Warrior Choir singing *Pure Imagination* and *On Top of the World*; Decibelles singing *Chasing the Sun*, and the Chamber Singers' rendering of *Let Your Light Shine*.

Westside's three show choirs also dazzled audiences at both shows. Warrior Express performed to *Ready to Fly/Learn to Fly* and *Out Here On My Own*; Amazing Technicolor Show Choir presented *Not Too Far From Here*, *Advice to a Young Firefly*, and *Move*; and Simply Irresistible enter-

tained with *Your Heart is as Black as Night*, *Someone Like You*, and *Let the Good Times Roll*.

Tremendous individual talent of Westside High School students was showcased with a variety of excellent solo and duet performances. The matinee featured Yasmine Elrefaie, Zane Watanabe, Kelly Kroeger, Zoe Thackray, Isabela Hovorka, Anastassia Sedletsy, Josh Wonder, Abby Cameron and Phoebe Yueill, Samantha Thomas, Olivia Wing, Ian Wear, and Sam DeVries. The evening show presented Samantha Peterson, Kate Alston and Olivia Robino, Kalan Ferate, Chloe Shepherd, Sam Vazzano, Maddy

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Volunteers Make COE Happen

If you love show choir, Westside is the place you absolutely must be on Saturday, January 28th.

Racks of sequined costumes will line the halls and hairspray clouds will billow from the restrooms as 25 show choirs from 13 schools and five states claim Westside's stage for the 17th annual Competition of Excellence, affectionately called COE.

It takes a small army – well about 400 volunteers – to feed all those kids, sell their fans tickets, prevent parking lot skirmishes, cart drum sets and keyboards to the stage, and taxi judges from the airport to the daylong competition.

"COE is our largest fundraiser for the show choir programs. It ensures we have the finances to support this incredible program," said Nina Swanson, who chairs COE this year. "We need 400 volunteers to ensure the event runs smoothly and our visiting show choirs and spectators have an amazing time."

Soon you'll get emails asking you to sign up on Volunteer Spot for jobs that run the gamut from selling cookies and coffee, to stocking the hospitality room for bus drivers, to making sure homerooms and halls are secure. Angelia Kerst, who organizes volunteers for COE, encourages everyone to sign up for a shift, or two.

"There's a job for everyone. Someone might be really great at selling. Someone else might be fabulous at counting change. Just find what you like to do," said Cathy Haney, who has chaired concessions for three years with Charlie Liakos and Kim Wear.

And if you don't volunteer at COE, you'll be missing out - that's what parents who've worked at the event in the past say. Here's some of their advice on why you should volunteer for COE:

IT'S A LOT OF FUN

- **Dave Andersen:** "It's a super long day, but goes really fast because there's so much activity and it's fun," he said. It's fun to be around other show choir parents and fun to be around the students from Westside and other schools," Andersen said. A COE veteran, Andersen



helped in the parking lot when his two older children were in show choir. This year he'll make sure things run smoothly backstage. Andersen is looking forward to the job. Backstage work is integral to making sure the competition stays on time because Andersen will coordinate the set-up and tear-down for each team's performance.

- **Cathy Haney:** She has worked long hours in COE's concessions, arriving by 5:30 a.m. and leaving after midnight, but she wouldn't have it any other way. "If you aren't here volunteering, you are missing a good time. We make it fun," she said. "It is so worth it. It's also great to be involved in what the kids are doing."
- **Nina Swanson:** The people you volunteer with make it easy to enjoy your volunteering time. "Yes to fun! We try to have fun and, really, it is hard not to. People are so dedicated to this event and take such pride in putting on a good competition."
- **Bob Harry:** He manages the parking lot, which as everyone knows, is not big enough so it takes some finesse to keep cars moving through drop-off lanes and to direct people to alternate parking areas. "But it is fun and you get to meet and hang with some good folks," he said.

YOU SEE KIDS DOING POSITIVE THINGS

- **Kim Wear:** One of the best parts of COE is witnessing how hard

students work, she said. "Our show choir kids are the best. They are helpful, nice, polite and willing to do whatever is asked of them," she said. Students host teams, work on stage crew, decorate homerooms and staff concessions. In concessions, students do prep work, make salads, stock beverages and serve food, Wear said. "The students work hard, do a great job and never complain," she said.

