

Thursday October 2nd, 2008

Dear Prospective Carnegie Hall Participants and Parents,

This spring, Kentlake High School choir members will have the opportunity to sing at the world renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City! This letter marks the request of an official written commitment from those of you who are interested in the trip to NY. Parents, know that you are also invited to join us, as singing or non-singing chaperones. This is a once and a lifetime experience that I hope you will strongly consider for you and your child.

Six years ago, I had the opportunity to travel with Pacific Lutheran University's vocal jazz ensemble to sing in Carnegie Hall through this same company; MidAmerica Productions. It was one of the highlights of my life. For this particular event, students who choose to participate from KL will be joining students from Kentridge HS, a group of adults from a local church choir in the Kent area, and select students from Kent Meridian HS. We will be singing the multi-movement Requiem by Gabriel Faure, under the direction of Mr. Anthony Giles. The concert in Carnegie Hall would take place on Sunday March 29th; the trip would begin on March 26th and end on the 30th.

The trip itinerary includes a four night stay at the Grand Hyatt, New York City. It also includes sightseeing at the Empire State Building and a dinner and dance cruise around the New York harbor. Charter bus transportation is provided for the dinner cruise and all rehearsals and the performance at Carnegie Hall. Like the "Visa" commercial says, "All of this for \$1149...singing in Carnegie Hall with the New England Chamber Orchestra...priceless". Airfare can be purchased separately or through MidAmerica productions. Except for the dinner cruise, meals are not included. As of right now, MidAmerica has found enough tickets for our group at just over \$500, bringing the total to just under \$1,700. As of right now, this is the best price we have found and I would like to be able to lock into those before we lose that price.

Having said that, please consider whether this is an event you would like to participate in, as we would like to begin the payment process as soon as possible. MidAmerica has been quite gracious in the creation of a payment plan quite different from the others groups as we have joined the group later than the other groups involved; some began as early as last Spring. Because I am new, I couldn't commit until this fall. Know that this is optional, but remember that a chance like this doesn't come around very often.

We will do as much fundraising as we are able to help raise this money, and any help you could lend with that process would be greatly appreciated. Students should begin to think about how they too could be earning extra money outside of school (work, babysitting, garage sale, church donations, put on a concert, etc). You would be surprised how generous people can be when they hear of students of this age group having the opportunity to be involved in such an event. Take into consideration that once we lock into your spot, you would be responsible for the cost of the event or filling that spot with another student/parent.

My hope is that this letter will give you answers to questions you may have, or may bring up some new ones. Please send this back with your student if you are interested in your students' attendance, and perhaps yourself. Feel free to email or call me directly with questions.

Sincerely,

Anna C. McLeod
253-373-4658 @KLHS, 253-373-6047 @CHMS

Yes, please include _____ on the New York choir roster. _____ would also like to attend as a singing/non-singing chaperone. With this form we are asking to hold ___ spots.

*Please note that in order to reserve hotels spaces we must have a commitment of \$250 per person for a deposit to MidAmerica Productions (Checks made out to Kentlake High School ASB) **October 13th** in order for KL to make the payment by the 15th. I know this is a substantial deposit, but we must get a good start with our payments early on so that we don't have to pay HUGE sums in the latter part of the process. Some students may have money in their PTSA Music accounts currently that could be transferred into the ASB account as all or part of their payment. To check, the students can look on the PTSA Music bulletin board in the music hallway at KL.

Include any questions or concerns you may have below: _____

FUNDRAISER HELP (completely optional)

If you are available to help organize, supervise, or provide and assistance with fundraisers, please write below what kind of time commitment you may be able to make and if you know any of the following fundraisers particularly well, you could offer your expertise:

Here are some of the fundraisers I have been looking into for the choir program (check any that you might be willing to help with if we pursue with the fundraiser):

1. Youth with a Vision (Election day poll help- plans already underway)
2. Sing-a-thon at Kentlake HS (24hour event of music, music, music)
3. Car Wash (weather and location pending)
4. Performances during the holiday season (in surrounding locations...if you know of a good place where it is okay to collect donations while singing, let me know)
5. Cookie Dough sales
6. Holiday Gift sales

Willing to help with fundraisers at the following time(s)?

1. During School
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
2. Before or After School
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
3. On my own time with organizational aspects or paperwork

Name: _____ Phone or email address: _____