Rochester Adams High School Choral Music Department

Thomas Blue, Director

The Rochester Adams High School vocal music students were involved in a variety of musical activities including the following: Michigan School Vocal Music Association sponsored activities such as Chamber Choir Festival, district and state solo/ensemble festival, AHS spring musical, and community performances for the Older Persons Commission and AHS Graduation. The choral department held collaborative performances with the Rochester Adams Instrumental Department, the Van Hoosen Choral Department, and with guest artists, Pia Broad-Williams and Dr. Jason Branham.

Student Achievement and Participation for 2017-2018 include:

- 3 SATB Quartets of students attended the MSU Choral Leadership Day
- Soloist for the RCS “Tailgate” fundraiser event
- Students in independent study in music
- Performances of the national anthem for pep assemblies and other local events
- Fall, winter, late winter and spring choral music concerts
- Several soloists for the spring concert including original song material
- AHS Choirs collaborated with the Adams Wind Ensemble for the RCS district 5th Grade Concert
- Chamber Choir performed for the Older Person’s Commission Holiday Luncheon
- Adams Choirs performed a winter concert in collaboration with the Van Hoosen Middle School Choir at University Presbyterian Church accompanied by Dr. Jason Branham (UM graduate in organ performance), the AHS Highlander Brass Quartet, directed by James Ferden, and Lynn Garland on piano
- 25+ students participated in the University of Michigan Vocal Arts Day
- 20+ Students received “excellent” and “excellent with superior distinction” ratings at district solo/ensemble festival
- AHS Chamber Choir received an “Excellent” rating and thus qualifying them for the MSVMA State Choral Festival at Marysville HS (near perfect scores in performance and a perfect score in SR)
- Chamber Choir collaborated with guest artist, Ms. Pia Broad-Williams on a performance of John Rutter’s Feel the Spirit, a song cycle of African-American spirituals
- 19 soloists participated at the MSVMA State Solo/Ensemble Festival receiving “Excellent” Ratings (with several high scores in sight-reading and even perfect performance and sight-reading scores)
- The Adams Music and Theatre Departments staged the musical, “Little Shop of Horrors”
- Hosted the Rochester University a capella ensemble for an afternoon concert
- Hosted a barbershop quartet “singing valentine” performance
- Students received Honors and Departmental Honors for their MSVMA participation and contributions to the success of the choral music department
• Several students from the Adams Choral Department will be pursuing music/musical theatre and participating in music as an avocation/vocation next fall as they start their college careers at such places as Oakland University, Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Alma College

• Senior Choir members performed at the AHS Honors Convocation

• The Adams Choirs performed the Star-Spangled Banner, “For Good,” “Impossible Dream,” and the Alma Mater at the Adams High School Commencement with the Highlander Wind Ensemble

• Students will be involved in summer study at various music activities, private voice study and community arts programs and community theatre

• Students will be participating in the Summer Music Theatre production of “Matilda”

• Several AHS music and theatre alumni performed on Broadway, Broadway Touring companies, locally at the Fischer Theatre, colleges, universities, and other community theatre outlets around the country and in Michigan

• Several AHS/Mr. Blue alumni continue to hold teaching positions at Michigan high schools such as Waterford Mott and Saline High School

Performances for the 2019-2020 school year include MSVMA activities such as District and State Solo/Ensemble, Choral Festival, Chamber Choir Festival, Vocal Arts Days at University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Oakland University along with performances at Older Persons Commission, Rochester Symphony Guild, University Presbyterian Church, and of course, our own Rochester Adams High School

If you would like to be a part of an exciting an growing department, please contact Mr. Blue at tblue@rochester.k12.mi.us