

# **Ithacappella at MHS**

By Holly Hayes

On January 5th, 2012, Ithacappella, the all male a cappella group from Ithaca College, took Marblehead High School by storm. Starting as an all male choral group in 1996, Ithacappella has come a long way since it's beginnings and has flourished into one of the most talented all male a cappella groups on a collegiate level. They have recently released their newest album, "Off the Hook," which includes songs by Lady Gaga, Beyonce, John Mayer, and a plethora of others. On a whirlwind singing tour from Massachusetts and Connecticut to New Jersey and Florida, the boys stopped by Marblehead to run workshops, answer questions, hang out, and perform a nighttime concert in front of a packed high school theater. They started off the day at 9 am with the high school mixed choir, giving the singers a taste of their repertoire and teaching them how to beat box. They taught the chorus about arranging music, their methods of auditions and group leadership, and what it's like to participate in an a cappella group in college. The meeting was even more enjoyable because a Marblehead high school grad, and present Ithacappella member, Brian Felsenthal, was able to sing on the Marblehead stage once again! Ithacappella returned at the end of the day to run workshops with the four a cappella groups at the high school, The Jewel Tones, Luminescence, The Grizzly Freakin' Man Singers, and Serendipity. All four groups had the opportunity to sing one of their own songs for Ithacappella and get critiqued and complimented by the group of college singers. The workshops were only the beginning, because Ithacappella returned for a third time to perform in front of the Marblehead community and students alike, receiving rave reviews and building a budding fan base of lovestruck high school girls. A particular favorite among the audience was the group's rendition of "Someone Like You" by Adele, with soloist Jason Peterson. Their performance had a solid blend of popular radio hits, choral arrangements, and older favorites, and they have perfected the ability to fill the entire space with sound. Although Marblehead was only the second stop on their tour, which continues over the next two weeks until they return to school, the

Ithacappella boys were already exhausted after a long day of promoting and performing, and partially revived themselves with some cookies and other baked goods at an after-concert reception held for all the performers. The next day at Marblehead high school, there were many students donning brand new Ithacappella t-shirts, and one can already see how quickly the Ithacappella craze has grown. For those of us who can't get enough a cappella in our lives, the House Jacks will be making a much anticipated appearance at the Marblehead High School annual Acappelloza on May 12, and we can only hope that Ithacappella will visit us again in the near future, for they will always be welcomed by a mass of fans on the Marblehead stage!

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