



In Harmony

FRHS CHORUS BOOSTERS NEWSLETTER VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

Shirley Devine, Co-President
Beth Carlson, Co-President
Deb Sloss, Vice President
Rona Watts, Secretary
Jan Peters, Treasurer

Spring 2008

www.frhschorus.org

IMPORTANT CHORUS MEETING MAY 6TH

Dear Chorus Parents:

With the end of the school year in sight, the FRHS Chorus Boosters are “re-grouping” in anticipation of rallying our resources for next year! We hope to grow in numbers and continue to support meaningful choral activities through volunteer power. Our work depends on the participation of caring individuals like you. Your input and support is invaluable.

As a parent of a chorus student, you are already a member of the FRHS Chorus Boosters. If you have paid the 2007/2008 membership dues of \$15.00, you also have voting privileges in the organization. We welcome your nominations and your vote to determine the executive committee of the FRHS Chorus Boosters (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) for the 2008/2009 academic year. If you are not yet a member of the Chorus Boosters, but would like to get involved and vote in this election, it’s not too late!

Please join us for an organizational meeting on **Tuesday, May 6, 2008** from 7:00-8:00 pm in the FRHS Chorus Room. This is a great chance to meet other chorus parents and explore leadership roles and other facets of the FRHS Chorus Boosters that best match the time and talent you have to share on behalf of the chorus students. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting May 6th. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

The FRHS Chorus Boosters Executive Committee, 2007/2008



STAY “TUNED” ...

May 6	Chorus Boosters Meeting 7pm
May 8	Combined Choir Rehearsal/ Workshop with Dr. Jones 2:30 - 4:00
May 15	Combined Choir Rehearsal/ Workshop with Dr. Jones 2:30 - 4:30
May 10	Music in the Parks Adjudication (Treblemakers, Chorale & Jazz Choir)
May 15	Combined Choir Rehearsal
May 16	Spring Choral Concert & Punch & Cake Reception
May 30	Relay for Life
June 7	Graduation (Treblemakers)

DID YOU KNOW ...

“Students of the arts continue to outperform their non-arts peers on the SAT, according to reports by the College Entrance Examination Board.

In 2006, SAT takers with coursework/ experience in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 43 points higher on the math portion than students with no coursework or experience in the arts. Scores for those with coursework in music appreciation were 62 points higher on the verbal and 41 points higher on the math portion.”

—The College Board, Profile of College-Bound Seniors National Report for 2006

THRILLER!

A good time was had by all at the annual Chorus Banquet held at Spadaro’s Restaurant on April 12th. Following a wonderful meal, the awards flowed, and the FRHS Chorus Boosters surprised everyone!

More on the Banquet inside ...

A Banner Year!

Much was accomplished this year, and we have much to celebrate. The FRHS Chorus Boosters orchestrated and/or supported many chorus events throughout the year.

Homecoming Bonfire Booth:

Chorus students planned and operated a successful “Sweet Shoppe” booth at the Homecoming bonfire in October. Although this was the first time the FR Chorus ran a booth at the annual bonfire, they sold out of nearly all their sweets and treats! The Chorus Sweet Shoppe yielded profits that were used to fund a Halloween Party for chorus students in the café. Complete with food, games, and prizes, nearly half the FR Chorus attended the party. A good time was had by all!

Boosters Bowl-a-Thon:

Another social event offered by the Chorus Boosters this past year took place during November. Chorus students

were invited to take advantage of the free *Boosters Bowl-A-Thon* at Miracle Lanes Bowling Alley, where they formed teams and bowled three rounds. The competition was stiff, proving that singing was not their *only* strong point!

Halloween Party: Another well-attended, fun event was the after-school Halloween party. Pizza and soda was provided by Chorus Boosters, and the students had a great time enjoying games, their favorite --“Musical Chairs”!

Holiday Concerts were plentiful. In addition to the traditional in-school concert, chorus students extended their holiday melodies into the community at **Salem Crossroads** and **Calvary Lutheran Church**. They also entertained

community seniors at **Redstone Highlands** and **Murry Manor**, and then shared a meal as part of the **Community Night at Hoss’s Steak & Seafood Restaurant**. Boosters provided the chorus students with holiday treat bags.