- **Annette Volberding:** Most recently she oversaw room decorations and said getting to know the kids involved was a special part of the job. "They were an enthusiastic, intelligent group of willing workers," she said. "When we traveled later in the year, I felt familiar with a much broader group of kids. I could easily connect kids with their parents and it was great fun."
- **Cindy Hammitt:** She has co-chaired ticket sales and says getting to know the show choir kids and their parents is a rewarding part of volunteering for COE. "The kids will roll up and say hello to their mom whom you are volunteering with and you connect that kid with the parents," she said. "The kids are well-behaved and you see them do a lot of bonding during the event too."

YOU GET TO SUPPORT A GREAT PROGRAM

- **Chris Hughes:** Although their children have both graduated, she and her husband, **John**, plan to volunteer this year. "We love all that the vocal music program has done for so many kids and it will be fun to see everyone again," she said. "I always looked forward to COE because it is such a great event and does so much for our kids and the program. It's fun to see everyone step up and help in their own way."
- **Cindy Hammitt:** "It just makes me feel good to be a part of it all beyond just donating money but also time," she said. "It's a really good program that I believe in."
- **Kim Wear:** "We host one of the best

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Look Sharp for Competition of Excellence!

Two T-Shirt Choices!

Long-sleeve or short-sleeve Gildan T-shirt (100% pre-shrunk cotton), Competition of Excellence 2017 logo on front, listing of participants on back.

Shirt Colors: Black Only

Short-Sleeve: **Long-Sleeve:**

\$10 SM-XL

\$14 XS-XL

\$12 XXL

\$16 XXL

\$14 XXXL

\$18 XXXL

T-shirt order deadline:

January 6th



Pre-order Now and have in time for January competitions!

Questions? Contact Leneé Petri at 3614 Paddock Road, Omaha NE, 68124; leneepetri@cox.net, or 402-850-8148.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

Long-Sleeved T-Shirt

Quantity _____ Size(s) _____

Short-Sleeved T-Shirt

Quantity _____ Size(s) _____

T-shirt order deadline: January 6th

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Vocal Music Parents' Association.

Show Choir Tips

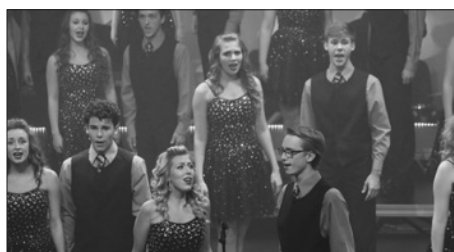
With show choir season just weeks away, we rounded up advice to make the season go smoothly.

Parking is never plentiful. Wear comfortable shoes in case you have a long walk; and don't wait until 15 minutes before the performance to arrive, or you will miss the show. Handicapped parking fills up fast. So don't count on that even if you have a handicapped sticker.

Take cash. Show choir competitions are fundraisers for hosting schools so expect to pay at least \$10 for admission. Credit cards often are not accepted. So take cash to be on the safe side. Don't bring food in; buying food supports the hosting school.

Line up early for seats. Once a show choir performance starts, the doors are locked and you won't get in. Most people recommend getting in line at least two performances before Westside performs. If you leave, you will have to go to the back of the line, even if someone inside is saving you a seat.

Front row seats are not always the best. They are supposed to be reserved for fans of the next scheduled performance. But while they might be best for picture taking and having your cheers heard, seats further back usually offer better views and better acoustics.



ATSC

Chat with parents from other choirs. Getting to know parents from other schools gives you the opportunity to learn tidbits of information such as the cost to participate in show choir at different schools or learn of different traditions they have.

Applaud only at appropriate times, be aware of "silent clapping." Don't cover up a "Musical Moment" with applause. Great singing happens right after a solo and if parents clap, the sing-

ing can't be heard. Fans sometimes put their hands in the air and wiggle their fingers to create "silent" applause. This may feel weird the first time you see it, or even do it, but judges consider it a tribute to a good solo if there is no "heard" applause.



Simply Irresistible

Sign up to be a room monitor. Volunteering to be a room monitor during competitions is a fun way to meet and interact with your child's friends in the different Westside show choirs.

Be a good sport. If you only applaud for Westside and look uninterested when others perform, it is an insult that parents from other groups notice. Also, don't openly critique any performance. We parents need to remember that we represent Westside too, and those critiques or negative comments hurt our reputation.

You will never fully understand the judging. Each competition has different rules designed to make the contest "fair". But there is still a certain amount of subjectivity. You will be surprised how much improvement the kids make from the first performance to the last. Choreography is tweaked and singing improves, as they get more confident. The songs you like least might end up your favorites. Just enjoy the show.

