



APRIL 2013

IT'S TIME TO MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR THE SPRING CONCERTS MAY 22 & 23

Armstrong Choirs will "show what they know" at our Spring concerts next month. Freshman and Varsity choirs as well as the Freshman and Varsity Madrigals will perform on Wednesday, May 22 at 7:00 pm. Cantori and Concert Choirs as well as the Chamber Singers will take the stage on Thursday May 23 at 7:00 pm.

These concerts are truly a celebration of our fine choral music program at Armstrong and we hope you will join us. Seating is free and open to the public. Donations are encouraged and welcomed. A donation of \$3.00-\$5.00 per person is suggested.



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CONCERT CHOIR BENEFIT A GREAT SUCCESS!

Submitted by: Sydney Glup

Every year in the Armstrong Choral Program the Concert Choir participates in a performance tour. To make this possible for every singer, we turn to the Choir Boosters. After all of the tour bills are paid for, the once plentiful Scholarship Fund is depleted, to say the least. Since the Concert Choir takes more money from the Scholarship Fund than any other group, we do our best to replenish the balance before the end of the year.

After a week of frantic rehearsals the Armstrong Concert Choir presented our annual benefit, "Puttin' on the Ritz". The emcees of the evening, Grant Kregness and Preston Koepke, led the audience through a musical, comedic and entertaining night. The acts included many musical performances as well as non-musical performances. The acts ranged from synchronized swimming to karate/brick-breaking to Cheetah Girls and everywhere in between. In addition to the fabulous acts there was the silent auction.

The silent auction included themed baskets put together by each voice part in Concert Choir and other items donated from local businesses in our community. With baskets and items of a wide variety, the interest and turnout of the auction was fantastic!

After all of the hustle and bustle, the benefit was a great victory. The money raised went back into the Scholarship Fund to help future Concert Choirs continue the Armstrong Choir legacy of excellence. The benefit not only provides a way for the Concert Choir to pay it forward, but has truly become a part of the Armstrong Choir tradition. This tradition, however, would not be possible without the help of our parents, the Choir Boosters, the community and our wonderful director. On behalf of the Armstrong Concert Choir of 2012-2013, a very special "thanks" to all involved in making the "Puttin' on the Ritz" Benefit of 2013 a successful, memorable evening.

Armstrong Choir Boosters' Mission Statement

Armstrong High School Choir Boosters provide visibility, communication, and support for the choral music program at AHS with resources that ensure growth and development for all students.

CHOIR NEWS, CONTINUED

IT'S CONTEST SEASON...

Region 6AA Large Ensemble Contest

This competition was held March 11 at Cooper High School. The Concert Choir, Cantori and Varsity Women were awarded Superior Ratings, the highest rating awarded by the Minnesota State High School League. Our most sincere congratulations and thanks to our Armstrong singers who continue to demonstrate only the finest in performance standards!

Local Solo/Ensemble Contest

Armstrong hosted it's annual Local Solo/Ensemble event on Thursday, 21 in various sites in the arts wing. Professional judges and accompanists were brought in to work in 10 minute time slots with Armstrong students who have prepared solos, duets and various ensembles. From the 127 performances, 65 events were chosen to represent Armstrong at the Region 6AA Solo/Ensemble Competition at Eden Prairie High School on Thursday, April 18. Best of Site honors were earned by Freshmen, Abby Lundquist, Taylor Blustin, Juniors, Erin Anderson, Duncan Schulte; and Seniors, Elizbaeth Ward, Michael Hagstrom, Lanie Ribnick and Armstrong Chamber Singers.

Region 6AA Solo/Ensemble Contest

The contest was held at Eden Prairie High School on Thursday, April 18 amidst another spring blizzard! Travel could have been easier but our singers certainly outdid themselves. Armstrong earned 45 Superior Ratings and 14 Excellent Ratings. Junior, Duncan Schulte, Seniors, Olivia Frey and Molly Johnson earned Best of Site Distinctions. Great work Falcon singers!