Holiday Baskets of Cheer

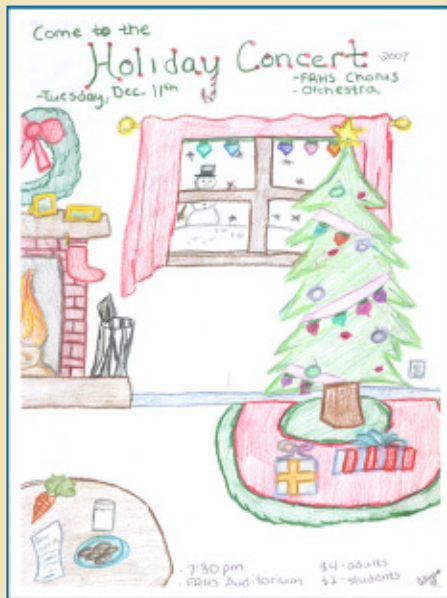
Raffle: In addition to the delight of the winners of our fabulous baskets, our chorus students had an opportunity to win a prize by selling the raffle tickets. Alex Novak and Meghan Carlson sold the winning tickets for the two baskets, and Meghan also sold the most raffle tickets. Community support of the FRHS Chorus was evident in the donations by local businesses for the basket raffle.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
HOLIDAY CONCERT FLYER CONTEST WINNERS!**

**FRHS Chorus Boosters will sponsor another contest for the
Spring Choral Concert. so get into your creative space!**

First Place: \$15.00



Allie Vrcek

Second Place: \$10.00

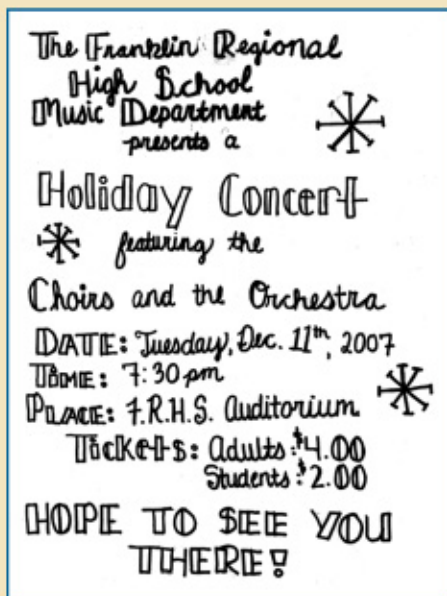


Nikki Pena

Third Place: \$5.00



Erin Devine



Alyssa Carfang



Michelle Lynch



Chelsea Watts



LET FREEDOM SING!



Vanessa German, Kris Rust, and Dr. Herb Jones

The first choral festival of its kind in the Pittsburgh region, the *Let Freedom Sing!* festival weekend brought together people of varying ages, races, religions and cultures to celebrate community and diversity in honor of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Concerts were offered at both the Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church in East Liberty and at Franklin Regional High School.

In collaboration with Dr. Herbert V.R.P. Jones, Mr. Rust coordinated the weekend activities, and

provided the FR Chorus students with a memorable experience.

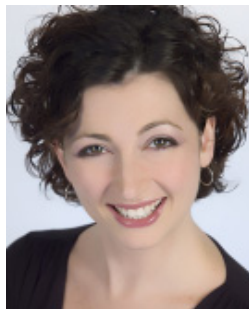
Proceeds from the concerts benefitted the "Build the Dream" project to construct the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

Guest Artists:

The remarkable *Let Freedom Sing!* experience was extended into the classroom by visits from Vanessa German and Dr. Herbert V.R.P. Jones, and students benefitted from some coaching by Jennifer Veltre Smith.

Vanessa German is one of the tri-state's most sought after public speakers. She is a vibrant, dynamic, young motivator who weaves powerful, heartfelt, life-affirming and altering messages with her true to life "Power" presentations.

Dr. Herb Jones, a national officer of the Gospel Music Workshops of America, has an extensive background in choral conducting and performance.



Jennifer Veltre Smith judged the Valentine Cabaret auditions with Mr. Rust, and provided acting coaching for all of the chorus classes. Ms.

Smith earned a B.A. in acting from Point Park University in 1998, and has performed Off Broadway, on National Tours, and local and regional productions at West Virginia Public Theater, Stage Right! and the Pittsburgh Musical Theater.

Communications:



This newsletter, "In Harmony", was developed by the FRHS Chorus Boosters to keep Chorus families informed

throughout the year.

We have also been working hard to help reduce the cost of paper copies and postage through increased use of email as the primary means of communication with Chorus families.



"Music is love in search of a word."

~Sidney Lanier



Chorus Students Enjoy the Performing Arts

WICKED! The Benedum Center Saturday, September 20, 2008

Nominated for ten 2004 Tony Awards, WICKED won for Best Actress, Scenic Design and Costume Design, and also won six Drama Desk Awards. Tentative Itinerary:

- 4:30 pm Depart FRHS Parking Lot
- 5:00 pm Arrive at Tambellini's Ristorante
- 7:15 pm Walk to Benedum Center
- 8:00 pm Enjoy WICKED!
- 11:00 pm Depart Benedum Center
- 11:30 pm Arrive FRHS Parking Lot

The FRHS Chorus Boosters is covering the cost of one school bus for round-trip transportation to and from Pittsburgh.