Cheer loudly! Don't be shy about crazy cheering. Loud and lengthy cheering is part of the show choir experience so don't be embarrassed to join in. The kids are most inspired if fans go wild right as they take the stage, during dance breaks and at the end during the bow.

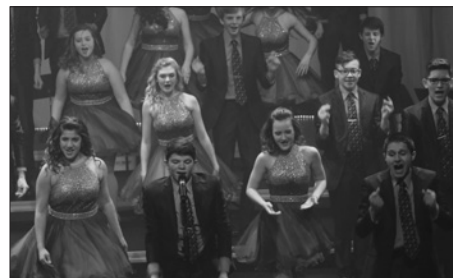
There is a dress code for competitions. Warrior Express kids are expected to wear their show choir

t-shirts or a Westside logo shirt and nice jeans. Because Warrior Express usually performs early, Mr. Johnson wants them to be comfortable for the rest of the day. Simply Irresistible and ATSC wear something dressy between performances to make the transition from spectator to performer easier.

Show choir kids are often starving late at night. When show choirs return to Omaha, it doesn't matter how late it is, don't be surprised if they want to go eat.

Anyone can make the ATSC symbol. Along with cheering, some fans make the ATSC symbol by forming a triangle with their hands. Some think this tradition is reserved for ATSC members only. This is not true. So go ahead and show your pride. The students definitely will keep this tradition alive.

Don't forget: Black Socks and Curling Irons. Make sure boys always have black socks, and a black belt



Warrior Express

with them. Girls will often share their curling irons at a contest, if one should forget this much needed instrument. What often happens is unclaimed or forgotten curling irons are tossed, if no one claims them.

Avoid the "my cell phone died" excuse. If you want to be in touch with your child during or after the daylong contest, make sure they have, and can charge, their phones for the day. This way they can let you know when their bus is almost home.

Don't miss out on "Evening of Show Choirs." Tickets for this season ending show choir event are pre-sold only to VMPA Hall of F.A.M.E. donors. Make your contribution today by visiting <http://www.wcsfoundation66.org/support/hall-of-f-a-m-e/>

All-State Choral Festival



Choral students representing Westside High School pose for a photo before the 2016 All-State Choral Festival.

Westside was well represented at Nebraska's 2016 All-State Choral Festival, November 16-18 in Lincoln. A total of 18 vocalists were selected to participate in this year's festival:

Chorus Members:

Maddy Stark, Soprano 1
Samantha Thomas, Soprano 1
Carly Ingraham, Alto 1
Vivian Jacobitz, Alto 1
Jillian Timperley, Alto 1
Abby Cameron, Alto 2
Kalan Ferate, Alto 2
Lillian Hoy, Alto 2
Chase Piper, Alto 2
Jonas Turman, Tenor 1
Zane Watanabe, Tenor 1
Tyler Banark, Tenor 2
Sam Vazzano, Tenor 2
Ian Wear, Tenor 2

Adam Shields, Bass 1
Brenden Avery, Bass 2
Thomas Schnell, Bass 2
Kyle Trivilino, Bass 2

Alternates:

Kate Hammitt, Alto 2
Sam DeVries, Tenor 2
Harrison Wegener, Tenor 2

Vocal Instructors:

Doran Johnson
Greg Woodin

Acknowledgments

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

- Jackie Kroeger for contributing the story on Competition of Excellence volunteers
- Mary Dircks for contributing the story on Cabaret
- Elizabeth Tape for her many excellent photos
- Maria Akers for Hall of F.A.M.E. donor tracking list
- Paul Trivilino Design for the newsletter design and layout

And our sincerest gratitude to Doran Johnson, Greg Woodin, and Denise Millard for the never ending dedication to the ongoing growth of our students as vocalists, team members and upstanding representatives of Westside High School.

Westside's First All-National Honor Choir participant

Senior Nathan Wallace recently returned from Dallas, Texas where he participated in the 2016 All-National Honor Choir. The event was sponsored by the National Association for Music Education as part of its national conference. The choir was directed by Dr. Anton Armstrong from St. Olaf College in Minnesota



Nathan Wallace poses with the director, Dr. Anton Armstrong.

and was comprised of 320 singers representing 49 states. Students are invited to audition if they have made their state's All State Ensemble the previous year. Nathan submitted a recording last May and was notified of his acceptance in June. He is the first national honor choir participant from Westside and was one of about ten Nebraska students who took part in this event. Any sophomores or juniors who were selected for the Nebraska All State Ensemble this year will be eligible to audition for next year's event which will be held at Walt Disney World next November.

