



ANKENY HIGH SCHOOL VOCAL MUSIC

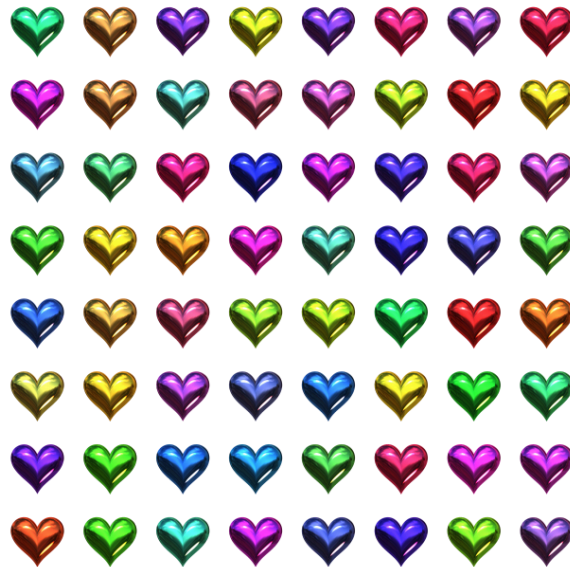
EXCELLENCE ▪ COMMITMENT ▪ COMMUNITY ▪ PRIDE ▪ FUTURE



Ankeny Choral Messenger

A newsletter for Ankeny High School Choral Music students & families

February/March 2024



From the Directors:

As we reflect on a busy winter season in the vocal music department, we are celebrating an amazing show choir season, Concert Choir appearing at the regional ACDA convention in Omaha, and a terrific winter concert by all three choirs—we couldn't be prouder. As we look ahead to the spring, many more exciting events are on the horizon including the Spring Show Choir Spectacular and trip to New York City! It's an amazing time to be a singing Hawk and we're looking forward to what is to come.

-Mr. Walters & Mr. Brown



Show Choir Updates

Congratulations to all three of our show choirs on a fantastic 2024 competition season! We are proud of all three groups and are looking forward to “putting a bow on our season” at Spring Show at the end of March.

Competition Results:

Bloomington Kennedy (MN) “Gold”:

VA: 1st place in Varsity; Grand Champion, Best Choreography

PM: 1st place in mixed prep; best prep vocals & choreography; 5th place over-all

Intensity: 1st place in treble prep

North Polk “Comet Sensation”

VA: Grand Champion, Best Vocals, Best Choreography

PM: 1st place in mixed prep

Intensity: 1st place in treble prep

Southeast Polk “RAM Showcase”

VA: 1st runner-up overall

PM: 1st in prep, 4th place overall

Intensity: 2nd in treble prep

Dallas Center-Grimes “Take Two”

VA: Grand Champion; Best vocals, Best choreography, Best Band, 1st in class 4A varsity

PM: 3rd place overall, 1st in mixed prep

Intensity: 6th overall, 1st in treble

Spring Show Choir Spectacular is scheduled for March 22 (7:00PM-Southview Night), March 23 (7:00PM) & March 24 (3:00PM). **Tickets for the performances on March 23 & 24 will go on sale Monday, March 18** at <http://ankenchoralmusic.seatyourself.biz>

Submit your financial contribution for show choir/donate to ACMPO, click [here](#) for info.



ACDA Conference Performance

As you know, the AHS Concert Choir earned the prestigious opportunity to perform at the 2024 Midwestern Regional Conference of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). Being selected to perform at an ACDA Conference is widely recognized as a pinnacle achievement for vocal music programs in the United States. To secure this honor, the choir submitted three years' worth of performance recordings, showcasing a consistent pattern of excellence. The evaluation process involved a blind audition conducted by experts in the field. The Concert Choir emerged as one of the 15 choirs (from approximately 90 submissions) chosen from a ten-state region to present at this prestigious conference.

The choir performed a 30 minute solo set to an enthusiastic audience of hundreds of choral directors and musicians on Thursday, February 8 at the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha, Nebraska.





New York City Trip Update

The final trip payment is **due Friday, March 8** on the Group Travel Planners payment website. THANK YOU to ACMPO whose fundraising efforts have applied a \$100.00 credit to *each student* attending the trip; this is reflected in your final payment amount listed on the GTP website. The trip must be paid in full in order for students to travel. The documents outlining registration and online payments can be accessed on the “documents” page of the vocal music website or by clicking [here](#).