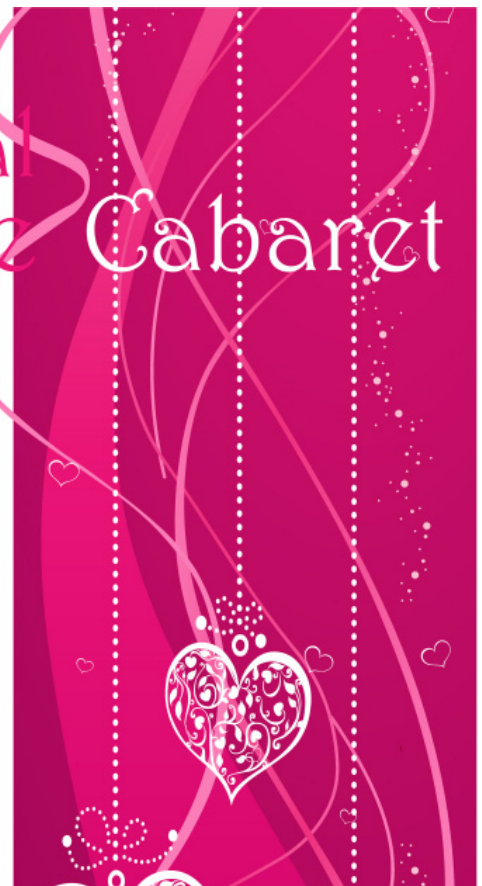
The Lion King:

Students had a fabulous evening in January sharing dinner at the Grille on Seventh, followed by a phenomenal performance of *The Lion King* at the Benedum Center.

5th Annual Valentine Cabaret

Celebrating its 5th year, the Valentine Cabaret was a wonderful evening of entertainment, delicious pastries, and warm beverages. There were 23 selections ranging from classical pieces to Broadway ... and from the movies to good old rock n' roll. Students who were selected to participate in the Cabaret received some acting tips and coaching from Jennifer Veltre Smith, this year's FRHS Choral Dept. Guest Artist.

The Cabaret was sponsored for the first time by **Standard Bank**, and the door prize was donated by **Send Me No Flowers**.



Did You Know ...

“The fact that choral singing is a communal activity is especially significant today when we increasingly rely on internet-based communications, rather than face-to-face interaction. Several recent studies have shown a significant decline in civic engagement in our communities. Robert Putnam, Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government

scholar, asserts that the significance of choral singing goes beyond music making, and even beyond the arts. He sees group performing as contributing directly to the social trust and reciprocity that is the basis of civic engagement. His work shows that the mere existence of choral groups helps foster America’s democratic culture. Chorus America found that choral singers are far more likely to be involved in charity work, as volunteers

and as donors (76%), than the average person (44% according to a 2001 report by Independent Sector). Choral singers are also more than twice as likely as non-participants to be aware of current events and involved in the political process. They are also twice as likely as the general public to be major consumers of other arts—and not just music.—*America’s Performing Arts: A Study of Choruses, Choral Singers, and their Impact (Chorus Impact Study, 2003).*

THRILLER!

Annual Chorus Banquet: Chorus Boosters organized another fun-filled evening at Spadaro's to share a meal, enjoy some dancing, recognize our chorus seniors, and celebrate the achievements of our chorus students this year.

Honors:

Erin Devine won 2nd place in the Westmoreland Young Artist Competition sponsored by Merrill Lynch through the Westmoreland Symphony.

Alexis Duca won a radio competition which provided her the opportunity to sing our national anthem at a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game.



Many of our students also participated in choral festivals:

WCMEA (Westmoreland County Music Educators Association)

Junior High Level: Lauren Cunkelman

Senior High Level: Chelsea Barnes, Brianne Holland, John Lora, Julie McDonald, Vineet Raghu, Rachel Schnorr, Dale Szalanczy, and Aaron Wattenphul

PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Educators Association):

Honors Chorus: Erin Devine
District Chorus: Meghan Carlson
Regional Chorus: Meghan Carlson

DREAMGIRLS ENCORE!

The FRHS Chorus Boosters surprised everyone with their own performance of "Dreamgirls" . . . YES, those are official chorus uniforms they are donning, and YES, that's Mr. Rust being swooned!

The students got a good laugh out of it, and fortunately, these gals only "lip-synced" the lyrics!

The Boosters were grateful for Mr. Rust's gracious participation in this unrehearsed show!