2013-2014 CHOIR AUDITIONS COMING UP

Auditions for next year's Cantori and Concert Choirs will take place May 6-15. Students may sign up for a 10 minute audition slots. The audition requirements are listed on the choir website www.armstrongchoirs.org and discussed, reviewed, and explained in class. Students who are currently members of Concert Choir, Cantori, and Varsity Choir are taught the skills to successfully complete a choir audition. It is our hope that these students continue singing in the Armstrong Choral Program and benefit from all that their choir experience offers. Please contact Stephanie Trump with any questions specific to the audition. Results will be posted on Friday, May 24. There is a mandatory parent meeting for each of these new ensembles on Wednesday, May 29 at 6:30pm in the AHS Auditorium. We look forward to another great year in 2013-2014!

AUDITIONS: A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

By Stephanie Trump, Choral Director

Each year the rosters for Cantori, Concert Choir, and Chamber Singers are determined in the spring in preparation for and anticipation of the coming school year. These auditions are competitive, but students who have been participating in the Choral Program have been offered the skills needed to complete the audition. However, in the mind of most students, successfully completing an audition can encompass a multitude of outcomes. For many students, success implies making it through without catastrophe; for others, it is nothing short of quantified perfection. Most students would define their own successful audition by the outcome: did they make it?

While I understand the desire for achievement as a fundamental human aspiration, I also watch each year as students react to the ensemble

placement that they have been assigned. As educators, we want success for each of the students who graduate from the Choral Program. However, success in the minds of teachers can often mean something altogether different from a student, or even a parents, definition.

We believe strongly that vocal success is a journey not a destination. The opportunity to perform in either of these top ensembles, Concert Choir or Cantori is amazing. It is up to the Auditioner to determine the ensemble placement for each student based upon their current level of skills and workmanship, not upon their level of passion, emotion, and desire. We work diligently and sincerely to place each student into the ensemble that best serves his or her individual needs and the goals of this educational program.

Auditions for the 2013–2014 Cantori and Concert Choirs will take place in early May. All auditions will be scored by a hired adjudicator. She is a professional singer in the metro area. She is genuine, gentle, kind and encouraging. Students come out of the audition with a smile on their face commenting on how much easier that was than they thought it was going to be.

As your child anticipates and reflects upon these upcoming auditions, please support them in what can be an overwhelming and risky experience. We believe that each student learns from every opportunity, good or bad, successful or failed. Every opportunity makes us more prepared for the next. We look forward to another amazing year of singing in 2013– 2014 in the Armstrong Choirs.

CHOIR NEWS, CONTINUED

STUDENTS SPEAK ABOUT . . .

News on Name change

I'm sorry to say but the true definition of Cantori is still under debate. Further research has concluded that it's not a name of a foreign disease or illness so we will keep the name as such.

Cantori Tour Experience

Our tour from April 11 to the 13 was considered a true success. We kicked off the tour with a bus ride to Luther College. Despite the noise of "teenage girl" all of the non-female students recalled the bus ride as "not as bad as I thought" (since there were 0% percent non-female students due to the fact that it's an all-girls choir). Our visit to Luther was one of the high points of the trip (spoiler: there was only three high points I'll get to later). We got to "chat it up" with the Aurora choir girls who welcomed us to the future side effects of our additions to choir (side effects include: fundraisers, and mild to abnormal burst of song). The next day of our tour (technically day trip) included a clinic with the world famous Phillip Swan (yes thee Phillip Swan) we showed up to our concert full of dignity and clad in red. However the other choirs wore black dresses (choir hazing). There are many more stories to tell, like when I got my hair straightened and it took nearly 3 hours. But why bore you with teenage girl problems. We thank our parents for your support of Cantori (choir not the illness) we may be just girls but we have big hearts (and bigger egos). On behalf of our fearless leader and director Ms. Trump we humbly say "live long and prosper."

Submitted by:

Selena Bergin, Choir officer



Concert Choir Benefit

The annual Armstrong Concert Choir Benefit is always an enjoyable experience for both the Concert Choir and the audience! The choir has a great time putting all of the songs and acts together ensuring that it will be a phenomenal show. This year, the choir stepped up it's involvement in the event by making homemade desserts, performing a program with a more diverse selection of acts, and helped set up and take down hundreds of chairs and tables faster than we ever had in the past. This event is not only fun and entertaining, but it is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Concert Choir. Events like the Concert Choir Benefit make it possible for students to have life shaping experiences, such as going on tour, that they wouldn't have had otherwise. Thanks for all of the support! Our shared efforts put more into the Armstrong Choir Scholarship Fund than EVER before.

