

TO: Michael Harvey, High School Principal

FROM: William T. Pappazisis  
Director of Fine and Performing Arts

SUBJECT: ACDA Eastern Division High School Honor Choirs

DATE: September 16, 2011

I am delighted to inform you that eight high school students have been accepted for participation in the American Choral Directors Association 2010 Eastern Division High School and Latino Honor Choirs. The students are:

- Kelly Baker (Latino Latino Repertoire Honors Choir)
- Louise Brownsburger (Latino Repertoire Honors Choir)
- Katie Fallon (High School Honors Choir)
- Robert Gibson (High School Honors Choir)
- Sienna Haines (Latino Repertoire Honors Choir)
- Demitri Markantonis (Latino Repertoire Honors Choir)
- Aaron Mattos (Latino Repertoire Honors Choir)
- Bennet Peterson (Latino Repertoire Honors Choir)

Acceptance into Eastern Division honor choirs is based on a recorded solo performance that is reviewed by a selection committee of vocal and choral music educators. The Eastern Division is comprised of the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington D.C. Participating students were selected from public and private high schools throughout this region.

- 176 students were accepted into the High School Honors Choir
- 90 students were accepted into the Latino Repertoire Honors Choirs

They will have the opportunity to work and perform with exceptionally talented peers, under the batons of Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, Director of Choral Activities at Calvin College, and Dr. Juan Tony Gúzman, Director of Jazz Studies at Luther College. Dr. Gúzman is an expert in Latin American and Caribbean music, and a well know choral arranger and composer of music from these genres.

I also learned that no other high school in Massachusetts had as many students selected as did Belmont High School.

I would also like to commend Sean Landers for his work in preparing the students' for their auditions.

The Eastern Division Honor Choir will rehearse and perform in conjunction with the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division Conference, which will be held in Providence, RI, February 15-18, 2012.

Whereas this is an out-of-state overnight field trip, I am requesting approval for the students to participate in this extraordinary educational opportunity. ACDA expects that the students are accompanied by their teachers. Pending School Committee approval of the students' travel, Mr. Landers will be assigned as the school chaperone; as the designated chaperone, he will also be able to attend the conference.

cc: Dr. Thomas Kingston  
Ms. Janice Darias