VMPA Board Members

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ATSC Retreat (2017) Angie Bergman
ATSC Picnic (2017) Shannon Hoy
Senior Posters Angelia Kerst & Katee Upton
Cabaret Shannon Hoy & Stephanie Cota
COE Nina Swanson & Leneé Petri
Backstage Mike Wilson
Scholarships Sue Barnhart
Equipment Transport Brett Thomas



Stark, Carly Kinney, Nathan Wallace, Audrey McCann, Connor Smith and Simon Bessmer, Josh Dobson, and Lily Hoy. The Saturday Night Live theme was a throwback to a previous year. "The broad umbrella allows students who are trying out for solos to choose from a wide array of music," says Hoy.

Attendance at this year's event was up from last year and funds raised surpassed the committee's goals due, in large part, to generous contributions by Westside families, staff members, and

volunteers, according to Hoy. "This event could not be successful without this support, as well as hours spent putting together spectacular packages for the raffle and hours spent in the kitchen preparing snacks for concessions," she adds. A huge thank you to all who donated time, talent and dollars. Hoy extends an extra thank you to Westside facilities and vocal music staff for coordinating set-up, logistics, programs, and of course accompaniment for the solo performances.

New this year, discounted ticket prices were offered to students and senior citizens. "This allows families to come together and enjoy spectacular performances," Hoy says. "We hope to continue to encourage students and families alike to support vocal music."

Cabaret 2016 DVDs can be ordered from Mid-America Video Images by calling 402-474-4023 or go to <http://www.westsidechoirs.com/> for an order form.

Volunteers from page 2

competitions in the area. I'm proud to be a part of it and tell people I help with that event."

- **John McCollister:** He was among the volunteers who started COE 17 years ago, and returns every year to help out even though his sons graduated from Westside more than 10 years ago. "I love doing it. I wouldn't miss it," he said. "It's a great program and was so great for our boys." He tackles the tough job of directing people to any open seat he can find during finals when the auditorium fills to capacity.

IT ENHANCES YOUR SHOW CHOIR EXPERIENCE AND BUILDS NEW FRIENDSHIPS

- **Annette Volberding:** "Helping at COE is the best way for us to put names with faces," she said. "By the time you are with your dear show

choir family, saying goodbye to the seniors, you know every hour you spent with them was the best of the high school years." Volunteer-ing for COE is a family affair for the Volberdings as her husband helps, along with her children who are show choir alums. Her granddaughter even helped sell cookies last year.

- **Kim Wear:** "It helps you understand what it takes to keep a top notch program going. If we didn't have these fundraisers, we wouldn't be able to do everything we do so it is very important to get all parents involved."
- **Cathy Haney:** She said she was "acquainted" with her co-chairs in concessions but now they are great friends and look forward to hanging out at other show choir competitions. "You get to know people really well after an 18-hour day," she said.

"We are really, really good friends."

- **Cindy Hammitt:** You meet parents whom you look forward to seeing at other competitions, she said. "It's fun to meet other parents and make those connections. Then when you go out of town to other competitions, you meet up to go out to dinner. It makes it so much fun," she said.
- **Sue Seline:** Chaired COE last year and has also chaired volunteer sign-up in the past. She said it's amazing how generous people are with their time. Many sign up for multiple shifts or stay for the whole day. "It's a great opportunity to get to know people who often go on to be good friends," she said.
- **Nina Swanson:** "It is not hard to make good friends – there are many hours planning for the event and many during the event – lots of bonding time."

Show Choir Premier Nights

ATSC

Wednesday, January 4th, 7:00 PM

Simply Irresistible

Monday, January 16th, 7:30 PM

Warrior Express

Thursday, January 19th, 8:00 PM

All performances to be held in the Westside High School auditorium.