There will be a required trip meeting on Thursday, March 28th at 6:00PM in the auditorium for ALL students going on the trip. Parents are encouraged to attend. Students will go over trip procedures, meet their chaperones to exchange information, complete required travel forms, and more. Mark your calendars for this important meeting.



Upcoming Events

March 22-24: Spring Show Choir Spectacular

March 28, 6:00PM: NYC Trip Meeting

April 9-14: NYC Trip

April 22-25: Auditions for 2024-2025 choirs

April 27: Solo Contest

See & Subscribe to our Google Calendar [here](#).

See a list of events [here](#).



To-Do List

1. **NYC Trip Participants:** Prepare to make final payment by March 8th.

2. **Show Choir Families–Please make the suggested final contribution if you have not done so already.**
 - a. Click [here](#) for details.
3. **Show Choir Seniors**
 - a. Take note of the recent email communication from Val Vizza and Josh Skow, ACMPO Senior Recognition Chairs for information and deadlines regarding senior recognition traditions.



Communication

Vocal Music Handbook

Hopefully by now you are familiar with our department handbook. It contains information about procedures, structures, expectations, grading, and more. You can access it on our website (www.ankenchoralmusic.org) and on each choir's individual Google Classroom.

Remind

Text messages are our most commonly used communication tool. To find the codes to register for your/your student's ensemble click [here](#).

Social Media

Follow us on [Twitter!](#) @ahs_vocal_music

Follow us on [Instagram!](#) @ahs_choirs

Mass Emails (CHARMS)

If you are not receiving mass emails from the vocal music department or would like to add/update an address, please contact the director of your student's ensemble with your request.

Ankeny Choral Messenger

This newsletter will be distributed monthly to all AHS choral music families & 9th grade show choir families. It typically contains all pertinent information that is ready to be shared for the given month/time period.

Director Contacts

Mr. Ben Walters, Director of Choral Activities (Concert Choir, Cantorei, Visual Adrenaline)

ben.walters@ankenyschools.org

Mr. Adam Brown, Assistant Director of Choral Activities (Ankeny Singers, Perpetual Motion)

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Mr. Nick Oswald (Intensity)

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About the Program

Our mission is to help each student develop musically, socially, and personally as we believe that music education fosters self-discipline, dedication, confidence, and learning how to work with a group towards a common goal. As performance entities we strive to be the best that we can be in all respects. Our department pillars: Excellence, Commitment, Community, Pride, and Future guide our mission and vision and serve as our operational foundation.

The Ankeny High School Choral Music Program is proud to be one of the top vocal music programs in the state. The Ankeny High School Vocal Music Department is composed of over 250 students participating in six choirs. Three curricular (core) choirs are offered during the school day for academic credit: Concert Choir (auditioned mixed), Cantorei (auditioned treble), and Ankeny Singers (non-auditioned mixed.) The Ankeny Concert Choir has been recognized with prestigious invitations to perform for state and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association including the 2020 ACDA Midwest Divisional Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the Iowa Choral Showcase in 2018. The Concert Choir was also named the overall champions of the Worldstrides

Heritage Music Festival in New York City in 2018 in addition to receiving consistent division 1 (superior) ratings at the IHSMA State Music Festival. Cantorei was also named the treble division champions at the Heritage Music Festival in New York City and also receives consistent division 1 (superior) ratings at the IHSMA State Music Festival. Ankeny Singers offers a music-making community open to any student at AHS without an audition. These three curricular ensembles offer opportunities to perform a wide variety of music in a number of concert settings, including the annual holiday production “Julefest” which also features members of the Des Moines Symphony and students from Southview Middle School.

In addition to our curricular choir offerings, approximately 70% of students also participate in Ankeny High School’s award-winning show choir program. The varsity show choir, Visual Adrenaline, has a long tradition of excellence; in recent years garnering multiple grand championships, class championships, and awards for best vocals, best choreography, and best band at competitions across the state. Perpetual Motion (junior-varsity mixed) and Intensity (junior-varsity treble) also have very successful performance records, regularly finishing in the top of their divisions.

Our department pillars **Excellence, Commitment, Community, Pride, and Future** serve as our foundation for the way that we operate and guides our values & commitments program-wide. To see what some of our current and former students have to say about our program and their experiences in their own words click [here](#).



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