Submitted by:

Michael Hagstrom, Concert Choir President, Grade 12

Concert Choir Tour

In March Concert Choir traveled on our annual performance tour. Destination Chicago via Appleton, Wisconsin! In Appleton we stopped at Lawrence University to work with the Choral Faculty there, namely Dr. Phillip Swan who has worked with the choir on many past tours. In addition to the benefit of a clinic/workshop with Dr. Swan, the top choirs at Lawrence hosted the Concert Choir in an exchange concert where each group performed for the others in Lawrence's amazing concert hall! We also did an exchange with the Concert Choir from Appleton North High School.

The feature of our time in Chicago was a workshop at Northwestern University with retired Professor, Dr. Robert Harris. His work was outstanding and complimentary. The singers loved their time with him. He issued the choir a personal invitation to perform with him his newest composition for choir and orchestra in May of 2014 at Lincoln Center in NYC! (Don't think that will work out but we are blessed by his generosity.)

It was an outstanding trip for the Concert Choir. We grew in our musicianship, as an ensemble, and learned valuable lessons as individuals. I remain proud of the accomplishments of the Armstrong Concert Choir and fully motivated by their pursuit of excellence!

Submitted by:

Stephanie Trump, Director

SUMMER VOICE LESSONS

Summer Voice Lessons are available for all students in the Choral Program. We encourage all students who have been studying privately at any point throughout the school year to stay with their teachers over the summer. Even if lessons are inconsistent because of summer schedules, some study time is better than none! Students who study during the summer months have scheduling priority for studio times in the fall. Our voice teachers are hired by the Choral Program as independent contractors and handle all of the details of their studios individually, including payment for lessons.

If your student would like to begin voice lessons this summer, please contact one of the voice faculty members. If you have any questions, please contact **Stephanie Trump** at 763-50-8857 stephanie_trump@rdale.org or **Tony Rangel** at 763-504-8856 tony_rangel@rdale.org.

Jane Andersen	(612)822-5869
Greg Dokken	(612)703-5224
Nicole Messier	(651)357-5850
Sandy Schoenecker	(651)491-9048

FUNDRAISING

One of the main functions of Armstrong Choir Boosters is to facilitate fundraising efforts throughout the year. Some fundraisers support the choirs in general, but most of the fundraisers provide opportunities for each choir member to raise funds for their individual accounts.

Those new to the Armstrong Choir program may be wondering "What is an Individual Choir Account?" Each student has the opportunity to raise funds for their own use on choir related expenses, such as choir tours, voice lessons or extra choir fees. The Choir Booster Treasurer keeps track of what each student has earned from each fundraiser and deposits those earnings into the student's account. Even freshmen are encouraged to participate in fundraisers and begin an account from which they can reduce future costs. Unused funds may be transferred to siblings or friends. All students on scholarship for lessons, tour, or any other

SUMMARY OF FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

General Fundraising

(Benefits entire choral program)

Concert Choir Benefit Concert
Happenings Book (first book sold by each student)
Restaurant "Nights Out"

Individual Fundraising Opportunities

(Deposited into student's Individual Choir Account to use for tour payments, voice lessons & other expenses)

Happenings Books (second book sold and beyond, Fall)
Flower Sales (Fall, Winter and Spring Sales)
Cookie Dough, Pizza Sales (Fall)
Photo Greeting Cards
Soy Candle Sales
Bagging at Cub Foods
Consumer Taste Testing (all year)
Scrip—selling gift cards to various businesses (this opportunity will be available a few times per year)
Other opportunities as they arise

ATTENTION: GRADUATING SENIORS



Graduating seniors who have money remaining in their individual choir accounts may transfer that balance to the choir account of a younger sibling or friend. If the balance is not transferred, it will go into the Choir Scholarship Fund, which is used for those who need help covering choir related expenses. To transfer funds, please contact the Choir Booster Treasurer, Janet DeJonge at janlde@comcast.net.

