

Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

2015-2016 Issue

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Acapellooza Around the Corner

Eleanor Mancusi-Ungaro, Sophomore
Reporter

As many of us know, Marblehead High School is home to four a capella groups. They sing at local events like the Christmas Walk, compete in regional and global competitions, and perform at fundraisers throughout town. At the annual winter and spring concerts, only Luminescence and Jewel Tones turn due to time constraints, and they are usually limited to one song each. Because of this, the average MHS student might not know how hard all the groups work to learn and perform songs. To see all of MHS a capella on display is an opportunity that rarely occurs, but if you find yourself with no plans (or even lame plans) for Friday night, you can experience all four groups giving the best performances they can. That's right, it's Acapellooza week.

Each day of the week leading up to Acapellooza, a different group decorates the music hallway, a tradition dating back many years. On Monday, the all-female group Serendipity started off the week by outfitting the hall in red, the group's color. Music director Annabelle Kearney has been leading the group for the 2015-16 school year, and she encouraged members to wear red to show their spirit. The next day, the Grizzly Freakin' Man Singers took their turn at decorating the hallway, and members of the group were seen wearing the usual uniform of the group in the halls. "We're so ready for Acapellooza this year," said music director Craig VanRemoortel. Wednesday brought the faculty led group Luminescence. Music director Andrew Scoglio wednesday brought the faculty led group Luminescence and providing direction, and the singers have really risen above and beyond his expectations, placing and winning awards at ICHSA, a competition in its 20th year where high school a capella groups compete from all around the country with the goal of going to New York City. Today, Jewel Tones, the other faculty led group, decorated the hallway with their colors and signature ties. Like their other faculty led counterparts, they have worked harder than ever this year to learn music, choreography, and how to put on a fantastic performance - and it shows! On Friday, all four groups will come together to decorate the hallway and show their love for music, and the end of the day will feature a special hallway performance from this year's visiting college group, the Tufts Beelzebubs, featuring MHS graduate Davis Franklin, who sang in both the Jewel Tones and the Grizzly Freakin' Man Singers throughout his time at MHS.

So, who are the masterminds behind this concert? After all, organizing a concert of this size requires a sizable amount of planning, forethought, and ability to roll with the punches. To make this concert happen every year, the Marblehead Acapella Council spends months planning, down to the kinds of concessions available at intermission. Founded to help the groups work together and create a central authority, this year's council is made up of Serendipity and Grizzlies officers Annabelle Kearney, Perry Byrne, Eleanor Mancusi-Ungaro, Craig VanRemoorel, Mike Bolognese, and Malachi Rosen. Representatives Louisa Gould and Andrew Dalton provide updates from Luminescence and Jewel Tones, respectively, and music director Andrew Scoglio presides over meetings, giving guidance and assigning duties. The council is also responsible for selecting the visiting college group and most importantly, the charity to which ticket proceeds are donated. In years past, money has been donated to many different charities, including the One Fund for victims of the Boston Marathon bombing. This year, proceeds will be donated to the Rombach fund to support MHS graduate Chloe Rombach, who was struck by a car last year and severely injured as a result.

If anything in this article strikes you as interesting, you should come see the concert! There are presale tickets available online at TicketStage for \$20 (link below) where you can reserve a seat, and student tickets will be sold at the door for \$10. Acapellooza begins at 7 pm at the MVMS PAC on Friday night, and will be sure to entertain people of all ages.

Link: <https://secure.ticketstage.com/ts-bin/f.wk?ts.seat.selection.gen+%40PID=MHSCHOOLS-ACAPP0-17631-68400>

PET SUPPLY DRIVE

Do you have any unused pet toys, beds, blankets, or treats? Donate them to a student service project for local animal shelters! Items can be dropped off in the two boxes outside of the main office doors at Marblehead High School.

Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice

Jacob Keller, Junior
Reporter

Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice... box office hit? Yes! Terrible movie? Another yes! Why would I see a movie that I've only heard negative things about? I felt impelled to see if it lived up to its reputation. That, or I like wasting my time. So I trekked to the theater and purchased a ticket for the movie - which had Portuguese subtitles for some unknown reason - and waited for the movie to begin as I sat in my seat.

I will say, the first few minutes of the movie made me think that I could like this movie. The cinematography seemed good, there was interesting imagery, and the character history was being set up well. There was the typical scene where Bruce Wayne's parents are killed. *Man of Steel*, a related movie, was tied into this one. Everything to be expected.

Slowly, things started to bother me. The goings-on of Batman and Superman were incessantly and confusingly switched without much context. It was difficult at times to understand what was going on, especially when Batman had nightmares (which didn't really do anything for the movie), and you couldn't tell if it was reality or not.... The movie was all over the place.

Not to mention that parts of it were flat-out ridiculous. The villain leaves all of his valuable information behind an unlocked glass door without any guards: the villain was like stealing candy from a baby. The villain gets access to an alien body. The villain understands how to use alien technology. The government shoots a nuclear bomb into... I won't spoil that priceless scene. Batman, a character who is supposed to be cunning and highly logical is deceived countless times. The list goes on and on.

Batman wasn't just irrational, he was boring. He had no personality. You could have replaced him with anybody. There was nothing special about him other than his parents were murdered, which affects some of his actions. Basically he didn't resemble the real Batman and was a glorified cop. Superman also lacked personality. He was a bland dogooder.

The whole conflict between Batman and Superman was stupid, to put it bluntly. Each thought that the other was egotistical and got into a schoolyard fight because Superman decided not to tell Batman something important. Batman is able to get close to killing Superman, then they start talking about their moms and suddenly become friends. That was the writer's choice in resolving their conflict. That's right. They talk about their moms and turn into friends. The writers seemed like they were bored and didn't know what to do. They also threw in: an identity crisis, a damsel in distress, and messages about how politics are bad and how the media distorts things. The only message that was clear was that "people hate what they don't understand."

The movie felt endless. I wanted to leave. Badly. But for the sake of the review I pushed through. This really wasn't something you could invest yourself in. The only good thing about *Batman vs. Superman* was Jesse Eisenberg, who did a good job being a crazy guy. However, his performance alone doesn't save the movie, which was just like a feud between angry neighbors.

Artist to Watch: Rachel Platten

Maeve Reilly, Junior
Entertainment Editor

The annual iHeartRadio Awards, a viewer-voted music award show, took place on Sunday night in Inglewood, California. The usual culprits swept the night: Taylor Swift, Justin Bieber, Drake—winning awards such as Female Artist of the Year, Male Artist of the Year, Best Tour, and more. As deserving and impressive as these big name performers are, it was refreshing when a lesser known name, Rachel Platten, received the Best Lyrics Award, an award arguably more prestigious than some of the others. Rachel's single "Fight Song" was huge this past year to the point where it was instantly recognizable to just about anyone. However, despite the popularity of this empowerment anthem, Rachel Platten as an artist is incredibly underrated.

In January, Platten released her second album, *Wildfire*, which is comprised of twelve pop tracks. Platten's unique and beautiful skills as a lyricist are demonstrated throughout, especially on tracks such as "Stand By You," "Better Place," and "Astronauts." Platten writes with the care of a poet, relying on word play and creativity rather than the derogatory slurs and mindless phrases so often found in popular music today. Not only are Platten's lyrics noteworthy, but also her voice is one of the most impressive in the pop industry. Her expansive range and the power behind her voice make her stand out amongst many other female artists. The tone of Platten's voice is sweet and listenable, similar to that of "Call Me Maybe" singer, Carly Rae Jepsen, but with more richness. Sunday's award for Best Lyrics was Platten's first win ever. Hopefully, it will be Platten's gateway into the higher level of acclaim and success she deserves. With any luck, soon the "Wildfire" will ignite.



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Reporter

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