Thank You to the 2016 - 2017 Hall of F.A.M.E.* Members (as of 12/4/2016)

Underwriter \$1,500 or more

Angie & John Bekins	Scott & Ann Hofmann	Terry & Jackie Kroeger	The Volberding Family –
Steve & Cathy Haney	John & Chrisi Hughes	The Seline Family	In Memory of Greek Liakos

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

Mike & Julie McMullen	Kay Owen
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Sponsor \$500-\$999

Jeff & Danielle Gordman	David & Shannon Hoy	Marie & Blane McCann	Patrick & Nina Swanson
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Christine & Bob Harry	Wendi & Scott Kroeger		

Platinum Record Member \$250-\$499

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Marty & Sue Barnhart	Dan & Julie Hershiser	Joy & Gordon Watanabe	& Andrew Young
Deb & Sam Brower	Joanie Lehr		

Gold Record Member \$75-\$249

Michael Alston	Matt & Heather Egbert	David & Jennifer Paul	Patrick & Grace Tantillo
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Rhonda & Cicero Calderon	Jack & Deb Gifford	R.K. Piper & Sandy Heather	Bob & Maureen Toy
Andrew & Stacey Carnazzo	Jim & Lori Gigantelli	Tom & Jennie Rands	The Trimble Family
Linda Cheatham	Wes & Deb Hakari	Jim & Jana Rose	The Vazzano Family
Ron & Sharon Chvala	Jason & Courtney Hellman	Eric & Sara Sayre	Kim Wear
The DeVries Family	Brian & Angelia Kerst	Mike & Lisa Smith	Scott & Belinda Weidner
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Gail Seaman Dolan	Amy & John Hruska		

*Fund for Attaining Musical Excellence.

The names listed above are current as of December 4, 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.

Join Vocal Music Parent Association Today!

Open to individuals, families and corporations

Go online to join
Select your membership level
Make your tax-deductible contribution
Enjoy the perks of membership*

<http://www.westsidechoirs.com/hall-of-f.a.m.e..html>

*See website for a list of membership benefits.

2016-2017 Vocal Music Calendar

Date	Event	Choirs
January 4 (Wed)	ATSC Premiere Night 7:00 p.m. (WHS Auditorium)	ATSC/Band/Crew
January 6-8 (Fri-Sun)	<i>Viterbo Show Choir Competition</i> (La Crosse, WI) Depart 11:00 a.m. on Fri/Return 5:00 p.m. on Sun	ATSC/Band/Crew
January 16 (Mon)	SI Premiere Night 7:30 p.m. (WHS Auditorium)	SI/Band/Crew
January 19 (Thurs)	WE Premiere Night 8:00 p.m. (WHS Auditorium)	WE/Band/Crew
January 21 (Sat)	Millard West Invitational	ATSC/SI/WE
January 28 (Sat)	Westside Competition of Excellence	ATSC/SI (work/perform) WE (work)
February 10-11 (Fri-Sat)	Elkhorn South <i>Crystal Cup</i>	ATSC/SI/WE
February 21 (Tues)	Choral Clinic Concert 7:30 p.m. (WHS Auditorium)	Warrior/Concert/Freshman
February 24-26 (Fri-Sun)	<i>Swingin' on the River Invitational</i> (Hastings, MN) Depart at 2:00 p.m. on Fri/Return 9:00 p.m. on Sun	ATSC/SI
March 4 (Sat)	Lewis Central <i>Clash of the Titans</i>	ATSC/SI/WE
March 11 (Sat)	Millard North Invitational	SI/WE
March 23-26 (Thur-Sun)	<i>Heart of America</i> (Atlanta, GA)	ATSC
March 28 (Tues)	6 th -12 th Grade Choral Festival 7:00 p.m. (Main Gym)	Warrior/ATSC
April 6 (Thur)	Show Choir Auditions 3:30 p.m. -10:00 p.m. (Vocal Room)	
April 18 (Tues)	Pre-Contest Concert 7:30 p.m. (Main Gym)	Warrior/Band/Orchestra
April 21-22 (Fri-Sat)	District Music Contest (at Gretna High School)	Warrior/Soloists
April 30 (Sun)	ATSC Picnic 6:00 p.m. (Courtyard/Little Theater)	ATSC
May 3 (Wed)	Spring Choral Concert 7:30 p.m. (WHS Auditorium)	Warrior/Concert/Freshman
May 5 (Fri)	An Evening of Show Choirs 7:00 p.m. (WHS Auditorium)	ATSC/SI/WE

For up-to-date information, event schedules and photos, visit westsidechoirs.com.



**Westside VMPA
Facebook Group
for Parents**

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

Questions/suggestions? Contact Leneé Petri: leneepetri@cox.net.



Like

**Westside Choirs
Don & Millie's Nights!**

4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
First Wednesday of every month
Don & Millie's at 10727 West Center Road