SPRING FUNDRAISER UPDATE

These Spring fundraisers build students' Individual Choir Accounts:

- Spring Flower Sale - If you ordered items, they must be picked up on Tuesday, May 7 after 2 p.m. at Stephanie Trump's home at 5045 Jonquil Lane, Plymouth.
- "Scrips" — Gift cards to a variety of stores. Great for graduation gifts. Pay face value, a percentage is credited towards student's account. Spring order pick up day is Tuesday, May 7.



CLICK TO DONATE!

Support your favorite singer!! This is a great way for Grandparents or relatives to help support your singer build their choir account and help defray the cost of future choir tour and expenses. To donate, go to the choir website at armstrongchoirs.org and click on the Donations/Payments tab on the home page. Here anyone can contribute directly to your student's individual account under the section labeled: *Donate to a Student account*. It's that easy!!

EAT TO EARN WITH CONSUMER TASTE TESTING!

Your opinion counts when food companies create new products or change existing ones. Anyone 18-65 may sign up to participate in taste tests to earn money for your student's account. Go to www.foodperspectives.com to register. Click on "Respondents". Fill out the form, typing "Armstrong Choir Boosters" under organization. You will be recruited for taste tests, many of which are conducted at a facility on Hwy. 55 & Vicksburg. You will be paid a portion of the earnings directly (\$15-26), while another \$10 will be sent to Armstrong for your student's choir account.

If you have previously signed up for Food Perspectives taste testing for another organization and would like to change it to Armstrong Choir Boosters, please call Customer Care at 763-354-2776 to make the change.

If you sign up (or change your organization to Armstrong Choir Boosters), please be sure to send a short email to the Choir Booster Treasurer, Janet DeJonge, at AHSSINGS@gmail.com indicating the name(s) of the participant(s) and which student should be credited with their earnings. There have been times when we have received a check for taste testing but did not know which student should be credited!

For more information on fundraising opportunities, go to www.armstrongchoirs.org

CHOIR BOOSTER STEERING COMMITTEE		
Position	Name	Contact Information
President	Christina Schulte	612-209-0634 cschulte55427@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Heidi Haines	763-522-7458 jeffheidi@comcast.net
Secretary	Jill Foss	763-551-1375 Sc.foss@comcast.net
Treasurer	Janet DeJonge	763-513-7243 AHSSINGS@gmail.com
Concert Choir Liaison	Cathy Schmidt	763-528-6667 cschmidt4120@gmail.com
Cantori Liaison	Kris Frey	612-201-6073 Krispk2@yahoo.com
Varsity Men's Choir Liaison	Karen Bremer	612-799-7069 jbrehmer@comcast.net
Varsity Women's Choir Liaison	Zoraida Gonzales	zoraidamn@yahoo.com
Freshman Choir Liaison	Sara Anderson	612-270-5967 Sara.anderson1014@gmail.com
Concert Chair	Jane Hagstrom	612-817-1880 mmhagstrom@comcast.net
Concert Program Ad Sales	Andrea Madson	763-593-1757 madsonfour@comcast.net
Robe Committee Club	Deb Ward Carlotta Rosebrock	Scott.a.ward@gmail.com 763-568-3214 763-544-0788 ckrosebrock@earthlink.net
Choir Shirt Orders	Christy Hader	763-242-2199 haider4@usfamily.net
Newsletter Editor	Deb Johnson	763-559-8417 Johnson6pk@comcast.net
Web Master	Dave DeJonge	763-513-7243 dedejonge@comcast.net
Benefit Co-Chair	Marni Ribnick Jane Hagstrom	ribfest@comcast.net 612-817-1880 mmhagstrom@comcast.net
Happenings Books	Open	
Pizza/Cookie Dough	Kris Frey	612-201-6073 Krispk2@yahoo.com
Plant Sales	Karen Brehmer	612-799-7069 jbrehmer@comcast.net
Taste Testing	Wanda Brown	763-208-4974 wandabrown1994@msn.com
Restaurants Nights Out	Deb Johnson	763-559-8417 johnson6pk@comcast.net
Scrip/Gift Cards	Karen Springer-Leighton	763-588-8960 karenleighton@me.com
Greeting Cards	Mark Trump	763-550-7993 mltrump@yahoo.com
Soy Candles	Open	

