

Acapellooza Around the Corner

- Eleanor Mancusi-Ungaro

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 perform 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 has worked very hard teaching music 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>