CHOIR BOOSTER STEERING COMMITTEE		
Position	Name	Contact Information
Bagging at Cub Foods	Jane Hagstrom	612-817-1880 mmhagstrom@comcast.net
Cantori Breakfast Fundraiser	Deb Johnson	763-559-8417 Johnsontpk@comcast.net
Director	Stephanie Trump	763-504-8857 stephanie_trump@rdale.org
Director	Tony Rangel	763-504-8856 tony_rangel@rdale.org

2012-2013 CONCERT & EVENT SCHEDULE		
Date & Time	Concert or Event <i>Choirs participating</i>	Location
Wed., May 22 7:00 pm	Spring Concert <i>Freshman & Varsity Choirs</i>	AHS Auditorium
Thurs., May 23 7:00 pm	Spring Concert <i>Cantori & Concert Choirs</i>	AHS Auditorium
Tues., May 28 7:00 pm	Senior Voice Recital <i>Senior Soloists</i>	AHS Auditorium
Wed., May 29	2013-14 Mandatory Cantori/Concert Choir Parent Meeting	AHS Auditorium
Thurs., May 30 6:00 - 9:00 pm	2013-2014 Chamber Auditions	AHS
Tues., June 4	2013-14 Mandatory Chamber Singer Parent Meeting	AHS
Thurs., June 6 7:00 pm	Commencement <i>Concert Choir and Seniors</i>	AHS

**MANDATORY
PARENT MEETING**

2013-2014 Cantori and Concert Choirs

**Wednesday, May 29
6:30 pm
Armstrong Auditorium**

Information will be provided on next year's choir schedule and responsibilities, individual student account statements and fundraising opportunities for the coming year.

SAVE THIS PAGE FOR REFERENCE!

CHOIR BOOSTERS

FROM THE BOOSTER PRESIDENT . . .



I WANT . . . “THAT” FOR MY CHILD!

As I think about my child’s maturity, character and growth from a teen to a budding adult, I think about the friends and the people he hangs out with or attends classes with. Being a part of the choral program, my student has received more than just learning how to sing as a group. Being apart of choir has steered him away from behaviors that would possibly get him in trouble. I think this is due to the character building that is woven into the program—making better individual choices, having to come to a group consen-

sus about how to approach your “work” and having to work in a group with people that you might not like or choose as friends at school. Isn’t this the kind of thing that prepares them for future job experiences and/or college? Yes, that is why this program is vital. As a parent, this is what I want for my child.

As the year comes to a close, we say “Thank you” to all our parents who have donated their time and talents to the Armstrong Choir Booster Club. To those of you who are returning

next year, “thank you”. To those of you who have never been to a Booster Club meeting, I encourage you to attend. No matter what choir or level of singer your student is, you will get a chance to meet other parents of vocalists. You also get updates on happenings in the choral program and have a chance to get involved as well.

Christina Schulte
President, AHS Boosters

CHOIR BOOSTERS’ MEETING
Monday April 29
7:00 PM
AHS CHOIR ROOM

Spring Concerts

May 22, 2013 7pm Featuring Freshman & Varsity Choirs Freshman & Varsity Madrigals	May 23, 2013 7pm Featuring the Cantori & Concert Choirs Chamber Singers
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Thank you
Parents of our graduating seniors for sharing your time and talents with the Armstrong Choir Booster Club.
We will miss you!

HELP WANTED SPRING CONCERTS

Ushers/Donations - Volunteers are needed at the winter concerts to usher and take donations. Please contact Jane Hagstrom at 612-817-1880 or email her at mmhagstrom@comcast.net if you can help.

Robes - Volunteers are needed both before the first concert and after the second concert to facilitate distribution and re-storing of choir robes. If you can help, please contact Deb Ward at 763-568-3214 or Carlotta Rosebrock at 763-544-0788.

REMEMBER!!

PICK UP IS
TUESDAY, MAY 7

FOR THE THESE FUNDRAISERS:

- FLOWER/PLANTS
- SCRIPS

(See page 4 for details)